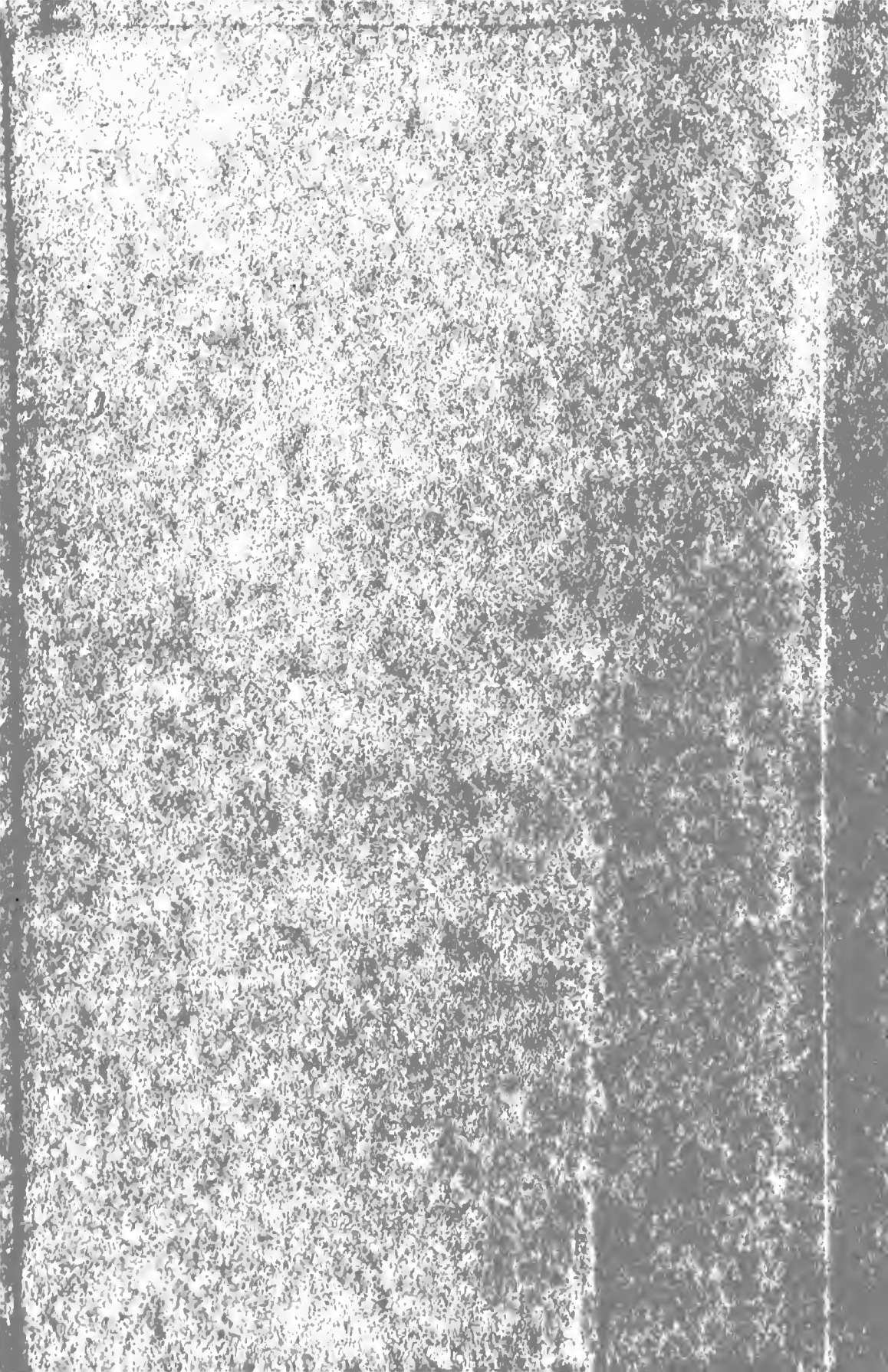


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PAST AND PRESENT  
OF  
Winneshiek County  
IOWA

A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and  
Achievement

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By EDWIN C. BAILEY

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VOLUME I

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# CONTENTS

---

## CHAPTER I

INDIAN HISTORY .....	7
----------------------	---

## CHAPTER II

THE PIONEERS .....	55
--------------------	----

## CHAPTER III

SETTLEMENTS OF FOREIGN BORN .....	65
-----------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER IV

COUNTY ORGANIZATION .....	67
---------------------------	----

## CHAPTER V

COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS .....	75
----------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VI

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS .....	85
--------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VII

THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS .....	99
-----------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VIII

THE BOYS IN BLUE .....	105
------------------------	-----

## CHAPTER IX

AGRICULTURE AND DAIRYING .....	121
--------------------------------	-----

## CHAPTER X

THE SCHOOLS .....	127
-------------------	-----

## CHAPTER XI

THE NEWSPAPERS .....	143
----------------------	-----

CHAPTER XII	
THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.....	147
CHAPTER XIII	
THE LEGAL PROFESSION.....	151
CHAPTER XIV	
BANKS AND BANKERS.....	157
CHAPTER XV	
MANUFACTURING .....	165
CHAPTER XVI	
PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	167
CHAPTER XVII	
GEOLOGY .....	171
CHAPTER XVIII	
THE CHURCHES .....	173
CHAPTER XIX	
PATRIOTIC AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.....	183
CHAPTER XX	
CITY OF DECORAH.....	189
CHAPTER XXI	
CALMAR TOWNSHIP AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES.....	199
CHAPTER XXII	
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP .....	213
CHAPTER XXIII	
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP .....	223
CHAPTER XXIV	
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP .....	227
CHAPTER XXV	
MILITARY TOWNSHIP .....	235
CHAPTER XXVI	
BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP .....	241
CHAPTER XXVII	
CANOE TOWNSHIP .....	245

CONTENTS

3

CHAPTER XXVIII

GLENWOOD TOWNSHIP .....253

CHAPTER XXIX

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP .....257

CHAPTER XXX

HESPER TOWNSHIP .....261

CHAPTER XXXI

FRANKVILLE TOWNSHIP .....265

CHAPTER XXXII

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP .....269

CHAPTER XXXIII

FREMONT TOWNSHIP .....273

CHAPTER XXXIV

BURR OAK TOWNSHIP .....279

CHAPTER XXXV

ORLEANS TOWNSHIP .....283

CHAPTER XXXVI

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP .....287

CHAPTER XXXVII

JACKSON TOWNSHIP .....291

CHAPTER XXXVIII

SUMNER TOWNSHIP .....293

CHAPTER XXXIX

MADISON TOWNSHIP .....297

CHRONOLOGY .....301







E. C. BAILEY

## PREFACE

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In the preparation of this article it has been the compiler's aim to make the work as complete and correct as possible. Diligent search has been made for information, and considerable pains have been taken to give the people of Winneshieki county a reliable account of the Indians who once inhabited this section of the country. The writer has discovered that a number of erroneous statements in regard to these Indians have unfortunately found their way into print. In such instances every effort has been made to procure accurate information.

In gathering the data here assembled the writer has had the kind assistance of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Iowa Library Commission, and the United States Ethnological Bureau. Thanks are also due to Oliver Lamere (a first cousin of Angel De Cora), who has made diligent search for desired information among members of his tribe on their reservation in Nebraska; Geo. W. Kingsley, Angel De Cora, Little Winneshieki, and Antoine Grignon (all of whom are Winnebago Indians, except the last, who is part Winnebago and part Sioux); Dr. Eben D. Pierce; Roger C. Mackenstadt; Chas. H. Saunders, and H. J. Goddard.

All of the above have responded in a most gratifying manner to requests for information, some of them taking the trouble to prepare long communications, which have been indispensable in the preparation of the following article and which the writer cherishes as among his most valued possessions. All quotations credited to them in this article have been taken from letters received by the writer since December, 1912.

In regard to Angel De Cora, a summary of her career is given in the body of the article, where the main facts about Antoine Grignon's life will also be found. That the reader may form a proper conception of the value of the information imparted by other individuals mentioned above (and all this has a bearing on the trustworthiness of the article), the following statements are appended:—

"During the month of August, 1911, there came to Madison from the Nebraska reservation two Winnebago Indians, Mr. Oliver Lamere and Mr. John Rave. Both men were in the employ of Dr. Paul Radin of the American Bureau of Ethnology, who for several years past has been conducting researches among their tribe for the Government. They remained in Wisconsin until the first weeks in September. Both were Indians of exceptional intelligence. Mr. Lamere is a grandson of Alexander Lamere, one of the group of early Lake

Koshkonong fur-traders, and a grandson of Oliver Arnel, an early Madison fur-trader. Mr. Lamere [Oliver] acted as Dr. Radin's assistant and interpreter." From an article in "The Wisconsin Archeologist," 1911, by Charles E. Brown, secretary and curator of The Wisconsin Archeological Society, and chief of The State (Wis.) Historical Museum, Madison, Wisconsin.

"George Kingsley \* \* \* a member of the Wisconsin Branch of the Winnebago Tribe of Indians, I consider to be the best authority on these matters."—L. M. Compton, superintendent of Tomah School (United States Indian Service), Wisconsin.

Dr. Eben D. Pierce is a member of the state (Wis.) and county (Trempealeau) historical societies. He has written a biography of Antoine Grignon, a short history of the Winnebago Indians, and has contributed several articles on the history of that section.

Roger C. Mackenstadt, now at the Uintah and Ouray Indian Agency, Utah, was formerly chief clerk at the Winnebago reservation in Nebraska.

Chas. H. Saunders is a white man who has lived with the Indians most of the time (since he was thirteen years old). He married into the Waukon family of Winnebago Indians, whose language he speaks fluently. He was raised at Lansing, Iowa, and was for a number of years a resident of Wisconsin. He now resides in Nebraska.

H. J. Goddard of Fort Atkinson has been a resident of Winneshiek county since 1849. Mr. Goddard has willingly placed at the disposal of the writer his well-stored memory of early recollections. He is a Civil war veteran and is thus especially competent to speak with authority in regard to military matters connected with the fort.

Other old settlers have also responded cheerfully to requests for information. In most instances their names appear in the article. The writer acknowledges a debt of gratitude to them all.

The following authorities have been consulted:

"History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties."—W. E. Alexander, 1882.

"Atlas of Winneshiek County."—Anderson & Goodwin, 1905.

"The Making of Iowa."—Henry Sabitt, LL. D., 1900.

"History of Iowa," v. 1.—G. F. Gue, 1903.

"The Red Men of Iowa."—A. R. Fulton, 1882.

"The Indian, The Northwest."—C. & N. W. Ry., 1901.

"North Americans of Yesterday."—F. S. Dellenbaugh.

"Handbook of American Indians."—B. of A. E., 1911.

"Smithsonian Report," 1885.

"Annals of Iowa."<sup>1</sup>

"The Wisconsin Archeologist."<sup>2</sup>

CHARLES PHILIP HENOM.

June 18, 1913.

<sup>1</sup> Articles by Eliphalet Price, C. A. Clark, and War Dept. Records of Fort Atkinson.

<sup>2</sup> "The Winnebago Tribe," by P. V. Lawson, LL. B.



# Past and Present of Winneshiek County

## CHAPTER I

### INDIAN HISTORY OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY \*

COMPILED BY CHARLES PHILIP HEXOM

#### THE WINNEBAGO TRIBE

Taki maka a-icha 'gha hena mita 'wa-ye lo—Yo, yoyo!

Taki maka a-icha'gha hena mita'wa-ye lo—Yo, yoyo!

—Translation of a Sioux song.

The Winnebago tribe is the fourth group of the great Siouan, or Dakota, family. The Winnebagoes were styled by the Sioux, *Hotanke*, or the "big-voiced people;" by the Chippewas, *Winipig*, or "filthy water;" by the Sauks and Foxes, *Winipyagohagi*, or "people of the filthy water." Allouez spells the name *Ovenibigoutz*. The French frequently called them *Puans*, or *Puants*, names often roughly translated *Stinkards*. The Iowas called them *Ochungaraw*. They called themselves *Ochungurah*, or *Hotcangara*. Dr. J. O. Dorsey, the distinguished authority on the Siouan tribes, states that the Siouan root, "*changa*," or "*hanga*," signifies "first, foremost, original or ancestral." Thus the Winnebagoes call themselves *Hotcangara*, "the people speaking the original language," or "people of the parent speech." Traditional and linguistic evidence shows that the Iowa Indians sprang from the Winnebago stem, which appears to have been the mother stock of some other of the southwestern Siouan tribes.

The term "Sioux" is a French corruption of *Nadowc-is-icw*, the name given them by the Chippewa Indians of the Algonquin family. It signifies "snake," whence is derived the further meaning "enemy." The name Dakota, or Lakota, by which the principal tribes of the Siouan stock call themselves, means "confederated," "allied."

Regarding the remote migrations that must have taken place in such a widespread stock as the Siouan, different theories are held. An eastern origin is now pretty well established for this stock; for in Virginia, North and South

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Carolina, and Mississippi were the homes of tribes now extinct, which ethnologists class as belonging to the Sionans.<sup>3</sup> The prehistoric migration of these Indians, which undoubtedly was gradual, proceeded towards the west; while the Dakotas, Winnebagoes, and cognate tribes, it appears, took a more northerly course.

Passing to the authentic history of the Winnebagoes the first known meeting between this tribe and the whites was in 1634, when the French ambassador, Jean Nicolet, found them in Wisconsin near Green Bay. At this time they probably extended to Lake Winnebago. How long the tribe had maintained its position in that territory previous to the coming of the whites is unknown. They were then numerous and powerful. Father Pierre Claude Allouez spent the winter of 1669-70 at Green Bay preaching to the Winnebagoes and their Central Algonquian neighbors.

The Winnebagoes constituted one party in a triple alliance, to which also the Sauks and Foxes belonged, and were always present with the Foxes in their battles against the French, and their ancient enemy, the Illinois Indians. In an effort to combine all the tribes against the Foxes, the French in some way won over the Winnebagoes. After being on unfriendly terms with the Foxes for several years, the old friendship was revived; yet the Winnebagoes managed to retain the friendship of the French and continue in uninterrupted trade relations with them, for, following the missionary, came the trader.

In 1763 France ceded Canada to England. The Winnebagoes, however, were reluctant to transfer their allegiance to the English; but when they did, they remained firm in their new fealty. The English were known to the Winnebagoes as Mo'hi'to'ga, meaning "Big Knife;" this term is said to have originated from the kind of swords worn by the English.<sup>4</sup> When the thirteen colonies declared their independence in 1776, the Winnebagoes allied themselves with the British and fought with them through the Revolutionary war. They participated in the border outbreaks in Ohio and were among the savages defeated by Gen. Anthony Wayne on August 20, 1794. In the War of 1812-15 they espoused the cause of England, and in the years immediately following this war they became quite insolent.

The so-called Winnebago War of 1827 was of short duration. The energetic movements of Governor Cass, the promptness of the militia under Col. Henry Dodge, and the despatch of General Atkinson of the federal army filled the Winnebagoes with such respect for the power of the United States that the disturbance was quelled before it had fairly begun. At this time the tribe numbered nearly seven thousand. It might also be mentioned that a few of the tribe secretly joined the Sauks and Foxes in the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Smallpox visited the tribe twice before 1836, and in that year more than one-fourth of the tribe died. Mr. George Catlin, famous painter of the Indians, made the statement, when at Prairie du Chien in 1836, that, "The only war that suggests itself to the eye of the traveler through their country is the war of sympathy and pity."

<sup>3</sup>"The Sionan Tribes of the East," by James Mooney, Bulletin Bureau of Ethnology, 1894, Washington.

<sup>4</sup>"The Omaha Tribe," by Alice C. Fletcher and Francis La Flesche, Eth. Ann. 27, pg. 611.

## REMOVAL TO IOWA

Historical evidence reveals the fact that at one time the northern part of Winneshiek county formed a small part of the vast hunting grounds of the Sioux Indians, and that the southern portion was given over to the Sauks and Foxes. In a council held at Prairie du Chien August 19, 1825, a boundary line was established between the Sioux, on the north, and the Sauks and Foxes, on the south. The principal object of this treaty was to make peace between these contending tribes as to the limits of their respective hunting grounds in Iowa.

This boundary line began at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river and followed the stream, which traverses Winneshiek county, to its source. In order to decrease still further the encounters between the Sauks and Foxes, on the one hand, and the Sioux, on the other, the United States secured, at a council held at Prairie du Chien July 15, 1830, a strip of territory twenty miles wide on each side of the boundary line already established and extending from the Mississippi to the east fork of the Des Moines. This strip, forty miles in width, was termed the "Neutral Ground." The tribes on either side were to hunt and fish on it unmolested, a privilege they ceased to enjoy when this territory was ceded to the Winnebagoes. In this way the tract of land now known as Winneshiek county became a part of the Neutral Ground.

September 15, 1832, the Winnebagoes ceded to the United States their lands south of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, east of the Mississippi. The Government, on its part, by this treaty granted to the Winnebagoes, "to be held as other Indian lands are held, that part of the tract of country on the west side of the Mississippi river known as the Neutral Ground, embraced within the following limits." The boundaries specified confined the Winnebagoes to that portion of the Neutral Ground extending forty miles west of the Mississippi. By the terms of this treaty they were to be paid \$10,000 annually for twenty-seven years, beginning in September, 1833.

November 1, 1837, a treaty was concluded with the Winnebagoes at Washington, by the provisions of which they ceded to the United States the remainder of their lands on the east side and certain interests on the west side of the Mississippi river, and agreed to remove to a portion of the Neutral Ground in northeastern Iowa, set aside for them in the previous treaty of September 15, 1832. This treaty of 1837 was loudly proclaimed by the tribe to be a fraud. It was stated that the delegation which visited Washington in that year had no authority to execute such an instrument. Chiefs, also, who were of this party all made the same declaration.<sup>5</sup>

The first attempt to remove the Winnebagoes was made in 1840, when a considerable number were induced to move to the Turkey river. That year a portion of the Fifth and Eighth regiments of United States infantry came to Portage, Wisconsin, to conduct their removal. Antoine Grignon and others were connected with this force as interpreters.

Two large boats were provided to transport the Indians down the Wisconsin river to Prairie du Chien. Captain Sumner, who later was a commanding

<sup>5</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 112.

officer at Fort Atkinson, secured 250 Winnebagoes in southern Wisconsin. These were also taken to Prairie du Chien. They first disliked the idea of going on to the Neutral Ground, because on the south were the Sauks and Foxes, and on the north were the Sioux, and with these tribes they were not on friendly terms. Considerable resentment was felt by the Sauks and Foxes towards the Winnebagoes for having delivered Black Hawk over to the whites, although previous to this occasion the Winnebagoes had been in intimate relationship with these tribes. However, they soon grew to love the Iowa reservation.

#### SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

And they painted on the grave-posts  
 On the graves yet unforgotten,  
 Each his own ancestral Totem,  
 Each the symbol of his household;—

—The Song of Hiawatha.

In each tribe there existed, on the basis of kinship, a division into clans and gentes. The names given to these divisions were usually those of the animals, birds, reptiles, or inanimate objects from which their members claimed descent, or which were regarded as guardian deities common to them all; these were known as their totems.

The term "clan" implies descent in the female, and "gens" in the male line. Clans and gentes were generally organized into phratries; and phratries, into tribes. A phratry was an organization for ceremonial and other festivals.

The Winnebago social organization was based on two phratries, known as the Upper, or Air, and the Lower, or Earth, divisions. The Upper division contained four clans: (1) Thunder-bird, (2) War People, (3) Eagle, (4) Pigeon (extinct); while the Lower division contained eight clans: (1) Bear, (2) Wolf, (3) Water-spirit, (4) Deer, (5) Elk, (6) Buffalo, (7) Fish, (8) Snake.

The Thunder-bird and Bear clans were regarded as the leading clans of their respective phratries. Both had definite functions. The lodge of the former was the peace lodge, over which the chief of the tribe presided, while the lodge of the Bear clan was the war, or disciplinary, lodge. Each clan had a number of individual customs, relating to birth, the naming-feast, death, and the funeral-wake. An Upper individual must marry a Lower individual, and vice versa.

When Carver, an early traveler, first came in contact with the Winnebagoes, their chief was a woman. The man, however, was the head of each family. Where clans existed, a man could become a member of any particular clan only by birth, adoption, or transfer in infancy from his mother's to his father's clan, or vice versa. The place of woman in a tribe was not that of a slave or beast of burden. The existence of the gentile organization, in most tribes with descent in the female line, forbade that she be subjected to any such indignity.

Dr. J. O. Dorsey obtained a list of the gentes of the Hoteangara, or Winnebagoes.<sup>6</sup> They were (1) Shingikikarachada ('Wolf'); (2) Honchikikarachada ('Black Bear'); (3) Huwanikikarachada ('Elk'); (4) Wakanikikarachada

<sup>6</sup>The late J. Owen Dorsey of the Bureau of American Ethnology, in Bull. 30, pg. 961.



WAA-KAUN-SEE-KAA (Rattle-Snake)  
Painted at the treaty of Prairie du Chien, 1825, by J. O. Lewis, and recently identified as the portrait of Waukon-Decorah (Wakun-lia-ga, or Snake Skin).



('Snake'); (5) Waninkikikarachada ('Bird'); (6) Cheikikarachada ('Buffalo'); (7) Chaikikarachada ('Deer'); (8) Wakehekhiikikarachada ('Water-monster'). The Bird gens was composed of four sub-gentes, namely: (a) Hiehakshepara ('Eagle'), (b) Ruelike ('Pigeon'), (c) Kerechuu ('Hawk'), (d) Wakanehara ('Thunder-bird'). It seems probable that each gens was thus subdivided into four sub-gentes.

In 1843 they were on the Neutral Ground in different bands, the principal one, called the School band, occupying territory along the Turkey river.

#### MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

The Winnebagoes are distinctly a timber people, and always confined themselves to the larger streams. In early days their wearing apparel consisted commonly of breechclout, moccasins, leggings, and robes of dressed skins. The advent among them of the whites enabled them to add blankets, cloths, and ornaments to their scanty wardrobes.

Jonathan Emerson Fletcher, the Indian agent at the Turkey river, furnished Mr. Henry R. Schoolcraft, LL. D., at one time Indian agent for Wisconsin Territory and author of "Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States," a description of the costume of the Winnebagoes, from which the following is condensed:<sup>7</sup> "White blankets are preferred in winter, and colored in the summer. Red is a favorite color among the young, and green with the aged. Calico shirts, cloth leggings, and buckskin moccasins are worn by both sexes. In addition to the above articles, the women wear a broadcloth petticoat, or mantelet, suspended from the hips and extending below the knee.

"Wampum, ear-bobs, rings, bracelets, and bells are the most common ornaments worn by them. Head-dresses ornamented with eagle's feathers are worn by the warriors on public occasions. The chiefs wear nothing peculiar to designate their office, except it be medals received from the President of the United States.

"Some of the young men and women paint their blankets with a variety of colors and figures. A large majority of the young and middle-aged of both sexes paint their faces when they dress for a dance.

"Old and young women divide their hair from the forehead to the back of the crown, and wear it collected in a roll on the back of the neck, confined with ribbons and bead-strings. The men and boys wear their hair cut similar to the whites, except that they all wear a small quantity on the back of the crown, long and braided, which braids are tied at the end with a ribbon. The men have but little beard, which is usually plucked out by tweezers."

One style of Winnebago wigwam consisted of an arched frame-work of poles firmly set in the ground and lashed together with strips of bark and so arranged as to give it sloping sides and a rounded top. Cross-pieces of wood secured the poles to one another. The roof and sides were covered with pieces of bark, or matting. The general outline was round or elliptical. Conical lodges were employed chiefly in the summer time. Fur robes, matting, and

<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 121.

blankets served for bedding. Branches were heaped around the side walls, and these, covered with blankets, served as a bed.

Mr. Fletcher stated<sup>8</sup> that the lodges at the Turkey river, Iowa, were "from twelve to forty feet in length, and from ten to twenty feet in width, and fifteen feet in height from the ground to the top of the roof. The largest would accommodate three families of ten persons each. They generally have two doors. Fires, one for each family, are made along the space through the center. The smoke escapes through the apertures in the roof. The summer lodge is of lighter materials and is portable."

Council houses and other structures were erected in each village. Mr. Oliver Lamere states: "It is said that all of their councils were held at the Turkey river, as that was their agency at the time. Usually everything went as the chiefs wanted it." Regarding the vicinity of Fort Atkinson, Mr. H. J. Goddard says: "There were two Indian camping grounds south of here, one about a quarter of a mile, and the other half a mile, distant. One had about 50 wigwams, and the other between 300 and 400. They took poles and stuck them in the ground, then bent them over and tied the tops together and covered them with bark. The bark was peeled from the water or slippery-elm trees during the spring."

Bark served the Indians in a multitude of ways. It was stripped from trees at the proper season by hacking it around so that it could be taken off in sheets of the desired length. The Winnebagoes also made a kind of drink from bark. Mr. Lamere says, "They also made a matting from reeds sewed or matted together with strings made out of bass-wood bark; of course, they used canvas when they could purchase it, but their permanent lodges would be of bark."

It was the man's duty to protect his village and family, and by hunting to provide meat and skins. The women dried the meat, dressed the hides, made the clothing, and, in general, performed all the household duties. The processes employed for dressing skins were various, such as fleshing, scraping, braining, stripping, graining, and working. In the domestic economy of the Indian, skins were his most valued and useful material, as they also later became his principal trading asset. A list of the articles made of this material would embrace a great many of the Indian's principal possessions.

Moccasins and other articles made of skin were often covered with artistic bead-work, replete with tribal symbolism. The Winnebagoes also had, not long ago, a well developed porcupine quill industry.

In common with other tribes the Winnebagoes were accustomed to prepare dried and smoked fish and meat. Nuts, wild fruits, and edible roots of various kinds were also used for food. Corn was raised and such vegetables as squash, pumpkins, beans, potatoes and watermelons. Corn was often eaten green, but usually after it had been dried, ground, and made into bread; it was sometimes boiled with meat. At the Turkey river near Fort Atkinson the Indians cached their corn in holes dug in the ground three or four feet square and about three feet deep. Wild rice was raised and was prepared by being boiled with meat and vegetables. Shelled dried corn, dried hulled fruit, and nuts

<sup>8</sup>Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 124, condensed from information furnished to H. R. Schoolcraft.



were cached in storage pits for future use. Tobacco was raised, but only in small quantities. Notwithstanding the abundance of animal and vegetal food that the fields and forest afforded, the Indians suffered occasionally from famine. For wood the limbs of trees were used, but not the trunk; in the neighborhood of Fort Atkinson evidence remains today of this practice.

Of the Winnebago marriage customs Moses Paquette, who went (1845) to the Presbyterian school at the Turkey river, stated<sup>9</sup> in 1882: "Presents to the parents of a woman, by either the parents of the man or the man himself, if accepted, usually secure her for a partner. However much the woman may dislike the man, she considers it her bounden duty to go and at least try to live with him. Divorce is easy among them. There are no laws compelling them to live together. Sometimes there are marriages for a specified time, say a few months or a year. When separations occur, the woman usually takes the children with her to the home of her parents. But so long as the union exists, it is deemed to be sacred, and there are few instances of infidelity. Quite a number of the bucks have two wives, who live on apparently equal, free, and easy terms; but although there is no rule about the matter, I never heard of any of the men having more than two wives. With all this ease of divorce, numerous Indian couples remain true to each other for life." Many of the early traders took Winnebago wives.

The Indians had their favorite pastimes and games, some of which were played by the women and children. There were also several kinds of dances for various occasions.

Regarding their burial customs, the graves were in later times protected by logs, stones, brush, or pickets. With the bodies of the deceased were buried their personal possessions or symbolical objects. With the corpse of a woman were buried her implements of labor. The graves of chiefs and persons of distinction were sometimes enclosed with pickets. Over such a grave it was customary to place a white flag. The blackening of the face by mourners was a common custom. In the winter the remains were encased and placed on a scaffold and then elevated into the branches of a tree, or placed between two trees. In the spring the permanent burial was made in a shallow grave. Over this was erected an A-shaped structure, consisting of two short, forked posts, which, placed one at each end of the grave, supported a cross-piece. Against this frame-work were placed wooden slabs.

Lengthwise the graves at the Turkey river extended from east to west, in order that the dead might "look towards the happy land" that was supposed to lie somewhere in the direction of the setting sun. The body of the dead was sometimes placed in the grave in a sitting posture, the head and chest extending above the ground. A pipe of tobacco was buried with an adult male, and a war-club was placed in the grave of a warrior. The hieroglyphics painted on the post at the head of a warrior's grave represented the exploits of those who danced about the grave at his funeral.

Mr. Goddard says: "There were about a dozen or more Indian graves close to the fort, but these have long since been obliterated. An Indian child, about seven or eight years of age, was put above ground in a coffin placed

<sup>9</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 126.

between, and near the top of, four cedar posts set in the ground, and about seven or eight feet high. I was told by the Indians who later traveled through the country quite frequently that the child belonged to a Chippewa woman who was visiting the Winnebagoes. Later, a man who stopped at my place took from inside the heavily beaded blanket, in which the child was wrapped when buried, a round mirror ornament with a loop for suspension, about three inches in diameter, on the back of which was a picture of General Jackson.

"An Indian grave was on the top of a hill in Jackson township, section twenty. The Indians told me that a chief called Black Bear was buried there; however, there is nothing further authentic to prove this. The grave was surrounded by a stockade made of boards split out of logs and was seven feet high; it enclosed a space about seven by eight feet in area. The boards were spiked together.

"Near the Little Turkey river, a fork of the Turkey river, at a point about one and one-half miles from Waucoma in Fayette county, was a farm of about one hundred acres broken up (supposedly by the Government) and owned by a chief called Whaling Thunder [evidently Whirling Thunder, but not definitely known]. Here Whaling (?) Thunder died, and on his land was a group of about thirty graves, six Indians being buried in one grave."

Hon. Abraham Jacobson, of Springfield township, stated<sup>19</sup> that, "On the banks of the Upper Iowa river many Indian graves were found. The bodies were buried in a sitting position, with the head sometimes above ground. A forked stick put up like a post at each end of the grave held a ridge pole on which leaned thin boards placed slanting to each side of the grave. Thus each grave presented the appearance of a gable of a small house."

On Mr. J. L. Tavener's land in West Decorah are three mounds, or artificial hillocks, now nearly obliterated by cultivation. These mounds are circular in form and, before being worn down by the plow, were low, broad, round-topped cones from two and one-half to three feet high in the center. The largest of the group was about forty feet in diameter. Conical mounds are, as a rule, depositories of the dead. As yet, no bones have been exhumed from any of these mounds, so that it is not known at present what purpose they served; but it seems probable that they were burial mounds.

The early settlers furnished evidence of the existence of many Indian graves throughout the county, notably where the city of Decorah is located. These graves are now almost imperceptible.

#### RELIGION

Ye whose hearts are fresh and simple,  
 Who have faith in God and Nature,  
 Who believe, that in all ages  
 Every human heart is human,  
 That in even savage bosoms  
 There are longings, yearnings, strivings  
 For the good they comprehend not,

<sup>19</sup> "Reminiscences of Pioneer Norwegians," by Hon. A. Jacobson in "The Illustrated Historical Atlas of Winneshiek County, Iowa," 1905, Sec. 11, pg. 12.

That the feeble hands and helpless,  
 Groping blindly in the darkness,  
 Touch God's right hand in that darkness  
 And are lifted up and strengthened;—  
 Listen to this simple story,—

—The Song of Hiawatha.

The fundamental religious concept of the Indian is the belief in the existence of magic power in animate and inanimate objects. This gave rise to their idea that there are men who possess supernatural power. This magic power is called *Ma'una* (Earth-maker)<sup>11</sup> by the Winnebagoes, and corresponds to the *Gitchi Manito* of the Central Algonquian tribes, and *Wakanda*<sup>12</sup> of the Siouan tribes. As a verb, "wakanda" signifies "to reckon as holy or sacred, to worship;" the noun is "wakan" and means "a spirit, something consecrated." "Wakan," as an adjective, is defined as "spiritual, sacred, consecrated, wonderful, incomprehensible, mysterious." "Wakan" and various other forms of that word are of common occurrence in the Winnebago language.

The Winnebago mythology consists of large cycles relating to the five personages, Trickster, Bladder, Turtle, He-who-wears-heads-as-earrings, and the Hare. Other deities known to them are Disease-giver, Sun, Moon, Morning Star, the Spirits of the Night, One-horn, the Earth, and the Water.

The Indian had no understanding of a single, all-powerful deity, the "Great Spirit," till the Europeans, often unconsciously, informed him of their own belief. He believed in a multitude of spirits that were the source of good or bad fortune, and whom he feared to offend.<sup>13</sup> He seems to have had no conception of a future punishment. The mortuary rites of the Winnebagoes, and other tribes, testify to the fact that they believed in a life after death; but as to the nature of "the happy land of the West" their ideas were vague.

The Winnebagoes had two important tribal ceremonies, the *Manki*, or Medicine Dance, and the *Wagigo*, or Winter Feast. The Medicine Dance could take place only in summer; and the Winter Feast only in winter. The Medicine Dance was a secret society, ungraded, into which men and women could be initiated on payment of a certain amount of money. The purpose of the society was the prolongation of life and the instilling of certain virtues, none of which related to war. These virtues were instilled by means of the "shooting" ceremony, the pretended shooting of a shell, contained in an otter-skin bag, into the body of the one to be initiated. The ceremony was performed in a long tent occupied by five ceremonial bands, whose positions of honor depended on the order of invitation. The general ceremony itself was public, but a secret vapor-bath ceremony preceded, and a secret ceremony intervened between the first and second parts.

The Winter Feast was a war feast and the only distinctively clan ceremonial among the Winnebagoes. Each clan had a sacred bundle, which was in the hands of some male individual, and was handed down from one generation to another, care being always taken to keep it in the same clan. The purpose of

<sup>11</sup> Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, part 2, pg. 960.

<sup>12</sup> Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, part 2, pg. 897.

<sup>13</sup> Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, part 2, pg. 284.

this feast was to appease all the supposed deities known to them. Mr. Fletcher, the agent at the Turkey river, gave Mr. Schoolcraft a description of the War dance and the Medicine society.

There were a number of other important ceremonies, of which the best known were the *Herucka* and the Buffalo Dance. The latter was performed in the spring, and had for its purpose the magical calling of the buffalo herds. All those who pretended to have had supernatural communication with the Buffalo spirit might participate in the ceremony, irrespective of clan. It seems that the object of the *Herucka* was to stimulate an heroic spirit.

Moses Paquette gave Doctor Thwaites of Wisconsin a brief account of the Buffalo Dance, which he describes as "Probably the most popular of their dances." "They represent," he continues, "themselves to be bisons, imitating the legitimate motions and noises of the animal, and introducing a great many others that would quite astonish the oldest buffalo in existence. Of course it has been a long time since any Winnebagoes ever saw buffalo; their antics are purely traditionary, handed down from former generations of dancers."<sup>14</sup>

Other dances and feasts were the Snake, Scalp, Grizzly-bear, Sore-eye, and Ghost dances. Little Hill, a Winnebago chief, gave Mr. Fletcher an account of their creation, which, in all its parts, bears testimony to their belief in numerous spirits.<sup>15</sup> Mr. Lamere states that, "The Buffalo Dance was carried on by the Winnebagoes for a long time, but the dance that they seemed to have liked and indulged in mostly while there [Iowa] was the Fish Dance, which was only a dance of amusement. The *Herucka* dance was adopted from some of the western tribes and was brought back by the Winnebagoes who enlisted as scouts during the Sioux outbreak in 1862 and was introduced after the Winnebagoes came here to Nebraska;" he further states,—"The Thunder-bird was held in awe by the Winnebagoes, and they believed that thunder-storms were caused by these beings, the lightning being caused by the opening and closing of their eyes; the Winnebagoes do not describe them as birds, but beings of the human type and always wearing cedar boughs on their head, or hair, and carrying flat war-clubs."

#### GENEALOGY AND HISTORY OF THE DECORAH FAMILY

How fair is Decorah,  
 Our city named so  
 For the Indians that roamed  
 O'er its hills years ago,  
 Whose well trodden pathways  
 The story could tell  
 How from all directions  
 They came here to dwell.

In fitting remembrance  
 These lines we inscribe  
 To Waukon Decorah,  
 A chief of their tribe,

<sup>14</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 130.

<sup>15</sup> "Red Men of Iowa," by A. R. Fulton.

Whose name is a landmark  
 And honored shall stand  
 For heeding the fiat  
 "Move on, yield your land."

And Indians that peopled  
 This beautiful site,  
 Reluctant but friendly  
 Relinquished their right.  
 They left us this valley  
 With beauties untold,  
 Gave way to the settlers,  
 Our pioneers bold.

Things have changed, to be sure,  
 In this valley,—still  
 'Tis but sixty odd years  
 Since they camped on yon hill  
 Where now stands the courthouse  
 A pride of our town,  
 The heart of the county,  
 Of widespread renown.

—Mrs. John C. Hexom.

*Hopokockau*, or "Glory of the Morning," also known as the Queen of the Winnebagoes, was the mother of a celebrated line of chiefs, all of whom, well known to border history, bore in some form the name Decorah. Her Indian name is also given as *Wa-ho-po-e-kau*. She was the daughter of one of the principal Winnebago chiefs. There is no record of the date of her birth or death.

She became the wife of Sabrevoir De Carrie, who probably came to Wisconsin with the French army, in which he was an officer, in 1728. He resigned his commission in 1729, and became a fur-trader among the Winnebagoes, subsequently marrying "Glory of the Morning." He was adopted into her clan and highly honored. After seven or eight years, during which time two sons and a daughter were born to him, he left her, taking with him the daughter. The Queen refused to go with her husband, and remained in her home with her two sons. "The result is today that one-half or two-thirds of the Winnebago tribe have more or less of the Decorah blood in their veins."<sup>16</sup> Through the intervening generations there has been no other mixture of Caucasian blood, so that the Decorahs of today are probably as nearly full-bloods as any Indians in any part of the country.

De Carrie returned to Canada, reentered the army, and was killed at Ste Foye in the spring of 1760. The daughter whom he took with him became the wife of a trader, Constant Kerigoufili, whose son, *Sieur Laurent Fily* (so-called), died about 1846.

Capt. Jonathan Carver, who visited the Queen in 1766, states that she received him graciously, and luxuriously entertained him during the four days he remained in her village, which "contained fifty houses." Her two sons, "being the descendants of a chief on the mother's side, when they arrived at

<sup>16</sup> Statement by Geo. W. Kingsley.

manhood \* \* \* assumed the dignity of their rank by inheritance. They were generally good Indians and frequently urged their claims to the friendship of the whites by saying they were themselves half white."

*Choukeka Dekaury*, or Spoon Decorah, sometimes called the Ladle, was the eldest son of Sabrevoir De Carrie and Hopokoekau. The name is also rendered Chau-ka-ka and Chou-ga-rah. After having been made chief he became the leader of attacks on the Chippewas during a war between them and the Winnebagoes, but he maintained friendly relations with the whites. He was the ancestor of the Portage branch of the family. It was principally through his influence that the treaty of June 3, 1816, at St. Louis, Missouri, was brought about.

His wife, Flight of Geese, was a daughter of Nawkaw (known also as Carrymaunce and Walking Turtle), whose management of tribal affairs was decidedly peaceful. According to La Ronde, Choukeka's death occurred in 1816, when he was "quite aged." He left six sons and five daughters. The sons were: (1) Konokah, or Old Gray-headed Decorah; (2) Augah, or the Black Decorah, named by La Ronde, Ruch-ka-scha-ka, or White Pigeon; (3) Anaugah, or the Raisin Decorah, named by La Ronde, Chou-me-ne-ka-ka; (4) Nah-ha-sauch-e-ka, or Rascal Decorah; (5) Wau-kon-ga-ka, or the Thunder Hearer; (6) Ong-skaka, or White Wolf, who died young. Three of the daughters married Indians. One married a trapper named Dennis De Riviere and later married Perische Grignon. The other married Jean Lecuyer.

Cyrus Thomas<sup>17</sup> makes the statement that, "From Choukeka's daughters who married white men are descended several well known families of Wisconsin and Minnesota."

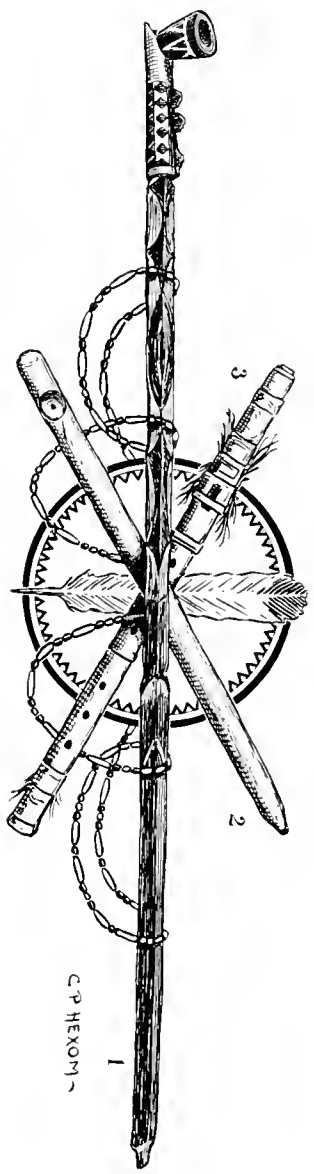
*Chah-post-kaw-kaw*, or the Buzzard Decorah, was the second son of De Carrie and "Glory of the Morning." He settled at La Crosse in 1787, with a band of Winnebagoes, and was soon after killed there. He had two sons: (1) Big Canoe, or One-eyed Decorah, and (2) Wakum-ha-ga, or Snake Skin, known as Wankon Decorah.

*Old Gray-headed Decorah*, called by the whites Konokah (eldest) Decorah, often mentioned as Old Dekaury, was the eldest son and successor of Choukeka Dekaury. His common Indian name was Schachipkaka, or The War Eagle. The signature "De-ca-ri" attached to the treaty of Prairie des Chiens (as the word is frequently spelled in early documents), Michigan Territory, August 19, 1825, is probably that of Old Dekaury. He signed the treaty of Prairie du Chien, Michigan Territory, August 1, 1829, as "Hee-tsha-wau-sharp-skaw-kau, or White War Eagle." Among those representing the Fort Winnebago deputation at the treaty of Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, September 15, 1832, he signed as "Hee-tshah-wau-saip-skaw-skaw, or White War Eagle, De-kau-ray, sr."

Old Decorah was born in 1747, and died at Peten well, the high rock on the Wisconsin river, April 20, 1836, about ninety years old. Old De-kau-ry's town contained over one hundred lodges, and was the largest of the Winnebago villages. Before he died he called a Catholic priest, who baptized him the day of his death.

Before his father's death, in 1816, Old Gray-headed Decorah had joined a band of Winnebagoes who took part, August 2, 1813, in the attack led by Gen-

<sup>17</sup> Of the Bureau of American Ethnology.



1—Old gray-headed Deorah's peace pipe.  
 2—Old Chief Wimmstick's pipe (after suggestion furnished by Mr. Oliver Lantieri).  
 3—A "Wimbeago counting flute," often called on the frontier a "deer-skin flute,"—after  
 Gathin.





eral Proctor, with 500 regulars and 800 Indians, on Fort Stephenson on lower Sandusky river, Ohio, which was so gallantly defended by Maj. George Croghan with a force of 150 Americans and only one cannon. He also fought with Proctor and Tecumseh, a celebrated Shawnee chief, at the battle of the Thames, Canada, where a great part of the British army was either slain or captured by the American forces under Gen. Wm. H. Harrison, October 5, 1813, and where Tecumseh was shot. Old Decorah was held as a hostage for the delivery of Red Bird, a war chief, during the so-called Winnebago war. Old Decorah gave assurance to General Atkinson, during this war, of the peaceable intentions of the Winnebagoes.

It was while Maj. Zachary Taylor was located at Prairie du Chien that he received from Old Gray-headed Decorah a peace pipe now in the State Historical Museum at Madison, Wisconsin. This calumet is a fine specimen; the head is of catlinite inlaid with lead polished to look like silver. The stem, or wooden handle, is about three feet long, rather rudely carved.

Mrs. J. H. Kinzie described<sup>18</sup> him as "The most noble, dignified, and venerable of his own or indeed of any other tribe. His fine Roman countenance, rendered still more striking by his bald head, with one solitary tuft of long silvery hair neatly tied and falling back on his shoulders; his perfectly neat, appropriate dress, almost without ornament, and his courteous manner, never laid aside, under any circumstances, all combined to give him the highest place in the consideration of all who knew him."

Mrs. Kinzie further states:<sup>19</sup> "The noble Old Day-kau-ray came one day from the Barribault to apprise us of the state of his village. More than forty of his people, he said, had now been for many days without food, save bark and roots. My husband accompanied him to the commanding officer to tell his story, and ascertain if any amount of food could be obtained from that quarter. The result was the promise of a small allowance of flour, sufficient to alleviate the cravings of his own family. When this was explained to the chief he turned away. 'No,' he said, 'if his people could not be relieved, he and his family would starve with them,' and he refused for those nearest and dearest to him the proffered succor until all could share alike." During the winter of 1832-33 food was scarce at Fort Winnebago, and the Indians suffered severely.

Old Day-kau-ray delivered an address on education to the agent, Mr. Kinzie, at a conference held with the Winnebago chiefs in 1831, in regard to sending the children of the Indians away to school. The following quotation is from his speech:<sup>20</sup> "The white man does not live like the Indian; it is not his nature; neither does the Indian love to live like the white man. \* \* \* This is what we think. If we change our minds we will let you know."

The known sons of Old Dekaury were (1) Little Decorah and (2) Spoon Decorah.

*Big Canoe*, or *One-eyed Decorah*, a son of Chatpost-kaw-kah, told George Gale<sup>21</sup> about 1855 that he had but one brother, Waukon Decorah. One-eyed

<sup>18</sup> "Wau-Bun," pg. 89.

<sup>19</sup> Same reference as above, pg. 484.

<sup>20</sup> Smithsonian Report, 1885, part 2, pg. 128.

<sup>21</sup> A Wisconsin pioneer who in 1851 removed to the copper Mississippi region, where he was judge, state senator, etc., founding the village of Galesville and the academy thereat. He wrote a history of the Winnebago Indians, which is still in manuscript form in the Wisconsin Historical Society's possession.

Decorah's Indian name was Wadge-hut-ta-kaw, or the Big Canoe. The signature, Watch-ha-ta-kaw (by Henry M. Rice, his delegate), is attached to the treaty of Washington, October 13, 1846, and is undoubtedly that of One-eyed Decorah.

He was born about 1772, and was fifteen years of age when his father settled at La Crosse. He aided in the capture of Mackinaw, July 17, 1812, and was with the British in the attack on Fort Stephenson, August 2, 1813, near Fremont, Ohio, and with McKay at the capture of Prairie du Chien. It is said that he signed the treaty there in 1825. The act for which he became celebrated was the capture of Black Hawk and the Prophet in 1832. Black Hawk's force was pursued by General Atkinson, who completely defeated him August 3, 1832. The famous Sauk leader and the Prophet escaped to the northward and sought refuge among some Winnebagoes, whither they were followed and captured by One-eyed Decorah and Chaetar (another Winnebago), who delivered him to General Street (a former Winnebago agent) at Prairie du Chien, August 27, 1832. On this occasion One-eyed Decorah made the following speech:<sup>22</sup>

"My father, I now stand before you. When we parted I told you I would return soon, but I could not come any sooner. We had to go a great distance. You see we have done what you sent us to do. These (pointing to the prisoners) are the two you told us to get. We have done what you told us to do. We always do what you tell us, because we know it is for our good. Father, you told us to get these men, and it would be the cause of much good to the Winnebagoes. We have brought them, but it has been very hard for us to do so. That one (Black Hawk) was a great way off. You told us to bring them to you alive; we have done so. If you had told us to bring their heads alone, we would have done so, and it would have been less difficult than what we have done. We would not deliver them to our brother, the chief of the warriors, but to you, because we know you, and we believe you are our friend. We want you to keep them safe; if they are to be hurt, we do not wish to see it. Wait until we are gone before it is done. Father, many little birds have been flying about our ears of late, and we thought they whispered to us that there was evil intended for us; but now we hope these evil birds will let our ears alone. We know you are our friend because you took our part, and that is the reason we do what you tell us to do. You say you love your red children; we think we love you as much as, if not more than, you love us. We have confidence in you and you may rely on us. We have been promised a great deal if we would take these men—that it would do much good to our people. We now hope to see what will be done for us. We have come in haste; we are tired and hungry. We now put these men into your hands. We have done all that you told us to do."

In 1832, One-eyed Decorah married two wives and went to live on the Black river, Wisconsin. He had at least one son, Spoon Decorah. Chas. H. Saunders says: "One-eyed Decorah has one daughter, Mrs. Hester Lowery, still living in Wisconsin. Her Indian name is No-jin-win-ka. She is between eighty-five and ninety years old." One-eyed Decorah was living in Iowa between 1840 and 1848, as Moses Paquette, who went to the Presbyterian school

<sup>22</sup> "Red Men of Iowa," pg. 160

at the Turkey river, says that he saw him while he was at school, and Decorah was then an old man. Big Canoe disliked to leave their Iowa reservation.

Geo. W. Kingsley says: "One-eyed Decorah or Big Canoe, after being driven around by the United States Government from the Turkey river reservation, Iowa, to Long Prairie in northern Minnesota, then back to Blue Earth, southern Minnesota, his family brought the old chief back to his native home and stamping grounds in Wisconsin. \* \* \* He requested his children not to bury him, but instead, to place him on top of the ground in a sitting position, and so it was done."

He lived for a number of years with his tribe on Decora's Prairie, Wisconsin, which is named after him; there is also a bluff called Decora's Peak back from the Prairie which was also named after him. George Gale states: "The One-eyed De Carry, who is now [about 1864] about ninety years old, had his cheedah (or wigwam) and family during the summer of 1862 two miles west of Galesville, Wisconsin, and a part of the summer of 1863 he was near New Lisbon." On both of these occasions Gale interviewed him on the traditions of his tribe and family. One-eyed Decorah (also written One-Eyed Decorah) died near the Tunnel, in Monroe county, not far from Tomah, Wisconsin, in August, 1864. A. R. Fulton says:<sup>23</sup> "While young he [One-eyed Decorah] had the misfortune to lose his right eye."

Some histories<sup>24</sup> contain the statement that, "One-eyed Decorah, a son of Waukon Decorah, was a drunkard and unworthy of his father;" there is no evidence, however, to show that he was more debauched than other chiefs, for nearly all Indians were more or less addicted to firewater. That he was a son of Waukon Decorah is an error, as One-eyed Decorah himself testifies that Waukon was his brother.

*Wakun-ha-ga*, or Snake Skin, a son of Chahpost-kaw-kah, was commonly known as Waukon Decorah, or Washington Decorah because in 1828 he went to Washington with the chiefs; he also visited Washington later. Waukon Decorah was a great council chief and orator of his tribe.

The following treaties were signed by him: August 19, 1825, Prairie des Chiens, Michigan Territory, as "Wan-ca-ha-ga, or snake's skin;" August 25, 1828, Green Bay, Michigan Territory, as "Wau-kaun-haw-kaw, or snake skin;" August 1, 1829, Prairie du Chien, Michigan Territory, as "Wau-kaun-hah-kaw, snake skin;" among those representing the Prairie du Chien deputation at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, September 15, 1832, as "Wau-kaun-hah-kaw, or snake skin, (Day-kau-ray);" November 1, 1837, Washington, D. C., as "Wau-kaun-ha-kah, (Snake Skin)." In 1832, Mr. Burnett found him, with the principal part of his band from the Wisconsin and Kickapoo rivers, about sixty miles up the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien. This was during the Black Hawk war, at which time Waukon Decorah aided the whites. This chief belonged to the Mississippi river bands.

Mr. Saunders says, "Wakun-ha-ga had one son named 'Ma-he-ska-ga, or White Cloud;' he is buried here on this reservation [Nebraska.] This man was known around Prairie du Chien and Lansing as John Waukon (there is a

<sup>23</sup> "Red Men of Iowa," A. R. Fulton; "The Making of Iowa," Sabin.

<sup>24</sup> Same reference as above.

Charley Waukon who is now living at Lansing, Iowa, but he is no relation to the Waukon Decorah family). John Waukon has one daughter, Mrs. Henry Big Fire, and two sons, Henry Smith ('Hunting Man') and John Smith ('Che-wy-scha-ka') still living. John Waukon was my father-in-law; my wife's name, by birth and number of female children, was Oc-see-ah-ho-no-nien-kaw. She died February 21, 1913."

Waukon Decorah's portrait (recently identified), painted by J. O. Lewis<sup>25</sup> at the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825, is shown in Lewis' *Aboriginal Portfolio*. He is there called "Waa-kaun-see-kaa, or the Rattle Snake." Its chief distinction is a turban composed of a stuffed rattlesnake, wound around the head, on which are some feathers; a blanket is draped around the lower part of his form, while a bunch of hair (evidently horsehair) is thrown over his arm.

Waukon Decorah evidently had adopted for his badge a stuffed snake skin, so that by some he was called "snake skin," by others, "rattlesnake," the former term, according to historical data, being more commonly used. Thomas McKenney, later United States Indian Commissioner, gives a portrait of this chief in McKenney and Hall's "Indian Tribes," with a biography. Here he is called "Wa-kaun-ha-ka, a Winnebago Chief." In his biographic note McKenney speaks of "Wa-kaun-ha-ka" as a Decorah, moreover, he says that the subject was part French. The Wa-kaun-ha-ka of McKenney and the Waa-kaun-see-kaa of Lewis are portraits of the same person, and both coincide in the rattlesnake turban.

The variation in Indian names is not a formidable matter in identification. Mr. Lamere states that, "The literal translation of 'Wa-kaun-see-kaa' is 'the Yellow Snake.'" Mr. Saunders says: "At times of feasts or medicine dances Wa-kun-ha-ga wore on his head a cap [turban] made of yellow rattlesnake skins; the feathers denote bravery in battle." L. H. Binnell mentions that the yellow rattlesnakes of the Mississippi bluffs were held as sacred by the Winnebagoes and Dakotas, who killed them only when a skin was required for a religious ceremony or dance.<sup>26</sup>

Miss Kellogg, research assistant to Reuben G. Thwaites,<sup>27</sup> reports as follows: "We can unhesitatingly affirm, that there is every probability that this is the well known Winnebago known as Waukon Decorah. \* \* \* I think there can be no doubt that Lewis's portrait is a genuine one, and correctly identified."

Several historians<sup>28</sup> of Iowa, it seems, have taken their accounts of Waukon Decorah from a statement originally made in the "Annals of Iowa," 1866, by

<sup>25</sup> Mr. J. O. Lewis was employed by the Indian Department from 1823 to 1834 to make portraits of the Indians, which was in furtherance of the plan of Hon. J. A. Barbour, Secretary of War. He accompanied Governor Lewis Cass and Colonel H. L. McKenney in their western tours, 1819 and 1820, and was present at the several treaties made by these gentlemen with the Chippewas, Winnebagoes, Sioux, Pottawattamies, and others. One of the folios contained a letter from General Cass in September, 1835, to Mr. Lewis, confirming the correctness of his pictures and commending him to the public. The sketches made by Mr. Lewis were deposited in the Indian Office, War Department, at Washington, and many of them were afterwards copied, at two different times, for the work of McKenney and Hall.—Part 2, Smithsonian Report, 1885.

<sup>26</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 134.

<sup>27</sup> Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

<sup>28</sup> A. R. Fulton, "The Red Men of Iowa;" B. F. Gue, "History of Iowa," Vol. 1; Sabin in "The Making of Iowa" also gives the same account.

Eliphalet Price of Elkader, Clayton county. This contains numerous errors. The Waukon Decorah described as a very small Indian is not the person of that name known to Wisconsin history. Price says,<sup>29</sup> "He was usually called 'the Blind Decorah,' having lost his right eye;" he further states that the meaning of Waukon Decorah is "White Snake." In this he is also mistaken, as the previously given treaty signatures testify. Decorah is a corruption of the French surname De Carrie.

George W. Kingsley makes the following statement: "There was a *White Snake* also, but he was not a chief, although a very prominent Indian. He died in Houston county, Minnesota, about the time the Decorahs lived in Iowa. His remains were left in a sitting position on the point of a hill about one mile north of the village of Houston. White Snake lost a part of his family in a massacre on the Wapsipinicon river, Iowa, a few years after the Black Hawk war while on an elk hunt, by a band of Sauk and Fox Indians by mistake. White Snake was part Sauk."

The speech referred to and partly quoted in W. E. Alexander's History of Winneshiek and Allamakee counties, 1882, and credited to Waukon Decorah, is obviously connected with this incident. Evidently the speech was made by White Snake. He complained that his tribe had been firm friends of the whites, had aided them in the Black Hawk war, and because of this had incurred the enmity of the Sauks and Foxes, who first struck at his own family. He desired some token of remembrance for his services.

It is claimed by Alexander<sup>30</sup> that, "The name 'Wachon Decorah' is found translated in some places as the 'White Crow'; this is an error. There was a White Crow whose Indian name was Wa-haw-ska-kaw, also given as Kau-kich-ka-ka. He was a prominent Winnebago civil chief and orator and died about the year 1834 in Wisconsin, and was buried there. Spoon Decorah, a son of Old Gray-headed Decorah, stated that White Crow was a one-eyed chief."

Eliphalet Price took the census of 1850 and is credited by the Day family (who were some of the first white settlers in Winneshiek county) with suggesting Decorah as a very proper name for the town site that they had in mind to plat.<sup>31</sup> In the act of organizing the county (1851) Decorah is herein first named, two and a half years before the town plat was recorded. The district represented by Hon. Eliphalet Price consisted of Clayton, Fayette, Allamakee, and Winneshiek counties. John Day made the remark<sup>32</sup> that Decorah "was a small Indian about five feet in height."

Mr. Price and Mr. Day were probably misled in their identification of this chief, as there were other Winnebagoes whose names began with Waukon. Apparently, they were familiar with the name Waukon Decorah and had this in mind when it came to selecting a name for the new town. Mr. Price in his article relates that, "Soon after the removal of the Winnebagoes from the Wisconsin to the Neutral Ground in Iowa, Decorah and his band took up their residence on the Iowa river near the present site of the town that bears his name, in the county

<sup>29</sup> In his article entitled "Wakon Decorah," Annals of Iowa, 1866.

<sup>30</sup> In his History of Winneshiek and Allamakee counties.

<sup>31</sup> From a paper prepared by A. K. Bailey for deposit in the corner stone of the new Court House.

<sup>32</sup> In Alexander's History of Winneshiek and Allamakee counties.

of Winneshiek." Antoine Grignon states: "Wakun-ha-ga [Waukon Decorah] was camped on the Iowa river [Upper Iowa] when I knew him. \* \* \* He did not remain in that section long." Mr. Saunders says, "Wakun-ha-ga, and his band, also had a village at or near Waukon, Iowa, where they went in the summer, and raised corn and squash, and picked berries for winter use."

In a statement made by Col. C. A. Clark in "Annals of Iowa," 1903, he remarks that, "The name of the city of Decorah evidently comes from *Little Decorah*." This is very improbable, as there is nothing which corroborates it. Old Waukon lived a generation or two before Little Decorah, and was a distinguished chief, while it appears that the latter was of lesser note.

It is evident, therefore, that our county seat is named in honor of the venerable Waukon Decorah. Alexander states, "Our neighboring town of Waukon gained its name from the first half." Oliver Lanere confirms this in the following account: "Waukon and Waukon Junction have derived their names from Waukon Decorah. \* \* \* A very prominent chief lived at the time the Winnebagoes were there [Iowa] called 'Ah-la-me-ga.' It is thought that the name Allamakee is taken from him, and therefore it is a Winnebago name."

Waukon Decorah was noted for his large and imposing stature and is said to have been a fine-looking man. Colonel Brisbois of Prairie du Chien, who knew him well, speaks particularly of his stature. Antoine Grignon states that, "he was a large man over six feet tall and very powerful;" he further states, "Mr. Price is mistaken,—Waukon Decorah was not blind." He is said to have had a family of several children while here in Iowa, but the number is not known. Wakun-ha-ga was a member of the Snake clan and belonged to the Lower phratry. It is said that his sons had eagle clan names and claimed to be of the eagle clan.

What are said to be the remains of Waukon Decorah, which have been twice re-interred, now repose in the Court House Square, near the northeast corner. These are, however, the bones of some other Indian. The first grave supposed to be that of Decorah was on ground now occupied by Winnebago street, just below Main, almost at their intersection. The opening of the street to travel made it desirable that the remains be removed to another spot. This was done by a formal meeting of prominent citizens August 4, 1850. When the grave was opened the remains were found to consist of human bones, a blanket, a tomahawk, a pipe, and a great number of beads. These were taken out and buried under Ellsworth and Landers' store, the place now occupied by John C. Hexom & Son, where they remained for about six months. When the stone wall in front of the Court House was completed, the remains were re-interred. They were placed in the Court House Square, where they lay undisturbed for about seventeen years. But the grading and terracing of these grounds and the building of the new stone wall compelled another re-interment in the summer of 1876. The bones were taken out and placed in a box to be buried again inside the new stone wall.

When the remains were first exhumed in 1850, the skull had black hair; this assertion is corroborated in a statement made by R. F. Gibson, January 27, 1913, to the writer of this article. Mr. Gibson was one of a committee of three appointed to take charge of the remains.

Waukon Decorah was at this time living in Minnesota with his people; this fact has been established beyond question. It is stated in Alexander's history

that even prominent participants in the first exhumation of the alleged remains of Decorah were confused with doubts, by rumors, current at the time, to the effect that Decorah was still living. He died at the Blue Earth agency, southern Minnesota, in 1868, and was buried there. Mr. Lanere says, "He was about ninety-three years old when he died, and it is said that his hair was as white as it could be." This is practically conclusive proof that the death of Waukon Decorah did not occur here, and that his remains are not buried in the Court House Square.

*Little Decorah* was the oldest son of Old Gray-headed Decorah. His Winnebago name is given as "Maw-hee-coo-shay-naw-zhe-kaw," which Mr. Kingsley interprets as "The pillar that reaches the clouds." The following treaties were signed by Little Decorah: November 1, 1837, Washington, D. C., as "Ma-hee-koo-shay-nuz-he-kah, (Young Decorah);" October 13, 1846, Washington, as "Maw-hee-ko-shay-naw-zhee-kaw;" February 27, 1855, Washington, as "Maw-he-coo-shaw-naw-zhe-kaw," one that Stands and Reaches the Skies, or Little Decorie;" April 15, 1859, Washington, as "Little De Corrie;" March 1, 1865, Washington, as "Little Decoria." It is probable that "Little Decorah" is simply another term for Decorah, Junior.

This chief established a village on the Iowa river (Upper Iowa) in 1840, and it is thought that he was about forty years old while here. Antoine Grignon, who was acquainted with him, says, "Little Decorah spent very little time in Iowa—but lived mostly in the region of Portage, Wis." He belonged to the Mississippi river bands of Indians. Waukon Decorah and Little Decorah had separate camps on the Upper Iowa river.

Little Decorah was of medium height, five feet eight or ten inches, and was chunky and fleshy. It is said that he was slow of action and speech, but possessed of a mild and kind disposition and was very sensible. He belonged to the Cloud clan. Little Decorah died near Tomah, Wisconsin, April 1, 1887, about 100 years old.

*Spoon Decorah* was a son of Old Gray-headed Decorah. (It will be remembered that Old Decorah had a brother Choukeka, also called Spoon Decorah). Spoon Decorah was born at his father's village near the mouth of the Baraboo river, Wisconsin. In March, 1887, Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites had an interview with him. He was then "living with his aged squaw," whose name, it is said, was Gray Eagle-eye. "His progeny, reaching to the fourth generation, were clustered about the patriarchal lodge in family wigwams." He could only converse in his native tongue. He related, "In 1840, we were all moved to the Turkey river [Iowa]; but in the spring our party went to Iowa [Upper] river, where Little Decorah had a village. We went down soon afterwards to the Turkey river to get our ammunition, but for some reason—perhaps because we had moved to Iowa river without the consent of the agent—we couldn't get any."<sup>33</sup> He then went back to Wisconsin, where he died October 13, 1889, in a cranberry marsh, near Necedah. It is said that he was about eighty-four years old when he died.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Wisconsin Historical Collections.

<sup>34</sup> Same reference as above.

*Spoon Decorah*, a cousin of the Spoon Decorah interviewed by Doctor Thwaites in 1887, was a son of One-eyed Decorah. In regard to him we have no further information.

*Angel De Cora*—known in private life as Mrs. William Deitz—is the daughter of a descendant of the hereditary chief of the Winnebagoes. The name "Angel" came about through an accident; its bearer was carried, while a baby, to a young kinswoman, who, being asked to choose a "Christian name," opened a Bible at random, and the first word which caught her eye was "angel." Her Indian name, which means "Queen of the Clouds," identifies her with the Thunder-bird clan. Angel De Cora—Deitz states: "Wakan [Waukon Decorah] was a generation or two before Maw-he-coo-shaw-naw-zhe-ka [Little Decorah]. The latter was my grandfather."

Her education began, while very young, when she was carried off to Hampton, Virginia. A strange white man appeared on the reservation and asked her, through an interpreter, if she would like to ride on a steam car; with six other children she decided to try it, and when the ride was ended she found herself in Hampton. "Three years later, when I returned to my mother," says Angel De Cora,<sup>35</sup> "she told me that for months she wept and mourned for me. My father and the old chief and his wife had died, and with them the old Indian life was gone." She then returned to Hampton, where, through the efforts of a kind family who gave her employment, she was enabled to work her way through a local preparatory school for girls, and later the art department of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.<sup>36</sup>

Her husband's name is Wicarhpi Isnala, or Lone Star; he is one-quarter Sioux and the rest German. Both are now teaching art at the Carlisle Indian School, her husband having also studied art and become an artist of some note. Angel De Cora has been under the art instruction of such men as Howard Pyle, Frank Brown, Joseph De Camp, and Edmund Tarbell. She has won distinction in her work. In 1904 her husband, Lone Star, supervised the interior and mural decorations of the Indian exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. It was while in St. Louis that he became acquainted with Angel De Cora.<sup>37</sup>

Roger C. Mackenstadt, whose boyhood was spent in the city of Decorah, where his parents still reside, says, "Our best policeman, and one of my intimate friends, was Peter Decora, a grandson of Chief Wakan Decorah. \* \* \* \* In the whole tribe I would say that fifty are named Decora. They drop the H. There are several Waukons, about ten, and twenty Winneshieks. The Winneshieks and Waukons are all Wisconsin Winnebagoes and about half of the Decoras are Wisconsin." Mr. Mackenstadt having received a promotion, is now stationed at the Uintah and Ouray Agency, Utah.

#### CHIEF WINNESHIEK

And though the warrior's sun has set,  
Its light shall linger round us yet.—

—Translation from the Spanish by H. W. Longfellow.

<sup>35</sup>The Literary Digest, January 27, 1912, pg. 161.

<sup>36</sup>Same reference as above.

<sup>37</sup>From an article in The Literary Digest, January 27, 1912, pg. 161.





LITTLE WINNESHIK

Whose Indian name is No-gin-kah (meaning, Striking Tree); also known as Younger Winneshiek.



*Winneshiek*, who seems to be a somewhat shadowy character, was a notable chief of the Winnebagoes. It appears that there was a family, like the Decorah family, that took that name. The name *Winneshiek* is evidently not a Winnebago name, but an Algonquian (that is, Fox) name, and is properly *Winnishig*, and signifies "a dirty person who is lying down." He was commonly known by his Fox name. In his own language he was called "Wa-kon-ja-goo-gah," meaning "Coming Thunder;" he was also called "We-lou-shi-ga," meaning "ties them up," or "has them tied up." It is also said that his name in his own language was "Maun-wau-kon-kaw;"<sup>38</sup> regarding the last two names Little *Winneshiek* says, "I understand that this name [We-lou-shi-ga] is a Sioux word for Wa-kon-ja-goo-gah, or Coming Thunder. The name, Maun-wau-kon-kaw, is unknown to us." The following treaty signatures show the name to be variously written: August 25, 1828, Green Bay, Michigan Territory, "Wee-no-shee-kaw;" February 27, 1855, Washington, D. C., "Wau-kon-chaw-koo-haw, the Coming Thunder, or Win-no-shik" (the first Indian to sign the treaty.)

From A. R. Fulton, in "Red Men of Iowa," we learn that, "He was promoted to the rank of a chief when quite young, and always maintained popularity among his people. \* \* \* \* Both physically and intellectually he was a remarkably fine specimen of his race. \* \* \* \* As a man he was modest, kind, and courteous; as a chief, dignified, firm and just in the exercise of his authority. \* \* \* \* *Winneshiek* was made head chief of the tribe in 1845 [at the Turkey river, Iowa], an appointment that did not affect his position as chief of his own particular band." Alexander states:<sup>39</sup> "He was made chief by order of the United States War Department, on account of his ability and fitness for the position. Under him as head chief, there were several chiefs of respective bands into which the tribe was divided." When the tribe was removed to Long Prairie, Minnesota, *Winneshiek* was the head chief, and in 1857, when they were at Blue Earth, he was called a worthy chief and ruler of his tribe.<sup>40</sup>

Old chief *Winneshiek* was an intelligent and very kind man, and had perfect control over his people. He belonged to the Thunder clan, and was a member of the Upper phratry. Mr. Lamere says: "He is said to have been of medium size, had black mustache and chin whiskers. He was very handsome, and it is said that he always wore goggles, or dark glasses. He always carried a pipe, which was made out of a round stick about a foot and a half long with the stem hole bored through it, and the bowl bored into the other end; he carried this most all the time, and especially at council meetings would he have it with him."

Mr. Kinsley says: "We-no-shee-kah was strictly a pagan; he did not believe in the white man's way, therefore his band of followers, which consisted of about one-half or two-thirds of the tribe, were known as blanket Indians. He was a very shrewd, wise, and stubborn man, but free-hearted to everybody; no person ever left or entered the chief's great lodge without receiving something to eat. These were his teachings; he regarded all the Winnebagoes as his

<sup>38</sup> Wisconsin Historical Collections.

<sup>39</sup> In his History of *Winneshiek* and *Allamakee* Counties. There is no further authentic mention regarding this statement.

<sup>40</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 156.

children and treated them as such. We-no-shee-kah was no orator, therefore in council with the government, or otherwise, he always had a speaker. He was no traveler, although he made a trip or two to see his Great Father at Washington, President Polk, who, as a token of friendship, gave We-no-shee-kah a medal; struck on the reverse side were two hands clasped, an Indian's in that of a white man's [regarding this medal see statement by Little Winneshiek]. Chief We-no-shee-kah was a great father as well as a head chief. He had four wives, who, with himself and family, lived in one lodge. His principal home was about seven miles west of the village of Houston, on the Root river, Houston county, Minnesota; here he lived, during the winter, in a dirt wigwam." Fulton states<sup>41</sup>: "He had four wives, one of whom was the reputed daughter of Colonel Morgan, a former officer in the United States army;" there is no further authentic mention which corroborates this statement by Fulton.

That Winneshiek also had a camp on the Upper Iowa river is evident, as Antoine Grignon says, "While he [Winneshiek] was camped on the Iowa river my brother Paul and one James Reed visited his band to find out about some cattle the young Winnebagoes had stolen from the Sioux. They were given in compensation an equal amount of cattle, or a number corresponding to the number that has been stolen, and Winneshiek warned his band not to molest the cattle as they were being driven out, as the young men were making preparations to stampede the herd by waving red blankets in front of them."

P. V. Lawson, a Wisconsin historian, says<sup>42</sup>: "The Indians in a drunken pow-wow at Prairie du Chien had killed his brother. Word of this tragedy being sent to him, he coolly loaded his pistol, and with it concealed beneath his blanket, went to the place where his brother lay. He had the murderer brought beside his victim and then suddenly shot him dead;" there is no further mention made of this incident. It is stated,<sup>43</sup> however, that Winneshiek was in 1829 head chief of the Winnebago village at La Crosse.

He was on the British side in 1812-15, and in 1832 refused to assist the Americans against the Sauks. When invited by the whites to join them, the matter was discussed with the chiefs and braves. "Win-o-she-kaw was opposed to the measure, and declined having anything to do with it. He said the Sauks had twice that season presented the red wampum to the Winnebagoes at Portage, and that they had as often washed it white and handed it back to them; further, that he did not like that red thing; that he was afraid of it. Waudgh-ha-ta-kau [evidently the One-eyed Decorah] took the wampum, and said that he with all the young men of the village would go; that they were anxious to engage in the expedition and would be ready to accompany us on our return."<sup>44</sup> A short while after this it was found that Winneshiek and Wau-mar-nar-sar had gone up the river with part of the band to hunt and dry meat.

His mother was a sister of Wabokieshiek (White Cloud), the half-Sauk, half-Winnebago Prophet, who assisted Black Hawk. Little Winneshiek says,

<sup>41</sup> "Red Men of Iowa," pg. 158.

<sup>42</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 150; taken from Wisconsin Historical Collections 3, 287.

<sup>43</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 150; taken from Wisconsin Historical Collection 3, 287.

<sup>44</sup> Wisconsin Historical Collections, 2, 257, 256.

"For this relationship he fought in a number of battles under Black Hawk in the war of 1832." Thomas Clay, an aged Winnebago, heard Winneshiek tell this from time to time at *death-wakes*, where the brave men, or warriors, were supposed to tell the truth. Clay's statement <sup>45</sup> is as follows:

"Winneshiek was a nephew of a Sauk and Fox Indian called White Cloud [Wabokieshiek], that is why Winneshiek was an aid to the Sauk and Fox Indians during Black Hawk's war. Winneshiek was taking, or guiding, the Fox Indians into the Winnebago country, or to the village, and as they were crossing the Mississippi river somewhere near where Prairie du Chien now stands, a steamboat came up the river and anchored in the middle of the stream. Then some one called out from the boat and asked if Black Hawk was there among them. 'Yes,' was the answer from the Indians. 'Will he surrender or not?' was the next question from the boat. Then Winneshiek spoke up, and said: 'Uncles (meaning the Fox Indians, as that was what he always called them), tie a white cloth to a pole and I will go and surrender.' So they made a white flag for him, but as he was about to get into the stream to swim to the boat, the Fox people said: 'Perhaps after all you had better not go,' and saying thus, they held him; and the soldiers in the boat could see that he was being held. Then Winneshiek said: 'Uncles, I meant to do this that you might live, but the result shall be your fault.' Just then the question came again from the boat, 'Will you surrender?' The answer from the Indians was 'No! we will not surrender,' and no sooner was it said than the soldiers fired upon them, and even at the first volley many of the Indians were killed. Then Winneshiek said: 'Uncles, thus far only am I able to be with you, as I shall leave you here;' and saying thus, he and his real uncles went up the bank of the river and there watched the fight. When night came upon them, he took his Fox uncles back to the Winnebago village with him. When they arrived at the village, Winneshiek's mother met him crying: 'Oh! my son, because you have aided Black Hawk in the war, they have taken your father to the fort as a prisoner.' When the soldiers learned that Winneshiek was back at his own village they came after him and released his father. Winneshiek was questioned very severely, but he was angered instead of frightened, and he would not even speak, and for four days he would not eat the food that was given him. Then one of the officers said to his fellow officers: 'You must be very severe in questioning Winneshiek. I will question him myself, to-day.' So the officer went to him and as he entered he called Winneshiek by name, greeting him and shaking hands with him, he said: 'Winneshiek, I understand that some officers have questioned you, but that you were angered and would not even speak to them, and I told them that they must have acted very ungentlemanly towards you to cause you to act as you did.' Winneshiek said: 'Yes, that is the way they have acted.' 'That is what I thought,' said the officer, and continued. 'Winneshiek, I am going to talk with you with good words,' and Winneshiek assented; so the officer said: 'Winneshiek, as you have been spoken to roughly, which caused you to not eat for four days, and as I am going to speak to you with good words, therefore I desire that you should eat before we talk and I will have cooked for you a very nice dog that I own myself, and at noon, after you have had your noon meal,

<sup>45</sup> As given by Mr. Oliver Lamere.

then we shall talk.' Then the officer got some Indians that were about the fort to cook the dog for him in the way they usually cook them for themselves. So when it was thus served to Winneshiek and he had partaken of it, then he and the officer talked. The officer was very much pleased that Winneshiek talked with him in a good spirit. Then he said: 'Winneshiek, I am going to ask you a question and I would like to have you tell me the truth;' Winneshiek assented. The officer asked: 'Were you with the Foxes in the war?' Winneshiek said: 'Yes,' and the officer asked again: 'Did you take part?' Winneshiek said: 'As you have asked me for the truth, I will tell it to you,—yes, I took part.' Then the officer said: 'Winneshiek, I thank you because I asked you for the truth and you gave it to me.' Then the officer did not question him any more, but left. Winneshiek was kept in prison one year for being an aid to Black Hawk."

Kingsley says: "We-no-shce-kah and his band after being moved about from one reservation to another were finally removed from Blue Earth, Minnesota, to Usher's Landing, or Fort Thompson, S. D. Here a part of the band starved to death and others died of exposure. He took the remnant of his band and started down the Missouri river in canoes, in hopes of going to St. Louis, and hence up the Mississippi to his native haunts in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota; but the old chief got as far down as St. Joseph, Mo., and there winter overtook him and his little band. The old chief took sick and died very suddenly." At this time the old chief evidently was on the Kansas side of the Missouri, as Mr. Lamere says: "He died in Kansas, or just across the southern line of Nebraska among the Iowa Indians." One wife and the family came through the next summer. Little Winneshiek, a son of the old chief, says: "My father traveled extensively in the interest of the tribe, he with other chiefs were in Washington on two occasions for the purpose of ceding large areas of land at each time to the Federal Government;" he further says: "Your county was named in honor of my father, Chief Winneshiek, who was considered the head of the Winnebago tribe at the time they were occupying the Turkey river district in Iowa. Ours was the family to which Geo. Kingsley referred to as moving to Wisconsin after my father's death."

No one knows who gave the county its name; this, like certain other things concerning the earliest history of the county, has apparently never been recorded. At an old settlers' meeting held in Decorah, July 4, 1876, Mr. A. K. Bailey delivered an address in which it was strongly intimated that this might have been the work of Hon. Eliphalet Price. Alexander accepted this as good enough history and gives it as such in his history of the county. However, Mr. A. K. Bailey corrects this by a later article<sup>16</sup> in which he states: "The very recent discovery that the county was named legally [February 27, 1847], and its boundaries described, more than four years before the organizing act [1851] was passed (which has until now [1903] been considered as the beginning of county existence), makes this credit to Mr. Price improbable."

*Young Winneshiek, or Winneshiek the Younger*, so-called in history, was

<sup>16</sup> From a paper prepared by A. K. Bailey, for deposit in the corner stone of the new Court House, and republished in the "Illustrated Historical Atlas of Winneshiek County," Sec. II, pg. 3.

a younger brother of old Chief Winneshiek, or Coming Thunder. It is stated<sup>47</sup> that he was a son of the old chief, but this is an error and does not refer to his son Little Winneshiek, who says, "Young Winneshiek was named Ah-hoo-sheeb-gah, or Short Wing, by his fellow tribesmen; he was a younger brother of my father and did not participate in the Sauk and Fox war [1832]." It is said<sup>48</sup> that during the so-called Winnebago war, in 1827, Young Winneshiek was held as a hostage by Colonel Dodge for the good behavior of the tribe. This statement is made by several historians,<sup>49</sup> in which connection they also mention him as taking part in the Black Hawk war, 1832; Mr. Clay's narrative refers to Chief Winneshiek, an older brother of Young Winneshiek. Little Winneshiek's statement (as given above) confirms Mr. Clay's narration. It is stated in Alexander's history that Winneshiek was a noted orator. Obviously, this refers to Young Winneshiek, for in the report of the Indian agent for 1840,<sup>50</sup> there is a speech made by Young Winneshiek in which he refers to himself as "a boy," protesting against the removal to Iowa. Kingsley testifies that old Chief Winneshiek (Coming Thunder) was "no orator."

Antoine Grignon says, "Young Winneshiek was a bright young man. He died rather young, at Black River Falls, Wisconsin." When the Winnebagoes were being removed from Blue Earth, the chiefs Decorah and Winneshiek (evidently One-eyed Decorah and Young Winneshiek) fled with their families and other members of the tribe to Wisconsin. Young Winneshiek had a village on the Black river and died there in May, 1887.

*No-gin-kah* (meaning Striking Tree and Younger Winneshiek) is the youngest son of Chief Winneshiek, or Coming Thunder. He is seventy years old and is still living in Wisconsin. He is more commonly known as Little Winneshiek. No-gin-kah says, "John Winneshiek and I are the only sons of Chief Winneshiek living and his other descendants produced by our deceased brothers and sisters diverge into a very large family." He further states that, "The medals issued to Winnebago chiefs by the United States Government are lost, the one described by Geo. W. Kingsley was lost by one of my elder brothers. I have only one medal in my possession, on which is engraved King George the 3d and Latin inscriptions [this medal (with the exception of a slight variation in size) conforms to a description of the one issued by the British military authorities in 1778]."

John Winneshiek's Indian name is *Ko-sho-gi-way-ka*, meaning "One that goes low;" he is seventy-eight years old.

Old chief Winneshiek's Indian name is given by some historians<sup>51</sup> as *Wau-kun-cha-koo-kah*, but this is evidently an error. *Wau-kun-cha-koo-kah*<sup>52</sup> is the Indian name of Chief Yellow Thunder, who migrated with his tribe to Iowa.

<sup>47</sup> Wisconsin Historical Collections, 2,—331.

<sup>48</sup> Wisconsin Historical Collections, 2,—331.

<sup>49</sup> Fulton, Gue, and Sabin; the latter two, it seems, have taken their accounts from Fulton. They were probably under wrong impressions in reference to "Young Winneshiek" as their statements (according to historical data) seem to apply to more than one person.

<sup>50</sup> Wisconsin Historical collections.

<sup>51</sup> Fulton, "Red Men of Iowa;" Gue, "History of Iowa," Vol. 1; Sabin, "The Making of Iowa."

<sup>52</sup> Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, pt. 2, pg. 996.

Yellow Thunder did not remain long at the Turkey river, for within a year he and his wife (known in history as "the Washington woman")<sup>53</sup> returned to Wisconsin; here he entered a tract of forty acres as a homestead on the west side of the Wisconsin river. He died in February, 1874. Yellow Thunder was greatly respected by his people, and was an able counsellor in their public affairs.

Other Winnebago chiefs known to have been in the county were Whirling Thunder (Wau-kaun-ween-kaw); Little Hill (Sho-gee-nik-ka), who, at Long Prairie, became head spokesman for the chiefs; Big Bear, and Kayrah-mau-nee, a son of Carry-maunee (or Nawkaw).

#### MISSION SCHOOL AND TRADING POST

By the treaty of September 15, 1832, it was stipulated that the Government should annually, beginning in September, 1833, and continuing for twenty-seven years, give the Winnebagoes \$10,000 in specie, and establish a school among them, at or near Prairie du Chien, with a farm and garden, and provide other facilities, not to exceed in cost \$3,000 a year, for the education of their children, and continue the same for twenty-seven successive years. Six agriculturists, twelve yoke of oxen and as many plows, and other farming tools were to be supplied by the Government. The buildings were erected in 1833, on the Yellow river, Allamakee county, Iowa, and President Jackson appointed Rev. David Lowry, a Presbyterian minister, to assume charge. The mission school was removed in 1840 from the Yellow river to a point on the Turkey river, in Winneshiek county, about four miles southeast of the fort buildings.

The erection of the mission was superintended by Reverend Lowry. There were about twenty buildings at the mission. One was a large schoolhouse, another a small church, while the rest were dwellings. Early Catholic pioneers, who settled near the Turkey river (1849), purchased these buildings. The small church was used as a chapel, hence the name Old Mission. In 1853 it was destroyed by fire.

There was also a mission one mile east of the fort, on the Turkey river, established by Catholic missionaries. Here there were a number of graves, and at the head of each was a cross. It is unknown whether any of the graves were those of converted Indians or not. The buildings belonging to this mission were burned down by a prairie fire in the early fifties.

Alexander states<sup>54</sup> that, "Reverend Lowry's assistant was one by the name of Colonel Thomas. To him was turned over the work of instructing the Indians in agricultural pursuits. The first year, under Colonel Thomas' supervision, a farm of 300 acres was opened. However, little work could be got out of them, and the crops planted began to show neglect." There was an abundance of game in the country round about, and therefore the temptation for the Indian to roam and hunt was very strong. As a result he became negligent about tilling the soil. In 1843 Colonel Thomas, under governmental instructions, built the first gristmill in Winneshiek county. The mission and farm were continued until

<sup>53</sup> Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 6, No. 3, pg. 150.

<sup>54</sup> In his History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties.



the reservation was sold to the Government. Lowry finally resigned to take charge of a mission in Minnesota and, in 1846, Mr. Fletcher was appointed agent for the Winnebagoes by President Polk, and served in that capacity for eleven years. During that time he resided at Fort Atkinson, Iowa, Long Prairie, Minnesota, and Blue Earth, Minnesota. Under the careful management of Mr. Fletcher the Winnebagoes attained to considerable proficiency in agriculture, and otherwise improved their condition.

During his service as Indian agent Mr. Fletcher was accompanied by his wife, who engaged earnestly in the work of teaching the Indians. Their eldest son, Frank Fletcher, acquired such command of the language of the Indians that he became his father's interpreter. General Fletcher, while serving as agent, contributed through the publications of Mr. Schoolcraft a vast amount of information concerning the religion, traditions, and customs of the Winnebagoes while at the Turkey river. In 1858 Mr. Fletcher returned to Iowa, where he died April 6, 1872, on his farm near Muscatine, sixty-six years old.

When the crop, planted under Colonel Thomas' supervision, began to show neglect, a force of garrison men were detailed to cultivate it, and were paid for their labor out of the Indian annuity. Hon. A. Jacobson states:<sup>55</sup> "Ole Halvorsen Valle, undoubtedly the first Norwegian to visit the county, was engaged in the service of the Government as teamster, hauling provisions from Fort Crawford, Wisconsin, to Fort Atkinson and the Old Mission; he was also employed in breaking up pieces of bottom land on the Upper Iowa river. One of the largest fields thus prepared for the Indians to plant their corn was situated just below the outlet of Trout Run." Mr. Goddard says, "An Indian chief had a farm about one-half mile southwest of Spillville, and a considerable part of the ground was broken up."

An Indian trading post was established two miles southwest of the fort by a Mr. Olmstead and one Joseph Hewitt. It seems that they had a permit from the Government to trade with the Indians. The buildings, all one story high, were constructed of logs. There were five in number, two large dwelling houses, one large store, one storage house, and a blacksmith shop. Capt. Joseph Hewitt's principal occupation was hunting, trapping and fishing. In 1851 he left the country and located at Clear Lake, Iowa, where he experienced no little trouble with the Sioux Indians. In 1849 Josiah Goddard bought the old Indian trading post from Olmstead, and in 1850 moved his family onto the land. Three or four acres of this land had been broken up by the Indians.

#### FORT ATKINSON

Now, the boys in blue, you bet,  
Earn whatever praise they get.—

—Joseph Mills Hanson, "Frontier Ballads."

In 1840 the Winnebago Indians were removed to their new home on the Neutral Ground. In order to protect them from the incursions of their neighbors, among whom were the Sauk and Fox tribes, as well as from intrusions

<sup>55</sup> In his article "Reminiscences of Pioneer Norwegians," published in the Historical Atlas of Winneshiek County, 1905, Sec. II, pg. 11.

of the whites, and in turn to prevent them from trespassing beyond the limits of the reservation, soldiers were stationed among them. A detachment of the 5th Infantry (Company F) under command of Capt. Isaac Lynde left Fort Crawford with a complement of eighty-two officers and enlisted men, and went into camp, May 31, 1840, in the neighborhood of Spring creek (now known as Goddard's creek) on the Turkey river. The camp was named "Camp Atkinson" in honor of Brig. Gen. Henry Atkinson, U. S. army, the department commander who was so prominent in military operations in the upper Mississippi valley. Barracks and quarters sufficient to accommodate one company were erected, and in March, 1841, the secretary of war ordered that the station be known as Fort Atkinson.

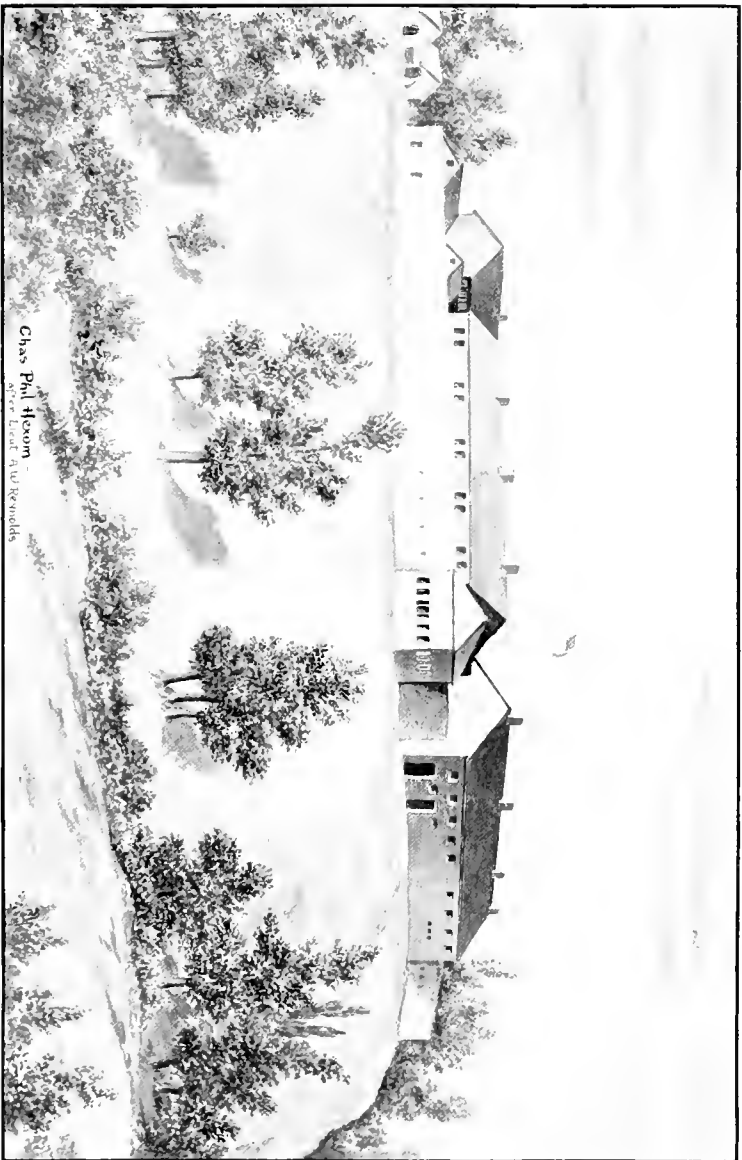
Rumors of the warlike attitude of a portion of the Sauk and Fox Indians, who, it was believed, intended sending out a party against the peaceable Winnebagoes, caused Governor Dodge of Wisconsin, in a letter dated January 23, 1841, and directed to the commissioner of Indian affairs, to urge strongly that, in addition to the garrison there at that time, a mounted force be stationed at Fort Atkinson. The following is an extract from Governor Dodge's letter:—

"In compliance with the instructions of your Department the Agency and School have been removed to the new site on Turkey river with about 700 of the Indians of the Winnebago Nation. These Indians, it is confidently expected, will not return, unless another blow should be struck by the Sauks and Foxes. Such an event may not be looked for this winter, but it is the opinion of Mr. Lowry that it may certainly be calculated upon in the ensuing spring unless a mounted force should be stationed at Camp Atkinson.

"Information was received by Mr. Lowry through Governor Lucas, obtained from a portion of the Sauks and Foxes not unfriendly to the Winnebagoes, that a war party was to have set out against the latter in November last. A very extraordinary snow storm is believed to have prevented this attack. The war party is now on Red Cedar (fifty miles west of Camp Atkinson); a large body of Sioux are also in that vicinity, and scouts of the former have been fired at by the latter but as yet no blood has been shed. The difficulty of keeping the Winnebagoes at their new homes, under these circumstances, and without an adequate force for their protection, must be readily seen."

This letter was referred to the War Department, where it was in turn referred to General Atkinson with instructions to use every effort to prevent any collision between the Indians. General Atkinson responded to these instructions March 1, 1841, as follows:—

"Sir: I have the honor to report that I have received your letter of instructions of the 15th ultimo, accompanied by an extract of a letter from Governor Dodge of the 23d of January, in reference to establishing a mounted force at Fort Atkinson for the protection of the Winnebago Indians. It is impossible to station a mounted force at that point before the middle of May, as there are no barracks, quarters or stables for their accommodation, nor forage for their horses. I will, however, order the troop at Fort Crawford to make excursions through the country of Turkey and Cedar rivers, till the season opens to enable it to go under tents, at which time the grass will be grown sufficiently to subsist the horses.



FORT ATKINSON, WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA, AS IT APPEARED IN 1842

This drawing is a copy, by Chas. Paul Henson, after a reproduction from an original drawing, made by Lieut. A. W. Reynolds, 1st Infantry, on file in the office of the Adjutant General of the Army, War Department, Washington, D. C.



"No time should be lost by the Quartermaster's Department in proceeding to erect quarters, barracks and stables for the troop at the post on Turkey river, or they will not be ready for their accommodation by the coming of the next winter. I request, therefore, that orders to that effect may be given without delay.

"With great respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"(Signed.)

H. ATKINSON,

*"Brigadier General U. S. Army.*

"Brigadier General Jones,

"Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington."

On the 24th of the following June, Company B of the 1st Dragoons arrived at the fort and took up their station, and from that time until 1847 the fort was a two-company post. September 11th Captain Lynde's company was relieved by Company K of the 1st Infantry, Capt. J. J. Abererombie.

In the year following, at various times, on the requisition of Governor Chambers of Iowa Territory, detachments and patrols were sent out from this fort to remove squatters and other intruders from the lands of the Sauk and Fox Indians and to prevent their return. August 7th Company I, 1st Dragoons, under command of Captain James Allen, arriving at the fort, whence they proceeded to the Sauk and Fox Agency, where they established Fort Sanford. From this time until its abandonment Fort Atkinson was successively garrisoned by the following organizations:

Company B, 1st Infantry, Captain Sidney Burbank; Company A, 1st Infantry, Captain Osborne Cross; Company E, 1st Infantry, Captain A. S. Miller; Company A, 1st Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Captain James M. Morgan; Company A, 1st Iowa Volunteer Dragoons, Captain John Parker; a detachment of Wisconsin Volunteers, Dodge Guards, under command of Lieutenant Benjamin Fox (here was an interim of several months during which the fort was not garrisoned); and from September 25, 1848, until the time of its abandonment, Company C, 6th Infantry, Captain F. L. Alexander.<sup>56</sup>

The fort was situated in the northwestern part of Washington township (on the old military road constructed from Fort Snelling to Fort Gibson) and stood on a rock-ribbed hill overlooking the site of the town which now bears its name. This hill is about eighty-four feet above the Turkey river. The fort buildings were two stories high, twenty feet to the eaves. Each building had an upper porch along its entire length, the one on the officers' quarters being screened in with the old fashioned movable wooden blinds. The buildings occupied an acre of ground. The stables, about forty feet wide and about 300 feet long, extended north and south and were about twenty rods east of the street. The bakery, and the blacksmith shop and carpenter shops were north of the fort on the north side of the street.

The main barracks consisted of the commissioned officers' quarters, built of stone, the non-commissioned officers' quarters, built of logs hewn flat, one soldiers' quarters (including hospital rooms), built of stone, and another soldiers'

<sup>56</sup> War Department Records of Fort Atkinson in "Annals of Iowa," July, 1900, Vol. IV, No. 6.

quarters (including church and school rooms), built of flat hewn logs. The soldiers' quarters were 250 feet long. These four main buildings enclosed a parade and drill-ground (with a flag-staff at one end), and in turn were enclosed by a stockade twelve feet high and made out of logs hewn flat and set on end in a narrow trench. The top of the stockade consisted of spikes driven into the sharpened ends of the logs. Port holes were cut at about every four feet.

In two corners of the stockade were located cannon-houses; and in the other two corners, the Quartermaster's store house (adjoined by the sutler's store) and the magazine, or powder-house. The guard-house was near the sutler's store, and a sentinel's beat was constructed near the powder-house. The platform of the sentinel's beat was about three feet below the top of one side of the stockade and extended nearly its whole length. At one end, by the magazine house, was constructed a small shelter for the protection of the sentinel during inclement weather. The outer walls of the Quartermaster's store extended somewhat outside the stockade.

Alexander states:<sup>57</sup> "The material of which it was built was prepared at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, Wis., and the cost of making a wagon-road, the same ever since known as the Old Military road, and transporting the material to its destination, brought the cost of building the fort to \$93,000." However, all the material was not prepared at Fort Crawford, as Mr. Goddard says, "The Government had a sawmill at Old Mission, where all the hardwood used in the fort was cut. The stone used was quarried in the immediate vicinity of the fort. The pine lumber and other material was brought from Fort Crawford."

Alexander says:<sup>58</sup> "The first blacksmith in Winneshiek county was Harmon Snyder. He came from Prairie du Chien with the force (of about 50 mechanics) detailed to build the fort, and was employed, chiefly, in work for the garrison. At the same time he did a great deal of work for the Indians. They would stand around and watch him while at his work, with wonder and admiration."

Antoine Grignon, who aided in the removal of the Winnebagoes in 1848, says, "Fort Atkinson was quite a lively place when I was there; there was a company of cavalry there at that time." Concerning the Indian agency which was established in connection with the fort, Mr. Kingsley relates that, "The Winnebagoes were given food, clothing, gold, and silver. In money they received \$46.00 per head, twice a year. The head of the family represented his family by the number of sticks in his hand, and the annuity was disbursed to him accordingly. I have heard my mother say that she was a young girl, about fourteen years old, the time of the Turkey river reservation days; her father, being a sub-chief, drew a portion of the supplies; these were tied up in a buffalo robe and put on a pony that she rode. The cash amounted to between \$1,000 and \$2,000."

February 24, 1849, the post was finally abandoned. It was turned over to the Secretary of the Interior for disposition January 10, 1851. At the present

<sup>57</sup> In his history of the county.

<sup>58</sup> Same reference as above.

time all that is still standing of the fort is the cannon-house of the southwest corner.

"Orders No. 9.

"HEADQUARTERS 6TH MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

"ST. LOUIS, Missouri, February 10th, 1849.

"In pursuance of General Orders No. 3, of the 23d ultimo, for the abandonment of Fort Atkinson, the Company of the 6th Infantry stationed there will be withdrawn to Fort Crawford, and will form a part of the garrison of that post.

"The public stores at Fort Atkinson will be removed or sold, as may be found expedient under the circumstances.

"By order Bvt. Major General Twiggs:

"D. C. BUELL,

"*Asst. Adjt. Gen.*"

Although the military appearance was no longer kept up, the fort was not entirely abandoned as a post. A discharged soldier of the regular army, named Alexander Faulkner, who held the rank of first sergeant, was appointed by the Government to look after it. Josiah Goddard, who, with his family, moved from Wisconsin to this section in 1849, spent the winter of 1849-50 in the old fort when it was in charge of Mr. Faulkner. Soon after, Faulkner was relieved by Geo. Cooney, whom Alexander says,<sup>59</sup> "was a well-known citizen of the county, who lived in the vicinity of the old fort." The fort became useless as Government property, and was sold at public auction to one J. M. Flowers for \$3,521. The reservation is described as containing 1,920 acres. This land was finally disposed of under the provisions of the acts of Congress of July 30, 1856, and June 7, 1860.

Of the officers who served at this post, six, namely: Captain John J. Abercrombie and Lieutenants Schuyler Hamilton, John H. King, and Joseph B. Plummer, of the 1st Infantry, and Captain Edwin V. Sumner and Lieutenant Alfred Pleasanton, of the 1st Dragoons, attained to the rank of general officers in the U. S. Army in the Civil war.

Assistant Surgeon William S. King was retired as an Assistant Surgeon General. Captain Osborne Cross of the 1st Infantry was transferred to the Quartermaster's Department and became Assistant Quartermaster General with the rank of Colonel. Captain Sidney Burbank of the 1st Infantry commanded his regiment, 2d U. S. Infantry, during the Civil war and was breveted for gallantry.

Lieutenants Simon B. Buckner and Henry Heth of the 6th Infantry, and Abraham Buford and Alexander W. Reynolds of the 1st, resigned their commissions at the outbreak of the Civil war and became general officers in the Confederate service. Assistant Surgeon Charles H. Smith served in the medical department of the Confederate army. A. R. Young, father of Frank Young of Decorah, was a soldier at Fort Atkinson, and left with other troops for Mexico, but returned soon after the country was opened to settlers.

The first death of a white man in Winneshiek county was that of a Government teamster named Howard, frozen to death October 4, 1840, near Castalia,

<sup>59</sup> In his history of the county.

while driving from Fort Crawford to Fort Atkinson. He was buried at the latter place. The first white child born in the county was Miss Mary Jane Tapper, born at the fort January 16, 1841.

REMOVAL OF THE WINNEBAGOES FROM IOWA

October 13, 1846, the Winnebagoes ceded "all claim to land," and especially their rights on the Neutral Ground, and were given a tract of land selected by the chiefs at Long Prairie, Minnesota. The Indians were not satisfied with the location, and most of them remained scattered throughout the country.

Mr. Henry M. Rice secured the contract to remove these to Minnesota, and employed Moses Paquette, Antoine Grignon, and others to assist him. Antoine Grignon, who is now eighty-four years old and a resident of Wisconsin, says, "I went to school four years with Moses Paquette; he was a Winnebago mixed blood. I have no Indian name, but am part Sioux and Winnebago. I helped locate camps for H. M. Rice, along the river, and we gathered the Indians together in La Crosse, took them by steamboat to St. Paul, then overland by wagon to Long Prairie, Minnesota. I remained at Long Prairie until 1854. They disliked very much to leave Iowa. They were removed in wagons, being guarded by dragoons from Fort Atkinson."

The names of the twenty-four Indian signers of the Treaty of Washington, negotiated with the Winnebago Indians October 13, 1846, are as follows:

Hoong-ho-no-kaw.	Hakh-ee-nee-kaw.
Is-jaw-go-bo-kaw.	Waw-kon-chaw-ho-no-kaw.
Co-no-ha-ta-kaw.	Maw-hee-ko-shay-naw-zhee-kaw.
Naw-hoo-skaw-kaw.	Wo-gie-qua-kaw.
Shoong-skaw-kaw.	Waw-kon-chaw-she-shick-kaw.
Kooz-a-ray-kaw.	Chas-chun-kaw.
Waw-ma-noo-ka-kaw.	Naw-hey-kee-kaw.
Ha-naw-hoong-per-kaw.	Ah-hoo-zheb-kaw.
Waw-roo-jaw-hee-kaw.	Maw-nee-ho-no-nic.
Baptist-Lasalica.	Maw-ho-kee-wee-kaw.
Waw-kon-chaw-per-kaw.	Sho-go-nee-kaw.
Kaw-how-ah-kaw.	

Watch-ha-ta-kaw, (by Henry M. Rice, his delegate.)

Mr. Lamere has translated most of the above names; the translations are as follows: Hoong-ho-no-kaw, or Little Chief (also called Little Priest); he was a member of the Wolf clan.

Co-no-ha-ta-kaw;—"Co-no" is the name of all the first born male children of the Winnebagoes (the word "co-no" does not mean first-born, but is the name of the first born); "-ha-ta" means "big." As there were usually two or three families in a lodge and more than one "co-no," they usually called the older one "co-no-ha-ta-kaw," meaning, "older, or big-first-born."

Maw-hoo-skaw-kaw, or White Sturgeon; this is a fish clan name.

Shoong-skaw-kaw, or White Dog; a member of the Wolf clan.

Kooz-a-ray-kaw, or the Created; a member of the Bear clan.

Waw-ma-noo-ka-kaw, or the Stealer (Thief); this is a self-taken name, a right the warriors had, especially, when they had accomplished anything of im-



portance in battle. This particular name signifies that he overcomes his enemies so easily that it is like stealing them.

Ha-naw-hoong-per-kaw;—"Ha-naw" is the name of the second born male child in a family; "hoong-per" signifies "good chief," thus the meaning would be "the second born good chief;" his English name was "White-horse" and he was a member of the Wolf clan.

Wo-gie-qua-kaw, or "Strikes them as he comes." This is a Buffalo clan name, and is taken from the actions of a bull buffalo running a herd, when he seems to lead or drive them by butting, or striking them about.

Wau-kon-chaw-she-shick-kaw, or Bad Thunder (a Thunder clan name).

Chas-chun-kaw, or the Wave (a Fish clan name.)

Naw-hey-kee-kaw, or "He who makes trees dead;" a Thunder clan name taken from the action of the lightning when it strikes trees, so that they dry up and die.

Ah-hoo-zheb-kaw, or Short Wing (Young Winneshiek).

Waw-roo-jaw-hee-kaw, or "Thunders on them" (Thunder clan name).

Waw-kon-chaw-per-kaw, or the Good Thunder (Thunder clan name).

Waw-kon-chaw-ho-no-kaw, or the Little Thunder (Thunder clan name).

Maw-hee-koo-shay-naw-zhee-kaw, or Little Decorah (One who Stands and Reaches the Skies).

Maw-nee-ho-no-nic, or Little Walker (Eagle clan name).

Maw-ho-kee-wee-kaw, or "He who goes along in the sky;" the word "kaw" on the end of every name means "he" or "the."

Sho-go-nee-kaw, or Little Hill.

Watch-ha-ta-kaw (undoubtedly One-eyed Decorah).

About 1300 were removed to Minnesota at this time, leaving, it was estimated, about 400 still remaining in Iowa and Wisconsin. Others were removed in 1850.

"A place of notoriety that existed in the early history of Winneshiek county was a spot called 'Grab-all.' This place was a high bench of timber land, half way between the Iowa trail and Postville. It was given this name because the Government stationed a sergeant's guard there to 'grab all' the Indians passing that way, for removal."<sup>60</sup>

It is easily understood why the Winnebagoes, when later removed to other places, returned in little bands, quite frequently, to visit the scenes they loved so well; they persisted in this until civilization shut them out forever. The Winnebagoes had many favorite camping sites along the rivers of the county. Mr. Lamere says that the Winnebago Indian name for Iowa river, with reference to the Upper Iowa, is "Wax-hoche-ni-la," meaning Iowa river, also called "Wax-hoche-ni-sha-nuk-la." The Winnebago Indian name for the Turkey river is "Zee-zee-ke-ni-la," meaning Turkey river, also called "Zoe-zee-ke-ni-sha-nuk-la." James Smith, a Winnebago, states,<sup>61</sup> "a river south of Lansing, Iowa, is called Yellow Hair river <sup>62</sup> by the Indians; the Winnebago name for this river is 'Najew-zee-ni-sha-nuk-la.'"

<sup>60</sup> Alexander's "History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties."

<sup>61</sup> A statement made to Mr. Oliver Lamere.

<sup>62</sup> Evidently the Yellow river, which has its source in Winneshiek county.

## REMINISCENCES

When the first homeseekers came to Winneshiek county the remains of several Winnebago Indian villages were still in existence. Numerous Indian trails were in evidence in nearly all parts of the county, many of which led to the site of the present city of Decorah.

In "Reminiscences of Springfield Township"<sup>63</sup> Hon. A. Jacobson states: "The Indians who had inhabited this portion of the country where we settled were removed by Government troops two years previous to our arrival. They had evidently intended to return at some future time as they had made large cellar-like holes in the ground in which were deposited all kinds of goods covered with the bark of trees. Such things as corn, feathers, axes, and kettles were in good preservation when exhumed by the new settlers.

"Quite large parties of Indians traversed the country, but they had their homes in the territory of Minnesota and did not molest us in the least. There were no settlements northwest of us the first year, hence being on the frontier we often felt uneasy, having heard that some traders sold them whiskey.

"Indian trails, well marked, crossed the country in various directions, and with little deviation continued to be the roads of early settlers, until the fencing in of the fields pushed the roads into the worst places."

Alonzo Bradish, who came to Decorah in 1852, says:<sup>64</sup> "One of their trails followed the east bend of Pleasant Hill and left off at a point about where the Catholic church now stands on East Broadway. This trail was well marked by frequent travel, and in places there were considerable depressions below the surface, caused, to a certain extent, by the dragging of tipi poles fastened to the backs of horses [travois].

"In the early days travelers had to ford the stream where the Twin Bridges now span the Upper Iowa. The road leading from here up through the valley, to the district now called Clay Hill, was known as the St. Paul stage road, and the valley was called Cruson's Hollow. This route was very frequently traveled by the Indians. A favorite camping place of the Indians, when traveling through, was on the ground now known as the Courthouse Square.

"They always carried a blanket, and wore leggings that reached up over the thigh, and a clout. Many carried hatchets, of which the most were made of iron. The young Indian boys were expert marksmen with the bow and arrow, hitting pennies and nickels at fifty to sixty feet distance.

"I had opened a hardware and tin shop, and here the Indians occasionally came to have their guns repaired. These guns were the only kind used then and were known as flintlocks, the ammunition being big lead balls. The Indians were supplied with them by the Government.

"A young Indian and his squaw were camped at a spot about where the stockyards are now located at the east end of Water street. The river at this time was very low and he busied himself in making a dugout canoe from the trunk of a large cottonwood which he had felled. When the high water came they put the boat in the stream and getting in were soon on their way down

<sup>63</sup> Sec. II, pg. 11, Atlas of Winneshiek County, 1905.

<sup>64</sup> In a personal interview with him.

stream, headed for Lansing at the mouth of the Upper Iowa, where a part of the tribe were encamped."

Philip Husted, an old settler, relates<sup>65</sup> that, "Quite often parties of Winnebago Indians would travel through the country; one of their favorite camping places was on the Yellow river near Frankville. They would sell their beadwork, and were very pleasant and peaceable with the whites."

A number of years ago Mr. E. C. Bailey met two Indians at the Methodist church corner, on upper Broadway. One was a very old Indian, and the other middle-aged. Mr. Bailey (who was then about twenty years old), was asked if he knew where a Mr. E. Anderson lived. One of them opened a neat note book in which was written, "These Indians are good Winnebago Indians, and they are to be trusted."

(Signed.)

E. ANDERSON,

Sheriff of Winneshiek county.

It is not definitely known what year Mr. Anderson was sheriff, but his statement is only another example of the confidence early settlers placed with the Winnebagoes.

Although Iowa was in a manner always neutral ground and escaped many of the worst results of the encounters between the whites and the Indians, the early settlers of Winneshiek county had their Indian scare, and they had good reason to become alarmed. What led to this was the Indian uprising and Sioux massacre in Minnesota in June, 1862.

They had swept Minnesota with bullet and brand  
Till her borders lay waste as a desert of sand,  
When we in Dakota awakened to find  
That the red flood had risen and left us behind.  
Then we rallied to fight them,—Sioux, Sissetons, all  
Who had ravaged unchecked to the gates of Saint Paul.—

—Joseph Mills Hanson, "Frontier Ballads."

At this time the Winnebagoes were at Blue Earth in Southern Minnesota. Although they took no part in the Sioux massacre, and even though they offered the government their services in punishing the Sioux, the inhabitants of Minnesota demanded their removal. They were hastily removed to South Dakota, where they suffered many hardships.

This Indian scare was general throughout the county and was an occurrence well remembered by the old settlers. A contributor to *The Decorah Journal*, 1882, states: "As I write the word 'Indians,' my memory takes me back to the early days of my childhood in Decorah. Again I see a rider on a foaming steed dash along Broadway, as I did twenty or more years ago, shouting at the top of his voice, 'The Indians are coming!' Again I see the street thronged with blanched faced men and trembling women, running to and fro in wild excitement and gazing with anxious faces off into the west \* \* \* \* Again I hear the whispered consultation of the men as to the best means of protecting their loved ones. Again I feel my hand clasped in that of my sainted mother as I toddle

<sup>65</sup> In a personal interview with him.

along at her side, down Mill street hill, across the old red bridge, and over to West Decorah—a place of imagined safety. It was a false alarm, and probably faded from the memory of many of our readers, and remembered by others only as the dim recollection of a half forgotten dream."

At Decorah, men, women, and children gathered on the Courthouse Square, and prepared to withstand a siege. Settlers left their homes and gathered in Decorah as a place of refuge, many of them camping on the flat now known as Park Addition. Men armed themselves with any kind of weapon that lay handy, and determined to defend their families and homes, but were greatly relieved when the threatened attack proved to be only a rumor.

J. C. Fredenburg, of Canoe township, says:<sup>66</sup> "I remember the Indian scare. Some one came to our house one night about twelve o'clock and told father the Indians were coming and that they were about twenty miles away, killing people and burning all the houses. Father and mother talked it over and father said, 'I will go to Burr Oak and see what is to be done.' He left mother and me at home, and when he arrived at Burr Oak nearly all the people were there for several miles around, some with their teams and families. They held a council and decided that all should meet there and build a fort for their protection, but no Indians came, so the people settled down again. It was some time, however, before all fear had vanished."

Other similar accounts might be given, but the preceding narratives describe the conditions as they existed, during this scare, throughout the county.

There is no evidence to show that any Indian murders took place within the boundaries of our county. There were, however, several such murders committed in the near neighborhood: that of the Gardner family, in Fayette county; of Riley, near Monona; and of Herchy, near the mouth of the Volga. The contaminating influence of the bootlegger was the direct cause of these murderous deeds. "Firewater" was the curse of the Indian, as it has since been to many a white man.

Taft Jones and Graham Thorn were two bootleggers who infested the neighborhood of the Winnebago reservation. The Government did not allow such characters to come on the reservation, so they came as near to its boundaries as they dared and established so-called trading-posts in the vicinity of Monona, giving them the names of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Indians used to frequent these places and always got badly cheated. Alexander gives<sup>67</sup> the following account:—

"An old Indian visited Taft Jones' den, at Sodom, and traded in all his worldly effects for whiskey, he even sold the blanket from his shoulders. Becoming intoxicated, he was turned out of doors, and on his way to his lodge died from exposure and cold. The next morning his son, a youth of about twenty summers, found the dead body of his father out in the snow, naked and frozen. His revengeful feelings were aroused, and going to the whiskey den at Gomorrah, he shot the first man he saw through the window. Unfortunately it happened to be an inoffensive man named Riley. A detachment of troops under command of Lieut. David S. Wilson was sent out to capture the Indian who committed the murder. He was apprehended, taken to Fort Atkinson, and confined in the

<sup>66</sup> Sec. II, pg. 14, Atlas of Winneshiek County.

<sup>67</sup> In his history of the county.



OLD BARRACKS, FT. ATKINSON



OLD CANNON HOUSE, NEAR FT. ATKINSON



guardhouse, but by the connivance of a sympathizing white man he escaped and was never recaptured. Jones lived a short time after this occurrence and died from chronic alcoholism."

Thus an attempt has been made to give in brief outline the Indian history of Winneshiek county. The writer soon discovered, after taking up the study of the subject, that nowhere was accurate information in concise form to be had in regard to the aboriginal inhabitants of the county; their occupation of the county seems to have been an obscure period in their history. The writer has regarded it as well worth while to gather the data here presented, and has had in view that this article should faithfully preserve the early scenes of our predecessors in the county.

The river, whose peaceful waters reflected the light of their campfires, now furnishes the power that lights the modern structures of the white men, by which their wigwams have been supplanted. But the memory of the red men will never perish from the minds of those who have succeeded them. The names of Winneshiek and Decorah, that are attached to our county and county seat, will be an enduring monument to their former occupation of the soil.

Here still a lofty rock remains,  
On which the curious eye may trace  
(Now wasted half by wearing rains)  
The fancies of a ruder race.

Here still an aged elm aspires,  
Beneath whose far projecting shade  
(And which the shepherd still admires)  
The children of the forest played.

There oft a restless Indian queen  
(Pale Sheba with her braid and hair),  
And many a barbarous form is seen  
To chide the man that lingers there.

By moonlight moons, o'er moistening dews,  
In habit for the chase arrayed,  
The hunter still the deer pursues,  
The hunter and the deer—a shade!

And long shall timorous Fancy see  
The painted chief, and pointed spear,  
And Reason's self shall bow the knee  
To shadows and delusions here.—

—Closing stanzas of Philip Freneau's "The Indian Burying-ground."





## CHAPTER II

### THE PIONEERS

If, in the perusal of these pages, the reader finds frequent reference to historical sketches written by others, it will be because those sketches have been proven correct and their recorders are entitled to whatever honor may accrue in having preserved them for those who have followed and are still to follow. It will be our purpose to assemble these records in an orderly and concise manner and, as far as possible, amplify them and add such happenings of later years as may be worthy of a place in a work of historical character.

It is a happy circumstance in the life of a community to have had for its first citizens men of character,—not necessarily brilliant thinkers or doers of heroic deeds, but rather men of thoughtfulness, unswerving purpose and a desire to do the work of and be good citizens in the best sense of the word.

The records of Winneshiek county do not disclose any race for supremacy as to priority in settlement, but it is evident from the fact that actual settlement began in the summer of 1848 that the white man was, as usual, treading on the heels of the American Indian in his desire to acquire an Iowa home.

The settlers were not many during the first two years—just a handful in 1848, and a few more in 1849,—but 1850 saw a large influx and they came from all quarters. With them they brought meagre equipments of household goods—mostly were they endowed with rugged constitutions, and Christian and physical courage to wrest from nature the wherewithal to build homes. Little did they care whether they were first comers, but to us who are living today there is interest in these matters, therefore I shall endeavor to place them in order as far as possible. For that purpose reference is made to the cards of an old settlers' gathering held in Decorah in connection with the Centennial celebration of the Fourth of July in 1876. The late Ansel K. Bailey was secretary of that gathering and it is due to his thoughtfulness that these cards were preserved. They have in times past been a court of last resort in settling questions that have arisen regarding dates, ages, or other matters covered by the information recorded on them, hence we may now accept them with more than passing confidence.

On June 7, 1848, Hamilton Campbell and wife took up a claim in what are now Sections 23 and 26 of Bloomfield township, thereby becoming the first recog-

nized permanent settlers in the county. Following close upon these hardy pioneers came Gottlob and Gottlieb Krumm, the former accompanied by his wife. They were just twenty-two days behind the Campbells, the date of their arrival being June 29, 1848, and they settled on the northwest quarter of Section 17, Washington township. On August 15, 1848, David Reed and wife and Daniel Reed settled on the northwest quarter of Section 25, Bloomfield township.

A. R. Young takes his place at this point in the early settlement of the county, although he can scarcely be classed as a resident in the same sense as others until October, 1850. Mr. Young was a soldier and came to Fort Atkinson in October, 1848, remaining until March, 1849. While there he acquired Government land, but when the fort was evacuated he was transferred to Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, then to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, remaining at the latter place until May, 1850, when his regiment was sent to Marengo, Iowa, and in August to Fort Dodge, where he was discharged in October. He then returned to his land near Fort Atkinson and made his home there permanently. He married Mary Jane Rogers at Fort Atkinson in February, 1849. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rogers and remained at Fort Atkinson with her parents during the absence of her husband. Thus may it be said that Mr. Young was a settler and resident in fact from the fall of 1848 on.

We have attempted to secure accurate data regarding Francis Rogers, but the little that is available discloses only the certainty that he and his family lived at Fort Atkinson in 1848. Mrs. Young, in recounting early days, once told the members of the family of her son Francis Young that during the first winter their home consisted of straw stacks massed on four sides, over which they arranged a roof. In that conversation she gave them to understand that this was the winter of 1847-48, which would give the Rogers family priority of residence over all others. This record is lacking that definiteness of dates which characterizes the coming of the Campbells, the Krumms, the Reeds, and others, so the most that can be said is that their coming was at least contemporaneous with those who made settlement in 1848.

Right here permit me to digress from the records of the cards. It has always been claimed, and quite generally accepted, that the Day family were the first settlers in Decorah. They came in June, 1849. Contradictory of this is the statement that William Painter was the first white man to make his home here. My authority for this record is Mrs. P. C. Bloomfield of Decorah, a niece of Mr. Painter. She tells me that her mother (Mr. Painter's sister) often spoke of the matter and named the month of October, 1848, as the time of his coming to Decorah. Some years ago the writer heard a story to the effect that a member the Day family heard the sound of a woodman's ax as it strikes a tree, one day while out hunting, and upon investigation found Mr. Painter. As I now recall it the occurrence was located some distance north of Decorah. Be that as it may, the story of Mrs. Bloomfield gives weight to the claim of prior residence by Mr. Painter.

The next date that interests us is April 1, 1849. On that day John N. Topliff joined the Reed family, taking the southeast quarter of Section 25, Bloomfield township. On the same date Andrew Meyer and wife became distant neighbors of the Krumms in Washington township, settling on Section 5. June 10, 1849, saw the Day family established in Decorah, while Phinneas Banning settled in

Section 5 of Bloomfield township during the same month, and Abner DeCou and Moses S. McSwain located at what was subsequently known as Moneek. O. W. Emery, who is still living (on June 17, 1913, at the home of his son-in-law Mons Askelson in Orleans township), came to Canoe township and made his claim to the northwest quarter of Section 17, on August 20, 1849. Josiah Goddard, of whom more will be said later, came to Fort Atkinson, in the spring of 1849, bought the old trading post and moved his family there in the fall.

The year 1850 saw an influx of settlers that was very large for those pioneer days, but it was not until June that the tide of immigration swelled to more than an occasional straggler.

Springfield township became the Mecca of a large settlement of Norwegians, many of whom came from Dane county, Wisconsin, after a residence there varying from a few months to three or four years. Reference to a historical sketch prepared by the late Abraham Jacobson discloses the fact that during the month of June a party consisting of Erick Anderson, Ole Tostenson Haugen, and his brother Staale, Ole A. and A. O. Lomen, Ole Gullikson Jevne, Knut Anderson Bakken, Andres Hauge, John Johnson Qvale, H. Halvorson Groven and Mikkel Onli made permanent homes in this township. They were followed on July 2d by another party of which Nelson Johnson was the leader and included Tollef Simonson Aae, Knud G. Opdahl, Jacob Abrahamson and Iver Peterson Qvale, Nelson Johnson, E. G. and Albert Opdahl came over into Decorah township to make their homes.

The settlement in Bloomfield township received goodly additions during this year also, among the number being Russell Dean who came in April, while John DeCou and wife and Gideon Green followed in June.

Canoe township was claimed as residence by John W. Holm, David Kinnison and wife and John Fredenburgh during 1850. The record cards show that Christopher A. Estrem and wife came to Frankville township on September 3, 1850, and Wm. Padden and wife settled in Section 28 of Frankville in November of that year, as did also Jacob Duff and Walter Rathbun and wife; but George M. Anderson, writing in Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas (published in 1906), gives to A. P. Rosa credit for selecting land in Section 31 in March, hewing timbers and erecting a cabin thereon for his family. They had previously lived in Clayton county for three years. Even before this, in 1849, Wm. Day had erected a house near what is known as the McKay schoolhouse, but found he was on school land and moved to Decorah.

Probably the most compelling circumstance connected with the final location of the Day family in Decorah was Mother Day. When she saw the claim her husband had staked out she admitted it was good looking land, but her preference was for a site beside running water, and as her word was law the family moved on until they came to a spring that bubbled out from the hillside above the Upper Iowa river. "Here is where we will stay," she declared, and it was due to her decision that on the spot that is now graced by the handsome Winneshiek hotel was erected the log cabin home that formed the nucleus around which the beautiful city of Decorah was built. Long ago the spring above referred to ceased to flow, but as long as the story of the coming of the Day family to Decorah is recalled, mankind will honor the judgment of Mother Day.

Ole Germond Johnson was the first settler in Glenwood township. He came with the Nelson Johnson party that landed here on July 2, 1850, and selected the southwest quarter of Section 31 for his home. Nels Thronson and Andrew Gulbrandson Haugen came in the same year, but later, and settled in Section 32.

Benjamin L. Bisby acquired a residence in Hesper township on the first of August, and from all appearances he enjoyed a priority of some six or eight months, for Ezekiel E. Meader and family have been given credit as the first permanent residents of the township, and they did not arrive until the spring of 1851.

In August, 1850, Peter K. Langland and wife came to Pleasant township and settled in Section 10. From the record made by Edwin Hover, in the Anderson & Goodwin Atlas, it would seem that John Klontz and Wm. Vale (Germans), came from Pennsylvania in 1850 and settled in the northwest corner of the township. They were joined in 1851 by Hover Evenson, Ole Magnuson, Louis Peterson, Erick Erickson, Knut L. Liquin and K. Erickson.

Orin Simmons and wife joined the Decorah township settlers on July 2, 1850, taking land adjoining what is now the village of Freeport. Edward Tracy became a Decorian the same year, and Madison township seems to have acquired her first settler on the 25th day of September in the person of John Evenson, who made claim to the northeast quarter of Section 32.

Referring once more to Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas of Winneshiek county, we find that Charles Krock settled in Calmer township, near Spillville, in 1849. The following year saw the arrival of Joseph Spielman from whom Spillville derived its name; also Thor Peter Skotland, Torsen and Lars Land and Andre P. Sandager, who settled near Calmar. In the year 1850 Ole Shervin, Sr., Ole Shervin, Jr., Erick Stovrem, Ole P. Haugen, Andrew L. Kittelsby, Thron H. Egen and Thora Bagaarson augmented this colony, while George Herzog and Conrod Riehle joined the Spillville settlers. Among the permanent settlers who came during the succeeding four years were Lars P. Kittelsby and his son Peter L. Kittelsby in 1852; Ole A. Flaskrud, Ole P. Bjornstad, Erick Flaskrud and Even Flaskrud in 1853; Alf Clark, Peter Clawson and John P. Landin in 1854; George Yarwood, Henry Wheatman, Ole P. Ramberg, Sr., Ole O. Styve, Jacob Stenseth, John P. Hove and Lars Heried in 1854.

Military township also received her first settlers in 1850, but there is no definite data as to who they were.

In 1851 the tide of emigration and immigration had become fairly steady and material additions to the ranks of settlers were made. Among those who enrolled at the Old Settlers' Reunion the record cards show the following as coming to Winneshiek county in that year:—

Decorah township—E. C. Dunning and wife, Peter E. Haugen, Torkel Hanson and wife, Gulbrand T. Lomen, Ole Kittleston and wife, Ole Tollefson Vik and wife, and A. K. Drake.

Madison township—Gulbrand Erickson Vik, Ole M. Anderson and wife, Helge Nelson Myran, Herbrand Onstine, Iver G. Ringstad and wife, Ole M. Asleson and wife.

Springfield township—E. E. Clement, Rolland Tobiason and wife.

Glenwood township—Erick Olson Bakke and wife, Isaac Birdsell, Wm. Birdsell and wife, Philip Hustad.

Bloomfield township—Geo. Blake.

Hesper township—D. D. Huff and wife.

Canoe township—Simon M. Leach and wife.

Burr Oak township—G. V. Puntney. (Mr. Puntney is still living and in fairly good health. His home is at Cresco and he is past ninety years of age.)

The year 1852 seems to have furnished the first settlers in several townships in the northern part of the county. In this year Henry Morse built a saw-mill at Bluffton and the next year he and his brother Lyman D. Morse built a gristmill.

In what is now know as Highlandville the names of the Stoens, Mikkel Solberg, the Arnesons, Brunsvold, Bersie, Kjomme, Kroshus, Wallhus, and others appear as first settlers. Fremont was also in the 1852 class. J. J. Jacobson, in the Anderson & Goodwin Atlas, credits Lars Hougeberg with being the first settler in Lincoln township, with Knudt Alfson, Jacob Knutson and Kittel Sanderson as following close after him.

Burr Oak township acquired her first settlers in 1851, when Samuel Belding and his half brother built the first log hotel and erected a blacksmith shop, while to Nelson Gager belonged the distinction of being first on the ground in Orleans township in 1853.

In reading the foregoing it must be borne in mind that as yet the county had not been wholly divided as to townships, and in mentioning various precincts we use their present names as a matter of convenience. There were undoubtedly many more who came to various parts of the county during those years, but even as now the population was changing—some were coming and others were going—hence we refer more particularly to those we have named because they enjoyed the distinction of being permanent in their residence.

#### SOME FIRST THINGS OF THE COUNTY

While we are reviewing the early settlers of the county, it may not be improper to refer to some "first things" that will be of interest.

Sparks' History credits James B. Cutler with being the first duly commissioned postmaster in the county. His commission was signed on Sept. 18, 1851, by Nathaniel K. Hall, postmaster general under President Willard Fillmore, and the office was known as Jamestown, being discontinued on March 31, 1852. There is reasonable ground for questioning this claim. Judge M. V. Burdick, in Alexander's History, is quoted as stating that Lewis Harkins was postmaster at Fort Atkinson as early as 1850, and about the same time John L. Carson was serving at Old Mission. Mr. Cutler lived to the rare old age of one hundred and one years and seven months, making him one of the few centenarians the county has known.

Sparks' History tells this story of the first marriage in the county:

"In 1850 a young man came from Norway to Iowa and found a spot of ground that suited him in what is now known as Madison township, Winneshiek county. So far as ascertained, he was its first settler. In the year following an older man followed him, who was the father of at least one girl. As young men and maidens

will, this young man and this maiden agreed to wed. These parties were Johannes Evenson and Catherine Helen Anderson. At that time, as now, the law required the parties to have a license. In order to obtain this a visit to the judge was necessary. Rev. N. Brandt, then a wandering missionary, was in the county, and would perform the ceremony. And if this chance escaped them, no knowing when another opportunity would be afforded them. Mr. Evenson straightway started for Bloomfield township to see the judge and get a permit to enter into a matrimonial alliance. The missionary had promised to await his return. Mr. E. found the judge absent. He had gone to Dubuque on official business. Imagine the sensations of that waiting bridegroom! Again the question: Would that minister tarry? After three days Judge Reed returned, and with his license in his pocket, John turned his footsteps homeward a happier man. No grass grew under his feet on that trip. The minister had remained, and the marriage ceremony was performed—the first, as the records show, to have been performed in the county. The license for this marriage was granted on the 5th day of October, 1851."

Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker, in his history of Luther College, states that Reverend Brandt was an uncle of the bride in this wedding, hence it is doubtful if there was any cause for worry on the part of the would-be-weds.

The second marriage license was granted on the 3d of November, 1851. The contracting parties were Erick Anderson and Miss Ann Soles.

The first assessment for taxation purposes in the county produced a total of \$1,217.93, divided as follows:

County tax .....	\$606.68
State tax .....	175.08
School tax .....	115.42
Road tax .....	230.75

Besides \$650 of poll taxes. This would make the total assessable property in the county at that time worth \$182,780, says Alexander's History.

The richest man in the county was John McKay, of Washington Prairie. He paid the enormous sum of \$23.94 in taxes. Francis Teabout was close up to him, being down for \$23.16. Benjamin Beard followed with \$20.95. These three were the very rich men, for they were the only ones who paid more than \$20; or, rather, were regularly assessed for sums that amounted to precisely that figure. The list of other persons who paid over \$10 is so short that we give the names in full:

Joseph Spillman, Calmar .....	\$18.96
Levi Moore, Burr Oak .....	17.68
Moses McSwain, Bloomfield .....	16.83
James S. Ackerson, Burr Oak .....	16.00
James B. Cutler, Frankville .....	15.78
Newell & Derrick, Decorah .....	15.73
Ingebret Peterson, Decorah .....	14.82
Isaac Callender, Frankville .....	14.32
Samuel Allen, Bloomfield .....	14.30
O. W. Emery, Decorah .....	13.81



OLD CABIN COL. TAYLOR'S FARM, BUILT 1853





Gideon Green, Bloomfield .....	13.59
C. E. Brooks, Military .....	13.04
David Bartlett, Canoe .....	12.76
J. T. Atkins, Frankville .....	12.29
Joseph Huber, Washington .....	11.27
Abner DeCow, Bloomfield .....	11.24
W. F. Kimball, Decorah .....	11.17
Wm. Cummings, Bloomfield .....	11.13
Richard M. Carson, Washington .....	11.13
Wm. Campbell, Bloomfield .....	11.05
Andrew Mayer, Washington .....	10.83
John W. Smith, Frankville .....	10.72
James D. McKay, Frankville .....	10.09

This table indicates that the wealth of the county then centered on Washington Prairie.

Henry M. Rice, who subsequently became a pioneer in Minnesota and represented that state in the United States Senate, conducted a trading post on the land that is now a part of the Peter E. Haugen estate in the southeast corner of Decorah township. Engebret Hangen, father of Peter E. Haugen, acquired the property in 1850 and for five years thereafter occupied as a residence the building used by Rice for his store.

In the latter part of March, 1899, C. W. Bender told how Washington Prairie received its name, in an article published in the Waukon Standard. He said:

"Speaking of Washington Prairie, its first Fourth of July ought always to be known as the day of its birth. As the national day for 1852 approached, patriotic feelings swelled in the breasts of its pioneers and a few made arrangements to properly celebrate the day. I took a yoke of oxen and went out north where there were some pine trees (on the Trout river bluffs). I cut two, drew them home and peeled them. A Norwegian blacksmith out north made me two rings with which I spliced the pole, which made it from sixty to seventy feet high. We went over to Moneek and got some red and white cloth and a yard of blue, and our sewing circle of mothers and sisters made a fine flag, the first that ever floated over Washington Prairie and probably the first in the county. My brothers and I took our oxen and hauled the liberty pole upon the ridge southwest of Levi Hubbell's place, dug a pit and trench and got everything ready for the eventful day. The Fourth came bright, clear, beautiful. My brother and I, John McKay, and a Mr. White, and a few others whose names I do not remember, met to celebrate the day. We raised the pole, ran up the flag amid much cheering and enthusiasm, though we had no brass band or booming cannon, and one proposed 'Now let us name our beautiful prairie, Washington Prairie; three cheers for the birth of Washington Prairie, by which it will ever be known, and may God bless her.' And I believe He has, abundantly." In a footnote to this article the editor of the Standard adds:

"Geo. W. McKay tells us that, as a boy, he was one of the party that helped get the trees for the pole; and that the ox team belonged to Dwight Rathbun, and that members of the Walter Rathbun, Alanson Loomis, and perhaps John Bateman families took a part; and he is under the impression that the 'Norwegian blacksmith' was Hans Olson or Hans Patterson."



## CHAPTER III

### SETTLEMENTS OF FOREIGN BORN

Winneshiek county was one of the first in Iowa to harbor a large and permanent settlement of foreign born people. The Germans were the first to come. In 1848 and 1849 the Krumms, Andrew Meyer, George Beckel, John Gaertner, Joseph Huber, and Anthony Stadle settled in Washington township. These were not merely the first foreign born residents, but in the case of the Krumms they lacked less than a month of being the very first permanent settlers of any nationality in the county. In 1850-51 another company of Germans settled in the western part of Calmar township. They were Joseph Spielman, George Herzog and Conrad Riehle. Charles Kroeg preceded them in 1849, and, with the exception of Herzog, all brought their families. In later years Military township was a favored spot among the Germans and in its present population may be found many descendants of this nationality. Lincoln township claimed quite a number also. Bloomfield, Frankville and parts of Pleasant, Canoe and Hesper are now populated by the Germans, though most of them are properly entitled German-Americans, having been born in America.

Calmar township was also destined to be the home of a large Bohemian settlement. The first of this nationality came in 1854. In glancing over the record one sees the familiar names of Bouska, Mikesh, Novak, Kubish and Payer. From this beginning there grew up a large company that overflowed into Sumner, Jackson and Washington townships.

While we are writing of the settlers of Calmar it is worth while to remember that almost all of the Swiss who came to this county resided in or near Spillville. In 1854 J. H. Hinterman, Felix and J. H. Meyer and John Leeble settled there, and I think I am right in including J. J. and J. H. Haug in this list, though J. H. Haug came later. Others came at subsequent dates, but the representation by this nationality has never been large. Of those above mentioned J. J. Haug is the only one who survives.

In 1850 the county welcomed its first Norwegian settlers. Reference is made of these people in the chapter dealing with the first residents of the county, but the late Abraham Jacobson has left a very complete and interesting account of the band that located in Springfield township and formed the nucleus of the largest

body of foreign born citizens in this part of Iowa, hence we refer the reader to his story, which will be found under the record of townships and towns. During the years immediately following this settlement the central part of the county, and even well up into Highland township, received steady and increasing accessions of settlers from Norway. Today their descendants represent about half of the population of the county.

Bluffton township seems for some unaccountable reason to have attracted the Irish, and while there are Norwegians, Germans and Americans among its residents, the rich, musical brogue of Friend Pat is the most often heard. The first settlers in the township were largely Americans, but at just what time the natives of the Emerald Isle began to acquire residence there is not clearly indicated, yet they were there as early as 1855. Most of them came from Illinois, where they had residence for varying periods, but the parent stock of the present generation were largely foreign born.

Winneshiek county also boasted of a goodly number of Englishmen. Among the earliest of these were George Yarwood, Harry Wheatmen, Edward and Jack Vine and John Pickworth, who lived out on the prairie beyond the Peter E. Haugen farm in the southwest corner of Decorah township. There was another settlement in Lincoln township, another in Hesper, while in Decorah there was the late Col. William Thurlow Baker and his brothers, Capt. Charles G. Baker and John T. Baker and their families, R. F. B. Portman (still a resident here), A. J. Ashmore, the Clive brothers, H. H. Horn and family, Capt. S. Charles Welsh and wife, and a number of others whose names are not now recalled. They brought with them their customs and the traditions of England. Those who resided in Hesper and Lincoln townships were a particularly lively set of fellows, mostly young men who had come here to engage in farming, but whose previous experience and lack of knowledge of local requirements did not hold out much hope of success. Whatever may have been their shortcomings in these respects, they were generally plentifully supplied with money and knew how to win their way socially, so as long as the purse was free they were not poor in companionship or enjoyment.

There have been and still are a few Scotchmen in the county, also a few Danes, and occasionally one may find a native of Sweden, but these are few. Thus is completed the roll of the foreign born; but whether foreign born or native, almost all are trying to be loyal American citizens, contributing their share in working out the problems that face us as a people and building for a better civilization.

Since the foregoing was written Decorah has acquired some new citizens of Mexican birth. That they will remain and become permanent in their residence is not thought probable, however.

## CHAPTER IV

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Who organized Winneshiek county, and when did the organization take place?

It has been quite generally accepted that an organizing act passed by the Iowa Legislature on January 15, 1851, appointed John L. Carson as organizing sheriff with authority to act on and after March 1, 1851; that pursuant to the authority so vested in him he designated Monday, April 7, 1851, as the date of election, and set stakes at Louisville, or Lewiston, on the Turkey river, at McSwain's mill (Moncek), and at Decorah, as the places where the polls would be open. As further evidence that an election was so held we find engrossed upon the first page of the first records of Winneshiek county the following testimony:

"State of Iowa—Winneshiek county.

"I hereby certify that at an election held in the county of Winneshiek, and State of Iowa, on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1851, Decorah was duly elected to be the county seat of said county.

"In testimony whereof, I have set my hand the 14th day of April, 1851.

"J. L. CARSON, Organizing Sheriff."

Could a more certain record be expected, taking into consideration the fact that in those days even lawmakers were not as particular as they are today in the matter of setting out statements and facts so that no question could arise?

Yet after all these years there comes forward, in the form of a notice of appointment, personal letters, and a copy of a notice of election, evidence that would tend to contradict the foregoing record and give to Josiah Goddard credit for acting as organizing sheriff.

As early as 1849 the settlers began to agitate the question of county organization. It would appear from the letters that follow that the agitation reached a point, early in 1850, where Josiah Goddard, acting for himself and others, forwarded a petition to Judge James Grant, of the second judicial district of Iowa, asking that Mr. Goddard be appointed organizing sheriff. Reference to papers and documents of Mr. Goddard, now in the possession of his son, Harrison I. Goddard of Fort Atkinson, discloses the following notice of appointment given over the signature of Judge Grant:

"To all whom these presents may come.

"Greeting.

"Know ye, that in pursuance of the laws of Iowa, in such case made and provided, at the request and in pursuance of the petition of the citizens of Winneshiek county, I have appointed and by these presents do appoint Josiah Goddard sheriff or said county, for the purpose of organizing said county of Winneshiek, to hold his office until the first special election in said county, and until his successor is elected and qualified; and I do hereby appoint the . . . day of . . . . . in the year 1850 as the time for the first special election to be held in said county.

"Given under my hand at Davenport, in the Second Judicial District, on the 18th day of March, 1850.

"JAMES GRANT,  
"Judge 2 Jud. Dis."

This notice was accompanied by the following letter to Mr. Goddard, in which the reader will observe that specific directions were given as to the mode of procedure for the special election :

"To Josiah Goddard, Esq.,

"Fort Atkinson, Iowa.

"Dear Sir :

"I send you an appointment as sheriff of Winneshiek county. You will find all your powers and duties pointed out by the act of February 24, 1847.

"The first thing which you will do is to give bond and qualify as any other sheriff : which you can do before the clerk of the district court of some adjoining county.

"You will then divide the county into precincts, fix places for holding the election therein, give names to the precincts and describe their boundaries and names in the notices of election. You will give about ten days notice of the election by posting three written or printed notices in about three of the most public places in each precinct in the county.

"You will give notice for all the important county officers, viz : Three county commissioners, one sheriff, one coroner, one clerk of the district court, one clerk for the board of county commissioners, one prosecuting attorney, one recorder, who is to act as treasurer and collector, one fund commissioner, and two justices of the peace and two constables for each precinct

"You will appoint judges of election for each precinct. After the election you will receive the returns and grant certificates of election to those who have the highest number of votes, and do all such acts as the commissioner's clerk is required to do until one is elected.

"You will fill up the day of the election in your appointment at such time as may suit your convenience.

"When the board of commissioners meet, you will furnish them with a copy of your appointment, and a return of your proceedings, which it will be advisable for them to enter on their records.

"If some of your citizens will attend Clayton court, I will fix a time for holding court in your county. If the citizens of Fayette county desire an organization, they can, of course, have it by a petition.

"Your Obt. svt.,  
"JAMES GRANT,  
"Judge 2 Jud. Dis."

That Mr. Goddard exercised the authority conferred upon him to call an organizing election, and followed the instructions contained in the foregoing letter, is evidenced by one of the original copies of the notice of election, found among his papers. It bears unmistakable evidence of having been exposed to the weather, the ink being faded and the sheet spotted as by rain drops. The notice reads as follows:

"ELECTION NOTICE

"Notice is hereby given that by virtue of authority invested in me as the organizing sheriff of the county of Winneshiek, I have this day divided the said county of Winneshiek into three election precincts with the following boundaries to wit:

"PRECINCT NO. ONE

"will be embraced in so much of said county as lies west of the town line dividing range 8 and 9 and south of the town line dividing 97 and 98.

"PRECINCT NO. TWO

"will be embraced in so much of said county as lies in townships No. 98 and 99.

"PRECINCT NO. THREE

"will be embraced in the residue of said county of Winneshiek. In precinct No. one the polls will be held at the house of Mr. Carson at the agency. In precinct No. two the polls will be held at the house of William Day. In precinct No. three the polls will be held at the house of S. W. McSwain. The electors of the above named precincts will on the day of election choose their judges and clerks to preside over said election who in the absence of a justice of the peace may qualify each other to preside over said election.

"And notice is further given that an election will be held at the poll houses in the above named precincts on the 5th day of August, 1850, when the following state and county officers will be voted for, to wit:

"One Governor, one Congressman, Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer, Treasurer of Public Works, one Senator and one Representative.

"COUNTY OFFICERS

"One Sheriff, Treasurer and Recorder, three County Commissioners, one Commission Clerk, Clerk of District Court, District Attorney, Probate Judge, Coroner, County Surveyor. The judges of election will make their returns to this office so that the returns may be canvassed at 12 o'clock, noon, on Thursday following said election and such county officers are requested to meet at this office on Monday the . . . day of August and qualify for entering upon the discharge of their several duties pertaining to their several offices.

"Given under my name this 20th July, A. D. 1850.

"JOSIAH GODDARD,

"Organizing Sheriff of County of Winneshiek."

Force is given to all of the foregoing by the following letter from Hon. Eliphalet Price of Clayton county to Mr. Goddard:

"Guttenberg, July 19, 1850.

"Dear Sir:

"I have only a moment's time to say that I have just had an interview with the Superintendent of Public Instruction who informs me that at the time of electing your county officers on the first Monday in August you will also be expected to elect a School Fund Commissioner. My impression was when with you that this officer could be appointed by the Sheriff and Clerk of the District Court, but Mr. Benton says that he could only recognize him if elected, which he will do if such officer is elected and qualified in your country at the time of your first election of county officers. This perhaps will not reach you until Friday before the election. You would then have time to notify the people in each precinct of the fact and they could elect one. You will please let Horkins know of this fact and he will, I have no doubt, assist you to get up the notice or give the information.

"In haste yours,

"ELIPHALET PRICE."

"J. W. Goddard."

Mr. Price at this time was engaged in taking the census. It is evident from the context of his letter that he had been in Winneshiek on this mission, and while here had conferred with Mr. Goddard concerning the organization of the county.

Up to this point the claim of Mr. Goddard's heirs that their father was the organizing sheriff of the county has logical and conclusive evidence to support it. Something must have occurred subsequently to postpone the election, however, for among Mr. Goddard's papers is found the following letter from Hon. Joseph T. Fales, auditor of state:

"Auditor's Office, Iowa.,

"Iowa City, September 6, 1850.

"Josiah Goddard, Esq.,

"Dear Sir:

"Yours of the 24th ult. came to hand last evening and I take pleasure in replying and sending you the laws. I had heard that your county was organized some time since was the reason of my writing and sending blanks.

"In the laws of 1847, page 115, you will find your duties as Organizing Sheriff. In the appendix of the Revised Statutes, page 739, you will find the Naturalization Laws of Congress.

"I will be pleased at any time to give you any information in my power.

"Yours,

"JOSEPH T. FALES,

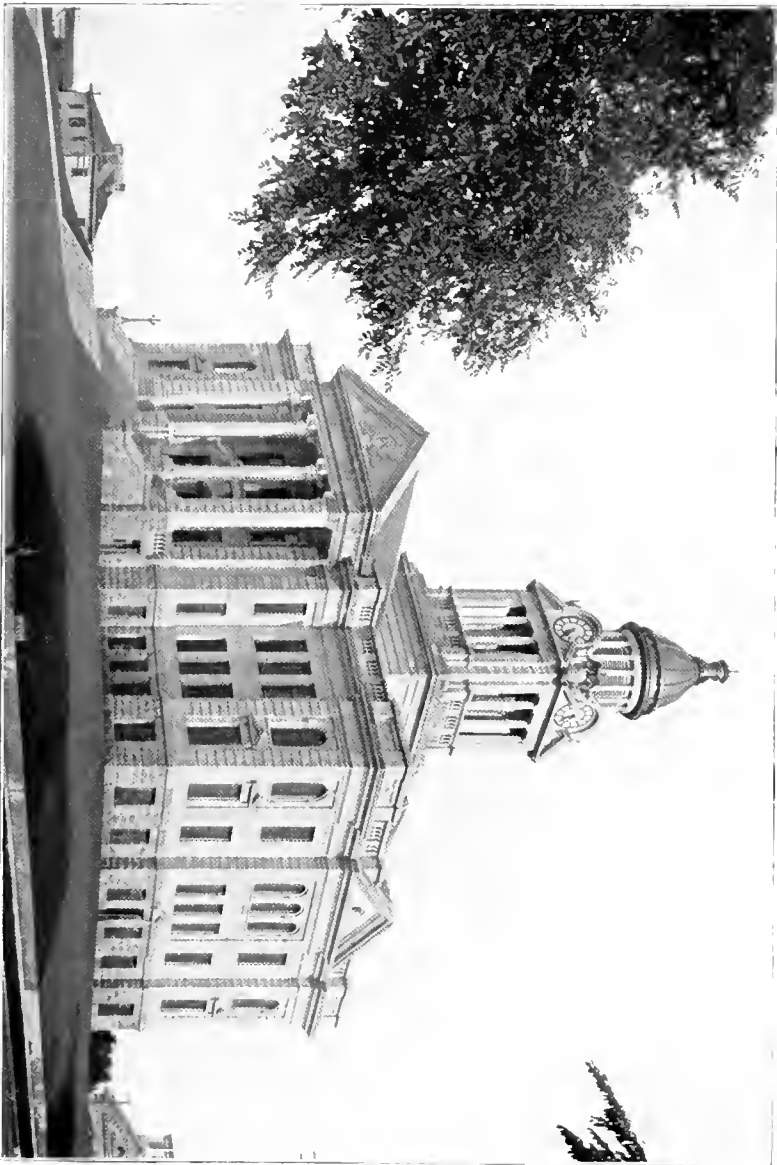
"Auditor of State.

"P. S. When your county is organized please give me notice with the names of the officers elected.

"JOSEPH T. FALES."

The reader will note that this letter is dated September 6, 1850, a month after the organization election was to have been held. That there can be no mistake in





WINNESHIEK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DECORAH



the date is borne out by the postmark on the cover, which reads "Iowa City Sep 6 Iowa."

The letter was written on a folded sheet, double letterhead size, and folded so as to make the outer half an envelope, and sealed with wax. The letter "V" stamped in the same colored ink as the postmark shows that the postage was paid in the sum of five cents, but no postage stamp was affixed, indicating that the Iowa City postmaster had no stamps. This was not uncommon even as late as 1850, although the Government began issuing stamps in 1847. Letters so marked and bearing unmistakable evidence of authenticity, as does the one above referred to, are highly prized by collectors of postage stamps, being regarded in almost the same light as a privately issued stamp bearing the sanction of the Post Office Department.

But to return to our text. Here we have the statement of John L. Carson as it appears on the county record, supported by an organizing act of the Iowa Legislature. Against it are the documents embraced in Mr. Goddard's claim. Who is to say, now, which of these men is entitled to the honor? Of those who were residents here in 1850 but few remain, they are advanced in years, and it is doubtful if they could, from this distance, be able to settle the question.

A fair-minded reader may here see an opportunity to accord to both Mr. Goddard and Mr. Carson an equal share of honor for their activities. To Mr. Goddard may be credited the initiative in starting the ball rolling. He it was who conducted all the correspondence leading up to the organization, showing that in him was centered the confidence of his neighbors and acquaintances. Certainly there is honor in commanding such an expression from one's fellowmen, and the appointment as sheriff to see that the forms of law were carried out could add nothing in esteem from those who had already by their confidence made him their spokesman. That Mr. Carson was also a man of prominence and influence is undeniably disclosed through the fact that he was probably the first postmaster at Old Mission, where the Indian school and agency was located. In any event we cannot change the record as it appears in black and white on the books of Winneshiek county, and right or wrong, he will continue to be regarded by many as the one who acted as organizing sheriff.



## CHAPTER V

### COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS

The most natural adjunct of an organizing election would be a county seat contest and there is ample evidence that Winneshiek county was not exempt from the excitement that attends such events.

In the preceding portion of this chapter one reads of Decorah, Moneek and Lewiston as the polling places where voters might register their preferences. These were the only recognized towns within the borders of the territory sought to be organized, but Lewiston seems to have existed in name only. It was located on land owned jointly by Lewis Harkins and Francis Rogers, about one mile north of Old Mission in Washington township, and never progressed beyond the paper stage because of the differences of opinion of its promoters. While it was laid out in due form it may well be considered as never having existed, and subsequently formed a part of the farm of A. R. Young.

Moneek was different. Here the nucleus of a real town had been formed. Moses S. McSwain and Abner DeCou and families were the first settlers, coming in July, 1849. They were joined a year later by John DeCou and wife, Russell Dean, George Blake and their families. These people were all Canadians and they seemed to have had a townsite in their mind's eye from the first. At any rate they were formidable enough in their rivalry to give Decorah some cause for alarm. Although it has long since ceased to exist Moneek still lives in the memory of early settlers and one frequently hears it referred to as a definite locality at the present time.

Perhaps the story of this defunct town is better told in the following condensation of an article printed in the Decorah Republican of March 26, 1875:

"Moneek was situated on the north fork of the Yellow river, on the southwest quarter of section 1 in Bloomfield township. Tremendous hills, well wooded, surrounded it, and it nestled cosily in the valley on the river, on a site that originally must have been charmingly beautiful.

"The pioneer settlers were Moses S. McSwain and Abner DeCou. To these may be added John DeCou, who joined them a year later. All of them were Canadians, but McSwain had resided for a while in Illinois. They had a townsite in their eyes from the commencement. The two arrived at Moneek with

their families in July, 1849, and lived in their tent wagons until a log house 12x16 was built. They commenced the same season to build a saw mill, which was afterwards noted all over the adjacent country as *the mill*.

"Their nearest neighbors were Joel Post, at Postville, and two families who had 'squatted' on the Military road. These were David Reed, the first County Judge, and a man named Campbell. Besides these, there were the Hawks, and Isaac Callender, over in Frankville. R. Tillotson joined them the same year. He was a millwright, and helped them build the mill. This was completed in July, 1850. In the spring of the latter year Russell Dean and Geo. Blake, with their families—also from Canada—joined the new settlement June 29, 1850. John DeCou\* also moved in, he, too, coming from Canada. He found all the four families occupying the one log house, above mentioned, yet it was large enough to receive the fifth family, until another house—the second in the embryo city—could be built.

"The same year Blake went south and Dean west about a mile and a half, and put up log houses on 'claims' of their own.

"In the spring of 1851 the first frame building was built by A. and J. DeCou. This was rented to a man named Johnson, from Illinois, who brought on a stock of goods and became the first merchant. His capital was small, the amount of trade limited, and he soon 'busted.' McSwain bought out his remnants, and sold out the stock. Having neither money nor credit with which to purchase more goods, the mercantile business came to an end for the time being.

"The same year John Duff came along, liked the looks of the settlement, and built a blacksmith shop, which he sold in the fall to Phil Lathrop. The latter united butchering to blacksmithing, and soon after added merchandising. About the same year he built a house, which when completed was opened for the entertainment of man and beast, and the village had a hotel.

"In 1852 George Crawford became a member of the community. He was, likewise, a Canadian, and brought goods, mostly cloths, with him. He was a tailor by trade and did a thriving business, which soon required the aid of a journeyman. He soon added groceries to his stock—dry and 'wet'—and prospered as long as Moneek was in its glory.

"James F. Andrews, a retired Baptist minister, with two sons and their families, became residents in the same year. They added another store. One of the sons was a doctor, and so the town secured the benefit of clergy and medicine by this really large acquisition.

"Louis Boughner, also a Canadian, but of German descent, came along in the same year, opened his kit of tools, and sat down upon his shoemaker's bench. That winter the hamlet began to feel as though it was of sufficient importance to be recognized by the General Government, and postal facilities were demanded. During the winter or following spring these were secured, and Boughner had so far won the confidence of the people that he was chosen to serve as the village Nasby. The office was supported by 'Winneshiek'—a postoffice then situated between Castalia and Postville.

"That year, 1852, saw a large increase to the settlers outside, as well as in Moneek. Among those who came was Col. D. D. Webster, David Duff, Philip

\* Judge DeCou died at his home near Ossian early in 1913.

Husted,\* Andrew Stewart and John W. Smith. About that time Dr. Riddle, an Ohioan, settled in Moneek. Dr. A. B. Hanna followed a year or two later, and succeeded Boughner as postmaster, holding the office until it was thrown up.

"In 1853 Geo. W. Esty settled there. He came from New York, and found the village to consist of eight dwellings, one saw mill owned and operated by Abner DeCou, one blacksmith shop, worked by John Duff, Jr., two stores kept by James F. Andrews and George Crawford; a shoe shop and postoffice, managed by Boughner, and two liquor saloons, one kept by George Crawford as an adjunct to his store, and the other by a man named Walker, who enlisted when the war broke out, and died in battle.

"Moneek's decline began in 1855. Judge DeCou saw it coming in 1854, and sold his 160 acre claim adjoining the plat for \$1,800. The tax list of 1855 shows that the Moneek merchant's assessment was \$800 for four lots; and Abner De Cou's tavern was valued at the same figure. In Decorah, at that time, there were only four assessments of greater amount, and two others only equaled it. The causes for its decline were few and simple. Settlers were thronging into the country, and opening other sections. Post routes and lines of communication were being established. Nature was rather against Moneek. It was nestled away in the valley of the Yellow river, surrounded by mountainous hills, and not easy of access. In the meanwhile, a busy, bustling fellow named Frank Teabout had settled on the ridge, and when the 'state road' was run he was looking after his interests. The line was established on the ridge; Frankville sprang into existence; and ere they knew it the great tide of emigration which set in was sweeping by them, along the ridge road, but bringing no grist to be tolled and ground for the benefit of Moneek. Those who were in trade one by one sold out, or abandoned the place; and by the time it was ten years old it was indeed a deserted village. Early in the sixties its postoffice was thrown up."

Early historians have never dwelt with much certainty upon just how the county seat contest was won by Decorah. It was said that the secret was locked in the memory of one man and we have reason to regard this as true. In fact, we know it is truth. That man was the late Claiborn Day, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Day. Long years after the contest he divulged the story to a chosen few of his most intimate and trusted friends, exacting from them a promise that not until after his death was the story to be released. The story of the contest was related by Attorney M. A. Harmon and printed in the Decorah Republican early in 1910, a few weeks subsequent to Mr. Day's death. It is as follows:

"If you examine the written history of Decorah you will find 'An Organizing Act' was passed by the Iowa Legislature on January 15, 1851, approved by the Governor, and became a law; that by the provisions of this law 468,000 acres, bounded on the north by Minnesota; on the east by Allamakee county; on the south by Fayette county and on the west by Howard and Chickasaw counties, constituted Winneshiek county, with John L. Carson as organizing sheriff, directing him to set stakes to points contending for county seats, viz: At or near Louisville, on the Turkey river; at Moneek (then known as McSwain's Mill); and at Decorah on the Upper Iowa river; the election to be held on

\* Philip Husted is still living, his home being in Decorah (August 23, 1913).

the first Monday in April, 1851. Much excitement prevailed in the hamlet of Decorah, then consisting of a few houses. Its future was apparently in danger. The southern part of the county being more thickly settled—emigration having followed the 'Military Road' to a great extent—Decorah with all its natural advantages for a city was nearly off the map, with the chances favoring Moneek as the county seat. Poll books were prepared for the election that had been ordered. At this time Claiborn Day, then about twenty-five years of age, strong, vigorous, energetic and public spirited, with some schooling and a great deal of knowledge of men, their hopes, fears, desires and weaknesses, though not gifted with what was known as the gift of gab, but shrewd, methodical and resourceful (which was afterward proven), commenced to take part in the proceedings for the location of the county seat at Decorah, in the face of what seemed to be overwhelming odds. When the poll books for the voters of Lewiston and Moneek were ready a messenger was sought to convey them to their respective destinations. Finally at the instance of Mr. Day a grizzled trapper named Wiggins was presented to the organizing sheriff for that purpose, and highly recommended as a trustworthy person. He appeared to be capable to carry the books, and as the roads at that time were not the best, with the attendant dangers of crossing streams, Wiggins was considered a reliable messenger. It is needless to say he had been royally entertained by the select coterie and his expenses had been provided for his journey, no small amount either. He was admonished by Mr. Day when he had obtained possession of the poll books, that, in crossing a stream, should the books be washed away, he was all right, but if, by any chance, there was a question whether it should be the loss of his horse or the poll books, to be sure and save the horse. With the parting information that if he betrayed the trust reposed in him he was liable to be shot by any resident of Decorah, he started for Moneek and Lewiston.

"In the meantime the organization of the voters and electioneering of settlers in that section of the county went merrily on, the residents promising to support Moneek as a unit. Bright and early the first Monday of April 1851, the settlers about Moneek began to appear for election. Many came from Fayette county, afterward claimed as visitors only. The opposition charged bad faith. Be this as it may, there was much handshaking; old jokes and new were exchanged, and much boasting of the result of election was indulged in, accompanied by the comment generally 'of course Moneek would win,' etc. Time was hardly felt to be passing until eleven o'clock, dinner was thought of and a hustle was made for grub. After dinner the question arose, where were the poll books? Two o'clock, no books had appeared. It occurred to someone, more wise than the rest, that unless they got to voting pretty soon it would be too late. The owners of the townsite of Moneek, residents and voters, were mostly from Canada, and totally unacquainted with our forms of law and procedure. Finally, in their desperation, no poll books having arrived or likely to, an attempt was made to hold an election, but when the returns were made out no one could understand what they were, or who voted, or for what. It has been said of this report, 'You would not know what it was if you met it in the road.' The returning board rightfully threw it out, and Decorah was selected as the county seat. The margin was dangerous, as it was generally expected that Decorah would be beaten.



"About four o'clock on that same election day in April, 1851, there appeared a grizzled trapper at Fort Atkinson, with a wet, dripping, lame horse, and told a weird tale of how he had lost some poll books while crossing a stream, and nearly lost his life. Had it not been for the exertions of his horse he would have been drowned in the quicksands, and he did not know where the poll books had been washed to, or where they were. He was of the human flotsam and jetsam of those days, disappeared, and was never afterward heard of, either in Decorah or in this county.

"The county seat election had engendered ill feelings, and left scars that seemingly would not heal, and Decorah's fight was not yet over. Freeport, which had been settled by men of enterprise, knowing of the soreness of the disgruntled ones, saw an opportunity to obtain their aid, and surely expected to change the location of the county seat to that place.

"By the old law, in order to get a vote on the question of the relocation of the county seat, it was necessary to obtain an act of Legislature, authorizing such vote.

"At the election in the fall of 1854 the adherents of Freeport forced the issue on the election of the member of the Legislature. Decorah had a candidate and Freeport was represented by Hon. James D. McKay, who was overwhelmingly elected, and the friends of that locality were consequently jubilant. During the 1854-5 session of the Iowa Legislature Claiborn Day had occasion to visit Des Moines, and spent the time there during the session. He had good friends in the Legislature, among others the late Judge Ruben Noble, and before the session was over he had become personally acquainted with every member of the House and Senate. While it did not appear that he was endeavoring to work any member, his apartments were always open to all the influential members who cared to resort with their kindred spirits. Oyster suppers were the rule, with something on the side for those with a chronic thirst, to while away the time and drive dull care away after the arduous labors of the day. Someone would start something, sometimes the stakes were high and sometimes low, to suit the financial conditions of those engaged. It was near the end of the session when the residents of Freeport, becoming uneasy about the situation, sent a delegation consisting of B. O. Dably and A. P. Leach to Des Moines to do missionary work for their cause. The speaking member of the delegation not being advised of the temperament of the members, or the conditions existing, made a red hot, stereotyped temperance oration, which did not find favor with the members, and acted as a wet blanket upon the river statesmen.

"When the vote was called and recorded it showed a large majority against ordering an election to change the county seat from Decorah. You can imagine the surprise, chagrin and disappointment of the member from Winneshiek county! He was, in fact, a broken-hearted politician, with no excuse to offer to his constituents. However, a bill was passed to meet this and other similar cases, where there had been frequent strife elsewhere in the state, which authorized a relocation on petition of a majority of the electors, the number of voters at the preceding election being taken as a basis.

"In February, 1856, the Freeport adherents, smarting under the Legislature defeat, presented to Judge David Reed a petition for an election, signed by a majority of the previous election which showed 420 voters.

"It was known that Judge Reed was a firm friend of Decorah, an honest man with a good idea of right and wrong, to which might be added the qualifications of a good fellow, much more than a familiarity with Blackstone or Kent.

"To meet this petition, a remonstrance was formulated, which, after it had been signed by all the friends of Decorah that could be reached through the local pride, promises, bribes or cajolery, was taken by Day to Fort Atkinson, where there was a resident, at that time, who was expert with the pen (said to be a Canadian), who made signatures thereon for a part of the day and most of the night, signing all the names he could think of, in different colored inks, many copied from 'Wild Cat' bills, others from bank notes, old deeds, or bonds, with occasionally an inscription from a tombstone in Northern New York or Canada. When completed the remonstrance contained about 800 names written on foolscap paper, pasted together at the ends, making a very imposing roll nearly forty feet in length. History states that Wm. Painter was offered the flattering and honorable position of presenting the remonstrance, and swearing, so far as he knew, the signers were residents of the county. And, so far as he knew, they were, without a doubt. It is history, too, that the case was argued, Levi Bullis appearing for the petitioners and E. E. Cooley appearing for the remonstrants.

"After the arguments were heard, Judge Reed carefully examined the petition for an election. On being handed the remonstrance he commenced to unroll and examine the signatures of his neighbors and friends that were familiar to him, with more in sight, and kept unrolling until he reached the wall of the room, and then had to turn. After a mature deliberation the learned Judge decided that the 'remonstrance appeared to have a large majority, almost two to one. I should judge, and I therefore decide to grant no election.'

"Freeport, ever tenacious, was not satisfied and again in July of the same year appeared with another petition, asking for the election, which was met by the same tactics as on the previous occasion, and suffered the same fate, and the matter was finally settled on a writ of certiorari by the decision of Judge Murdock, of the District Court, affirming the decision of the county court.

"The following year the building of the Court House was commenced, and this contest was forever ended."

Decorah has since remained in undisputed possession of the county seat, but not without being given a scare by Calmar in 1898, when a proposition was placed before the people to vote funds to erect a new courthouse. Calmar citizens subscribed \$25,000 to build a courthouse if the county seat was transferred to their town, but the proposition failed to get a vote. It has always been contended by the knowing ones that Calmar's activity at that time started as a joke. However that may be, it was not so regarded by a majority of those outside the two towns most vitally interested.

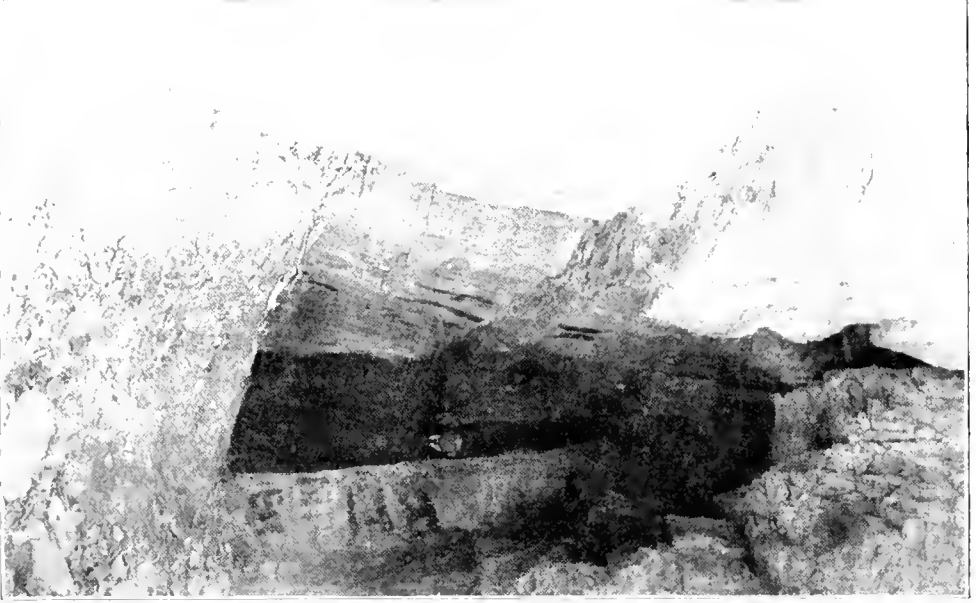
With the organization of the county completed there naturally followed a sub-division into townships. This was not done at once, however. The first election after the organizing election was held in April, 1852, and by order of court the polling places were designated as follows:

Precinct No. 1, at house of Wm. Day, Decorah.

Precinct No. 2, at house of Francis Rogers, Lewiston.

Precinct No. 3, at the house of John DeCou, Moneek.

ICE CAVE, DEGORAH



DENNING SPRING, DEGORAH





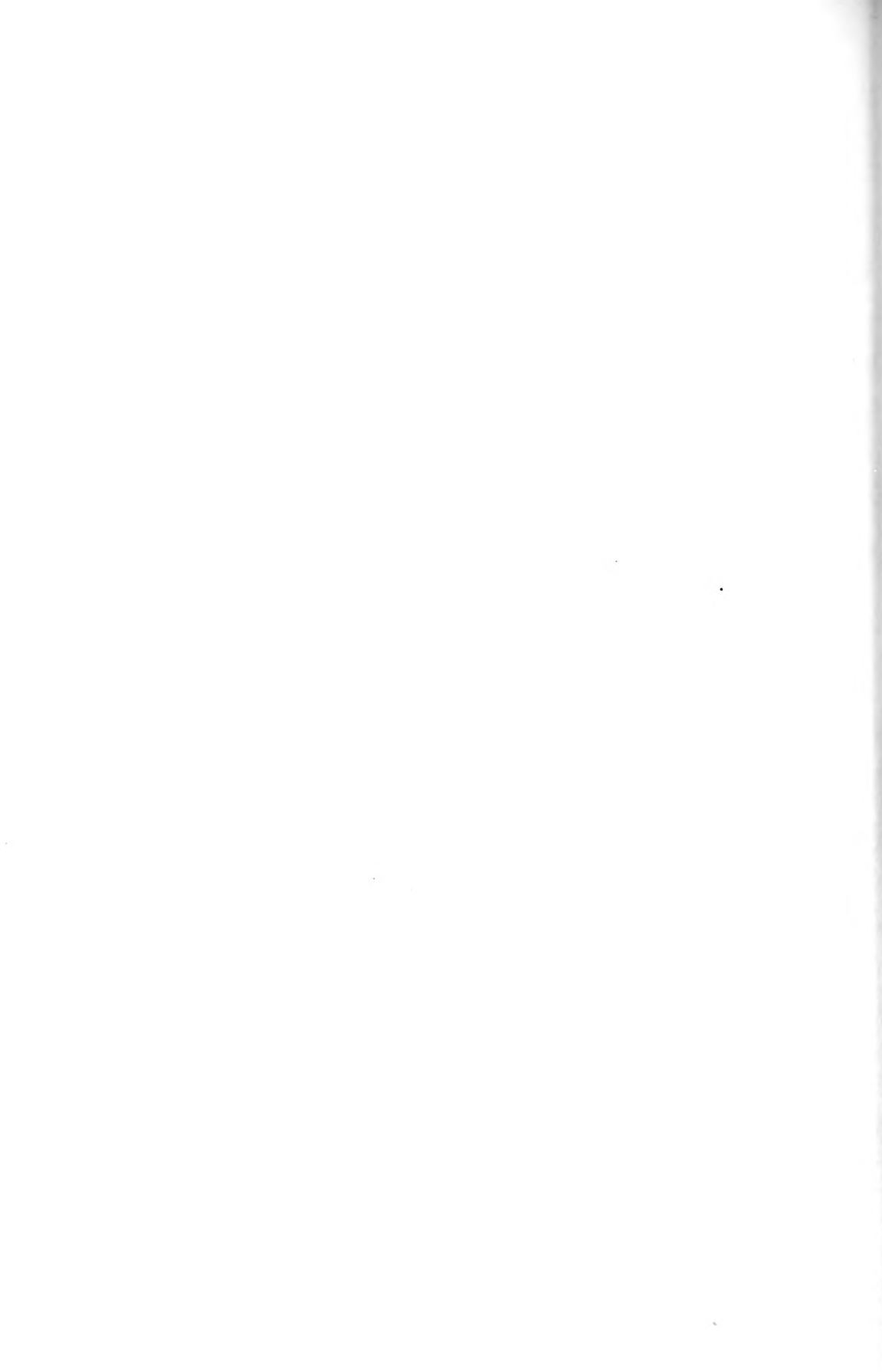
Referring to Alexander's History of Winneshiek County, we find that in July following "the division line between precincts 2 and 3 was changed and made to run between ranges 7 and 8," thus throwing, as the record says, one more tier of townships into the third precinct. From this I infer that the third precinct originally consisted of what is now known as Bloomfield and Frankville townships, and was six miles wide, east and west, and twelve long. Precinct No. 2 covered three times as much territory, and was eighteen miles wide, and twelve long. This left all the remainder of the county in precinct No. 1. March 1, 1853, the latter was so divided up as to make what is now Canoe, Bluffton and Orleans townships, with the townships north of them, precinct No. 4. February 5, 1854, what are now Military and Springfield were divided from Washington (now named for the first time) and created township (not precinct) No. 5.

"March 6, 1854, township 98, range 7, was separated from 'Decorah Precinct,' and was called township No. 6. It is now known as Glenwood.

"March 11, 1855, 'Burr Oak Precinct' was divided, and the entire tier on the north line of the county was called Burr Oak. The remaining part of the precinct was named Canoe. At the same session of the county court, township 99, range 10, was set off and given the name of Pilot Grove.

"On the tax list of 1855, proper names are given to each of these precincts. Precinct No. 1 had become Decorah, Glenwood, Canoe, Burr Oak and Pilot Grove; township No. 2 appears as Bloomfield and Summit (now Frankville), and No. 3 had been divided into Military and Washington; but no record other than I have quoted appears upon the court minutes as to these and subsequent changes. According to the tax lists, in 1856 Pleasant township took its name and place, in 1858 Summit had become Frankville, and Pilot Grove, Orleans; Springfield had been separated from Military, Calmar and Sumner from Washington, and Hesper and Fremont from Burr Oak. In 1860 Madison was taken from Decorah, and Highland divided from Pleasant; and in 1862 the symmetry of all the townships was completed by the division of Lincoln from Sumner, and Jackson from Washington."

It will be noted that the early designation of these townships was by precinct number. The records do not disclose the use of names for townships until 1854.



## CHAPTER VI

### POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

With the organization of the county perfected, and the location of the county seat disposed of—temporarily at least—the thoughts of the settlers turned to county officers, and an election was called to be held on August 4, 1851. Alexander's History says that "according to the best information obtainable a well attended caucus was held in the log cabin of Nelson Johnson, in the southern corner of Decorah township." That the settlers lined up on opposing sides is shown by the fact that there was a contest for each office with the result that—David Reed was chosen county judge over J. R. Morse. George Bachel defeated James F. Moore for sheriff. Francis Rogers won out for supervisor over William Vail. John W. Kline defeated R. G. Nuvland for surveyor. Daniel Kuykendahl was elected recorder and treasurer over Philip Morse. E. W. Aldrich defeated D. Bender for coroner.

A total of eighty-two votes were cast and the election was conducted by Isaac Underhill, F. Joseph Huber and Joseph Brown, who served as judges.

While he was elected for a term of two years, through a chain of circumstances related below, Judge Reed continued in office until 1855. In 1853 Joseph Gibbons and J. T. Atkins were candidates for the judgeship. On the face of the returns Gibbons had ten majority, but friends of Atkins contested the election and the case was heard before Judge Reed. The testimony disclosed that the trustees of Bloomfield township changed the polling place from Moneek to Castalia without giving proper notice. Thirteen voters testified that they went to Moneek to vote and, not having been advised of the change, were deprived of their right, adding that they would have voted for Atkins. In place of throwing out the vote of Bloomfield township, Judge Reed set aside the election of judge, declaring no one elected. As Judge Reed was elected to serve until his successor was elected and qualified, no vacancy was created,—hence he continued in office until after the next regular election, which was in the fall of 1855.

It is not disclosed why a full compliment of officers was not elected in August, 1851, but it seems from the records that it was not until April, 1852, that the offices of School Fund Commissioner and Clerk of Courts were filled by the election of N. S. Gilbert and W. F. Kimball, the defeated candidates

being John McKay and James B. Schenck. In the same election James B. Chase was elected Coroner over Wm. Painter. A total of 180 votes were cast.

It is related in Alexander's History that "at first the amount that the officers received on their salaries depended on the amount of fees received; for from the first the Judge, Clerk and Treasurer were accustomed to meet at stated intervals, each reporting the fees he had received, and then the money would be divided between them. The Treasurer would also report the cash in the Treasury, which would be divided with equal impartiality; then County Judge Reed would issue county warrants to each one for the balance found due. As soon as taxes were levied and collected this system ceased."

In the August election of 1852 M. B. Derrick was elected Clerk of District Court, James D. McKay was elected Prosecuting Attorney and H. K. Averill, Surveyor. One hundred and fifty votes were cast.

In April, 1853, the fourth election occurred, with 224 votes cast. Aaron Newell was elected Clerk; N. S. Gilbert, Treasurer and Recorder; H. K. Averill, Surveyor; J. F. Moore, Drainage Commissioner; A. H. Fannon, Coroner.

The semi-yearly elections during the first three years showed peculiar fluctuations in vote as is noted by a falling off of fifty-one between April and August, 1853. In the latter contest 173 votes were cast. N. S. Gilbert was re-elected Treasurer and Recorder, and Elijah Middlebrook, Surveyor, without opposition. James F. Moore was elected Sheriff but failed to qualify, and Judge Reed declared the office vacant and appointed Wm. F. Kimball. Samuel Kendall was elected Coroner.

The April election of 1854 witnessed several changes in the personnel of county officers. John McKay was re-elected School Fund Commissioner, James Van Pelt was defeated for sheriff by Elijah Middlebrook, Nelson Burdick was elected Treasurer and Recorder over Wm. F. Kimball, and Wm. Painter was chosen Drainage Commissioner.

James D. McKay, who had been elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1852, was elected as member of the lower house of the Iowa Legislature in August, 1854. Albert B. Webber was elected to fill the attorneyship, but he failed to qualify. Dryden Smith, appointed to fill vacancy, resigned, and J. F. Atkins accepted appointment and served out the term.

Readers of to-day need not think that the discussion of prohibition is a thing of recent development. The principal feature of the contest in Winneshiek county in the election of April, 1855, was this same question of prohibition, and the anti-prohibition adherents only won out by the meagre majority of two, the vote standing 169 against and 167 for prohibition.

This same contest witnessed the introduction of two young attorneys into the political life of the county—men who were subsequently to become important factors in the public life of the community. In May, 1854, Levi Bullis came to Decorah. He was a native of Plattsburg, New York, and beside being endowed with a good education he possessed the fighting spirit of the successful lawyer. In October of the same year another New Yorker, Ezekiel E. Cooley also found Decorah a goodly place to locate. He, too, was well educated, and though no less a fighter than Mr. Bullis, his manner was in marked contrast, being smooth and polished, whereas his fellow lawyer was more of the rough and ready type. Both were candidates for Prosecuting Attorney in this election, Mr. Cooley being



returned a winner. Mr. Cooley subsequently served the county in the Legislature, being elected in 1857. He was appointed judge of the Tenth Judicial district by Governor Gear in 1879, was re-elected in 1880 for one term, and again in the nineties was elected Judge of the Thirteenth District, serving with great credit. He was also postmaster of Decorah in 1861-63.

Mr. Bullis never achieved but one success as a candidate for office, being elected as a member of the first Board of Supervisors in 1860, but as a lawyer he won a wide following and enjoyed the patronage of a large clientage.

What has hitherto been called the eighth election, but in fact was the ninth, was held August 6th, 1855. Nelson Burdick was re-elected Treasurer and Recorder; James Van Pelt, Surveyor, and Philip Morse, Coroner. On the 1st of April following Aaron Newell resigned and Nathaniel Otis succeeded him by appointment as Clerk of the district court.

But one office was voted on at the spring election in 1856, and J. E. B. Morgan was elected School Fund Commissioner in a field of four contestants. There were 816 votes cast, showing that the county was sustaining a healthy growth in population. The abolishment of the office of School Fund Commissioner during Mr. Morgan's term eliminated it from politics, but there were enough other offices to make elections exceedingly interesting.

Another office that was abolished along about this time was that of liquor agent. It was the duty of this officer to see that traffic in liquors was confined strictly to sales for medicinal purposes. L. Butler, who held the office, resigned on June 26, 1856, and Dr. H. C. Bullis filled out the unexpired term. The office was then discontinued.

The election of August, 1856, was an important one to Winneshiek county as it marked her break into the ranks of senatorial representation. The county was a portion of the Thirty-Fourth Senatorial district composed of Allamakee, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, and Winneshiek. The total vote enrolled was 2,331 and J. T. Atkins, who has been nominated by the republicans, was elected by a majority of 883 votes, or 167 more than the total vote of his opponent, Edward Ellis. L. W. Griswold was elected Prosecuting Attorney and Nathaniel Otis was re-elected Clerk of district court in a three-cornered fight, his opponents being D. H. Hughes and G. W. Esty.

The first special election in the county was held on October 10, 1856, when a proposal to vote \$100,000 to aid in the construction of the Northwestern railroad was carried by a vote of 926 to 505. The road was never built.

At the election held in April, 1857, James B. Smith was elected sheriff, George N. Holway, County Assessor, and James E. Simpson, Drainage Commissioner.

In July, 1857, L. W. Griswold resigned as Prosecuting Attorney and Dryden Smith was appointed to fill the vacancy. In the election of August following he was elected for a full term, but the office was abolished during the succeeding winter. The reason for Mr. Griswold's resignation is seen in his candidacy for the office of County Judge. He was elected over J. A. Tupper who had also been his unsuccessful opponent in the attorneyship contest of the year previous. In this election Nelson Burdick was re-elected Recorder and Treasurer for the third term, L. W. Ludlow was chosen County Surveyor, and Amos Hoag, Coroner.

With the creation of the office of county superintendent of public instruction the schools were placed on a more substantial footing. Dr. H. C. Bullis was elected to fill the office for the term beginning immediately after the election of April 14, 1858. This was the forerunner of a long public service in which Dr. Bullis was chosen to occupy various positions of importance and trust. In 1865 he was elected to the Iowa Senate and served four years. In 1871 he was elected Lieutenant Governor. President Grant in 1876 appointed him a member of the commission that negotiated the purchase of the Black Hills territory from the Sioux Indians; in 1880 he was elected Mayor of Decorah, serving two terms, and he was postmaster of Decorah under Benjamin Harrison's administration.

In the election of October, 1858, over 1,300 votes were cast, which would indicate a population of between 6,000 and 7,000 people in the county. S. W. Paul was elected clerk of district court, and J. E. Simpson, county surveyor.

The successful candidates in the elections of 1859 were Erick Anderson, sheriff; S. W. Mattison, clerk; T. W. Burdick, recorder and treasurer; H. K. Averill, surveyor; John R. Howard, coroner; W. F. Coleman, county superintendent. In November, 1860, S. W. Mattison was re-elected clerk of district court. Up to and including the year 1860 the county judge had the direction of the expenditure of much of the county money and also performed the duties of county auditor. In this year the administration of county affairs was placed in the hands of a board of supervisors composed of one member from each township. This body organized in January, 1861, while the county court was retained to handle probate and similar matters. The records show that the county court continued until January 1, 1860, when it was superceded by the circuit court system. Between January 1, 1860, and the discontinuance of the office the following served as county judges: 1860-61, D. H. Hughes; 1862-1863, John DeCou; 1864-1867, G. R. Willett; 1868, E. Cutler. Mr. Cutler, upon retiring for the judgeship became ex-officio county auditor and was subsequently re-elected twice.

With the election of 1860 there came a regularity in service in the county offices that permits a record that is more concise than the foregoing.

#### COUNTY AUDITORS

Beginning with E. Cutler the record reads as follows: E. Cutler, 1869 to 1873; H. A. Biglow, 1873 to 1875; F. G. Hale, 1875 to 1881; T. E. Egge, 1881 to 1885; J. W. Daubney, 1885 to 1893; O. C. Johnson, 1893 to 1899; F. A. Masters, 1899 to 1905; I. Linnevold, 1905 to 1911; E. W. Christopher, 1911 to 1912. W. R. Shea, elected in November, 1912, and entered upon his duties January 1, 1913.

#### CLERKS OF COURT

S. W. Mattison, who first election brought him into office January 1, 1860, served until 1867. Dan Lawrence, 1867 to 1869; M. P. Hathaway, 1869 to 1871; S. E. Tubbs, 1871 to 1875; A. W. Brownell, 1875 to 1877; E. B. Hutchinson, 1877 to 1881; M. W. Harden, 1881 to 1884; N. H. Nelson, 1884 to 1891; E.

D. Field, 1891 to 1893; Henry Elvidge, 1893 to 1899; A. L. Haakenson, 1899 to 1905; S. E. Brickner, 1905 to 1911. Olai Kallivang, elected in November, 1910, re-elected in 1912, now serving his second term.

## SHERIFFS

Erick Anderson, elected in 1859, served until 1863. He was succeeded by the following: Armund Arneson, 1863 to 1867; A. S. Skofstad, 1867 to 1869; Knut Thompson, 1869 to 1873; C. H. Hitchcock, 1873 to 1875; J. H. Womeldorf, 1875 to 1879; DeWitt C. Moore, 1879 to December 8, 1881. H. M. Langland appointed December 8, 1881, to fill vacancy; elected in November, 1882, again in 1883, 1885 and 1887. O. N. Norgard, 1890 to 1894; Clarence Christen, 1894 to 1902; George Mizener, 1902 to 1907; T. J. Qualley, 1907 to 1913. L. J. Flemming, elected in November, 1912, began service January 1, 1913.

## TREASURERS

T. W. Burdick elected in 1860 and re-elected in 1861, resigned in 1862 to enlist in the army, and was succeeded by appointment by G. R. Willett who filled out the term. Then followed: A. K. Bailey, 1863 to 1865; G. N. Holway, 1865 to 1869; G. T. Lommen, 1869 to 1873; Edwin Klove, 1873 to 1882; N. H. Adams, 1882 to 1884; C. E. Meader, 1884 to fall of 1887; A. W. Brownell, elected to fill vacancy in 1887 and for full term, re-elected in 1889; Henry Yager, 1892 to 1894; L. B. Whitney, 1894 to 1898; W. O. Nordheim, 1898 to 1902; E. R. Haines, 1902 to 1908. G. Jorgenson entered upon his first term January 1, 1908, re-elected in 1910 and 1912. Now serving his third term.

## RECORDERS

Up to 1864 the Recorder's duties were performed by the County Treasurer. In that year the two offices were separated and John E. Powers was elected as Recorder. He was re-elected in 1866 and served until January 1, 1869, the successors being as follows: Cyrus McKay, 1869 to 1875; Chas. Steen, 1875 to 1878; Wm. Fannon, 1878 to 1883; M. A. Harmon, 1883 to 1889; T. F. Auchmoody, 1889 to 1897; N. N. Quandahl, 1897 to 1899; C. H. Lawrence, 1899 to 1905; H. S. Stinson, 1905 to 1911; Allen Wise elected in November, 1910, entered upon his duties January 1, 1911, re-elected in November, 1912.

## COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

As mentioned in a preceding portion of this chapter Dr. H. C. Bullis was the first County Superintendent of schools. There succeeded him: J. M. Wedgewood, 1864 to 1872; Henry T. Toye, 1872 to 1874; G. N. Holway, 1874 to 1876; Nels Kessy, 1876 to 1882; J. A. Klein, 1882 to 1884; Dan Shea, 1884 to 1890; H. L. Coffeen, 1890 to 1896; G. O. Haugen, 1896 to 1900; E. J. Hook, 1900 to 1909; S. Reque, 1909 to 1913; H. E. Miller, 1913—now serving first term. The 35th General Assembly made this office appointive on a basis of qualification.

## COUNTY SURVEYORS

James E. Simpson, elected in 1859, served until January 1, 1862. E. Baldwin, 1862 to 1870; W. C. Adsit, 1870 to 1876; J. L. Cameron, 1876 to 1880; R. B. Caldwell, 1880 to 1882; J. L. Cameron, 1882 to 1896; C. E. Schenck, 1896 to November 1, 1905; F. E. Cratsenberg, appointed to fill vacancy November 14, 1905, resigned in April, 1906. Elected in November, 1906, and again in 1908, serving until September 1, 1910, when he resigned. H. L. Coffeen appointed April 12, 1906, to fill vacancy, served until January 7, 1907. W. M. Lee, appointed September 10, 1910, to fill vacancy; elected for full term beginning January 1, 1911, in November, 1910. The office was abolished during his term. Mr. Lee has since served by appointment as County Engineer, the title by which the surveyor is now known.

## CORONERS

John Howard served from 1860 to 1862; Cyrus McKay, 1862 to 1872; F. W. Knox, 1872 to 1874; A. C. Ferren, 1874 to 1876; A. H. Fannon, 1876 to 1878; E. Mather, 1878 to 1882; Dr. W. F. Coleman, 1882 to 1888; W. R. Toye, 1888 to 1890; A. C. Ferren, 1890 to 1892; E. Mather, 1892 to 1893; Dr. E. M. Hellen, 1893 to 1894; R. E. Gibson, 1894 to 1900; Dr. P. M. Jewell, 1900 to 1907; Dr. A. J. Swezey, 1907 to 1913; Dr. M. D. Jewell, 1913—serving his first term.

## COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Under an act of Legislature in 1860 the affairs of the county were placed under the management of a Board of Supervisors consisting of one member from each township. This system proved cumbersome, but in spite of that fact it held sway until 1870 when what is known as the County Commission System was inaugurated with the county divided into districts. During the first two years there were three districts in Winneshiek, but in 1872 they were increased to five districts comprised as follows:

First District—Bloomfield, Military, Springfield, Frankville.

Second District—Washington, Jackson, Summer, Calmar.

Third District—Lincoln, Bluffton, Orleans, Burr Oak, Fremont.

Fourth District—Pleasant, Canoe, Highland, Hesper, Glenwood.

Fifth District—Decorah, Madison.

M. S. Drury, George C. Winship and A. Arneson comprised the first board. Their terms were arranged to expire at different times so as to avoid the possibility of an inexperienced set of men being chosen to assume the management of county affairs.

As stated above, the Board was increased to five members by the election of 1872. M. S. Drury was re-elected and Florenzo G. Hale and Charles Sydow were chosen as the new members. Since that year the several districts have been served in order by the following men:



COUNTY FARM, NEAR DEGRAH



## FIRST DISTRICT

Turner Callendar, elected in 1875; George Merrill, elected in 1878; E. S. Lambert, elected in 1880; O. T. Lommen, elected in 1881; E. Schoonmaker, elected in 1884, re-elected in 1887; A. M. Anderson, elected in 1890; Geo. Allen elected in 1893, re-elected in 1896; M. J. Nicholson, elected in 1899, re-elected in 1902; George J. Cooper, elected in 1906, re-elected in 1908; Peter F. Meyer, elected in 1910, began serving January 1, 1912.

## SECOND DISTRICT

C. Meyers, elected in 1874; H. Giesen, elected in 1876; A. W. Brownell, elected in 1877, re-elected in 1880 and 1883; Peter Jacobs, elected in 1886; J. A. Giesen, elected in 1889, re-elected in 1892; J. J. Haug, elected in 1895, re-elected in 1898; M. A. Kubish, elected in 1901, re-elected in 1904; G. A. Meyer, elected in 1906, re-elected in 1910, term expires January 1, 1914; J. P. Kuhn, elected in 1912, term begins January 1, 1914.

## THIRD DISTRICT

F. Brittain, elected in 1873; P. Morton, elected in 1875; S. G. Kendall, elected in 1878; A. Rice, elected in 1880; R. Barnes, elected in 1881; D. N. Hoyt, elected in 1884; George Johnson, elected in 1886; H. W. Masters, elected in 1887, re-elected in 1890; M. S. Lemon, elected in 1893; S. Magnus, elected in 1896; R. S. Wolfenberger, elected in 1899, re-elected in 1902; Martin Jones, elected in 1906, re-elected in 1908; Claude Morton, elected in 1910.

## FOURTH DISTRICT

O. W. Ellingson, elected in 1876; Nels Larsen, elected in 1879, re-elected in 1882; C. O. Maltby, elected in 1885, re-elected in 1888; A. T. Holton, elected in 1891, re-elected in 1894; O. L. Wennes, elected in 1897, re-elected in 1900; Edwin Hoover, elected in 1903; O. M. Selnes, elected in 1906, re-elected in 1908; A. P. Pfister, elected in 1912, began serving January 1, 1913.

## FIFTH DISTRICT

G. C. Winship, elected in 1874; Jacob Jewell, elected in 1877; G. L. Wendling, elected in 1880; Jacob Jewell, elected in 1883, re-elected in 1886; D. N. Hoyt, elected in 1889, re-elected in 1892; John Greer, elected in 1895; C. O. Moore, elected in 1898, re-elected in 1901; B. E. Jewell, elected in 1904, re-elected in 1906; K. W. Knutson, elected in 1910, term expires January 1, 1914; John S. Williams, elected in 1912, term begins January 1, 1914.

## THE COURTS

Heretofore we have referred to the office of County Judge. As already explained, up to 1860 this office combined the functions of supervisor, county

auditor, and the handling of probate matters. Superior to this office, and having charge of all classes of litigation in civil and criminal lines, was the District Court. One judge was required to do all the work, holding terms alternately in each county of the district. Winneshiek county was at first a part of the Second District, which embraced a large part of the state.

As far as we are able to ascertain, the first term of District Court for Winneshiek county convened in Decorah on July 9, 1852, with Hon. Thomas S. Wilson presiding.

In 1854 Winneshiek county had become a part of the Fifth district, composed of Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek and Samuel S. Murdock of Clayton county was elected in the fall of that year. Judge Murdock was followed in 1859 by Judge Elias A. Williams, also of Clayton, who served until 1867. Milo McGlathery of Fayette county followed Judge Williams for two terms. He proved most unpopular because of the peculiarity of some of his sentences in criminal matters, and in the election of 1874 when he was opposed by Ruben Noble, a staunch Clayton county democrat, he was easily defeated. Judge Noble served from 1875 until late in 1879, when he resigned, and E. E. Cooley of Decorah was appointed by Governor John H. Gear to fill the vacancy. Judge Cooley assumed his duties in December, 1879, and was elected in 1880 to succeed himself. In the election of 1882 he was opposed by L. O. Hatch of McGregor who was elected, and in 1886 and in 1890 Mr. Hatch was re-elected. With the abolishment of the Circuit Court in 1887 an increase in the number of districts made this the Thirteenth District. Judge Granger, who had been the presiding officer in the Circuit Court, became the associate of Judge Hatch on the District Court bench. In 1888 he was nominated by the republicans as a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, and as nomination was equivalent to election he resigned. L. E. Fellows of Lansing was chosen to fill the vacancy, but in the election of 1889 he was defeated by W. A. Hoyt of Fayette. Five years later (1894) Judge Fellows was again nominated by the republicans and Hon. A. N. Hobson of West Union was chosen as his running mate. They proved a popular pair and were re-elected. For term after term thereafter they were the choice of the electors, much of the time without opposition.

In the early part of 1912 while holding court at Decorah, Judge Fellows contracted a severe cold which resulted in pneumonia. Although a man of advanced years, his rugged constitution enabled him to survive the attack, but while in a convalescent stage his heart showed symptoms of weakness and on July 17th he passed away, full of years, honored and revered by all who knew him.

Attorney W. J. Springer of New Hampton was appointed by Governor Carroll to fill the vacancy until after election, and in the election of last fall he defeated D. J. Murphy of Waukon who opposed him. His term, and the term of Judge Hobson, will expire January 1, 1915.

#### THE CIRCUIT COURT

Work in District Court had so increased that during the session of the Twelfth General Assembly (in 1868) the Circuit Court was created. This court exercised jurisdiction concurrent with the District Court in all civil and special pro-



ceedings, and was the court of appeal from the findings of inferior courts, tribunals and officers in civil matters, as well as handling probate matters. The act of legislature was signed April 3, 1868, and the Circuit Court became operative January 1, 1869.

M. V. Burdick, then one of the most prominent members of the Winneshiek county bar, was elected as Judge of Circuit Court, serving for four years. He was succeeded in 1873 by C. T. Granger of Waukon, who was re-elected in 1876, 1880, 1884, and again in 1886. In 1887 the Circuit Court was abolished and the jurisdiction in all classes of cases—criminal, civil, and probate—as well as appeals from inferior tribunals, was assumed by the District Court.

#### DISTRICT AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS

An adjunct of the District Court was the office of District Attorney. Orlando J. Clark and Cyrus Wellington, both well known attorneys of Decorah, served in this capacity, the former from 1874 to 1878, and the latter from 1879 to 1889, when the office was abolished and the office of county attorney was substituted.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS

John B. Kaye of Calmar was the first to serve under this title. He was elected in the fall of 1886 and re-elected in 1888. In the election of 1890 he was defeated by M. J. Carter of Ossian, who held the office one term. The order of succession since 1892 has been as follows: E. P. Johnson, 1893 to 1899; N. Willett, 1899 to 1905; W. M. Strand, 1905 to 1909; N. Willett, 1909 to 1913. C. N. Houek was elected in November, 1912, and entered upon his duties January 1, 1913.

#### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Any history of Iowa will tell the reader that up to 1863 the state had not acquired sufficient population to entitle us to more than two representatives in Congress.

From the time the county was organized in 1851 up to 1863, Winneshiek was a part of the Second Congressional district, which was represented as follows:

- 1851 to 1853—Lincoln Clark (democrat) of Dubuque.
- 1853 to 1855—John P. Cook (democrat) of Davenport.
- 1855 to 1857—James Thornington (republican) of Davenport.
- 1857 to 1859—Timothy Davis (American) of Dubuque.
- 1859 to 1863—William Vandever (democrat) of Dubuque.

From 1863 to 1881 Winneshiek county was a portion of the Third district. William B. Allison, of Dubuque, was representative from 1863 to 1871, when he was elected United States Senator.

At this time the Third district was composed of the counties of Allamakee, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, and Winneshiek.

W. G. Donnan of Independence (Buchanan county) succeeded Mr. Allison and was elected to the Forty-second and Forty-third congresses—1871 to 1875.

L. L. Ainsworth of West Union was elected over C. T. Granger of Waukon to the Forty-fourth Congress—1875 to 1877.

The campaign of 1876 was a memorable one in this district. At the Congressional convention at McGregor on September 6, Theodore W. Burdick of Decorah was nominated by the republicans. Opposed to him on the democratic ticket was J. M. Griffith of Dubuque, a man of considerable wealth as well as popularity, particularly in his home county, which normally gave and has since given a large democratic majority. The contest that ensued was one of the hottest ever waged in Iowa. In every community and school room that was worth visiting meetings were held, the district was polled and repolled, checked and rechecked and the figures were so carefully tabulated that practically every voter was accounted for. At that time James E. Simpson was United States Revenue Collector at Dubuque, and, as a friend and co-worker with Mr. Burdick in the early days of Decorah and Winneshiek county, he took an active interest in the contest. On the morning of election he appeared in Dubuque after devoting considerable time to a personal canvass of Winneshiek county and a visit to all parts of the district.

"What will Winneshiek do for Burdick?" he was asked.

"Winneshiek county will give Theodore Burdick twelve hundred majority," replied Mr. Simpson.

The Democrats gazed at him with wonder and incredulity, and when the full import of his statement began to sink in there was a panic in the Griffith camp. Every effort was made to secure some contradictory evidence with which to bolster up the democratic hope, but when the returns were all in it was shown that Mr. Burdick had been elected by a majority of 1267 in the district, his majority in Winneshiek county being 1265. Mr. Burdick served with credit during the Forty-fifth Congress, but refused to consider a renomination.

In 1878 Thomas Updegraff of McGregor was elected to the Forty-sixth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-seventh Congress in 1882.

In 1881 the Legislature redistricted the state and Winneshiek became a portion of the Fourth Congressional district, the other units being Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, and Mitchell.

In 1884 Mr. Updegraff was opposed by Luman H. Weller of Nashua. Mr. Weller had been a greenbacker and the democrats fused with the members of the party in his nomination. He was generally considered so erratic that his candidacy was looked upon as somewhat of a joke. However, Weller was undismayed, and while the republicans were laughing at him he was quietly making a house-to-house campaign that resulted in his election. He served only one term—during the Forty-eighth Congress (1885 to 1887)—being defeated in 1886 for the Forty-ninth Congress by William E. Fuller of West Union, who was re-elected to the Fiftieth session also.

Joseph Sweney of Osage was the successful candidate in the election of 1888. He had for his opponent Professor Lars S. Reque, then as now a member of Luther College Faculty, Decorah. It was Mr. Sweney's misfortune to come into office with a change of administration. Grover Cleveland had been defeated by Benjamin Harrison and the distribution of political plums was the cause of Mr. Sweney's undoing, for two years later he was defeated by Walter H. Butler of Fayette county, who served during the Fifty-second Congress.

In 1892 Thomas Updegraff again aspired to the republican nomination, secured it and was elected. He served in the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, and Fifty-

fifth Congresses. In 1868 a contest arose between Mr. Updegraff and James E. Blythe of Mason City for the nomination. In the nominating convention Gilbert N. Haugen of Northwood appeared with the support of his own (Worth) and Winneshiek counties, holding the balance of power. After a lengthy struggle the Updegraff forces finally threw their strength to Mr. Haugen and he received the nomination. He has been successively elected to the Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth, Sixty-first and is now serving in the Sixty-second Congress. Winneshiek may justly claim some share in this representation because aside from the support he has received from our votes, Mr. Haugen was in his early manhood a resident of Madison township for several years.

It is noteworthy that between 1863 and the present time this district has been represented by democrats in but three Congresses—the Forty-fourth by L. L. Ainsworth, the Forty-eighth by L. H. Weller, and the Fifty-second by Walt H. Butler. Mr. Weller comes under the democratic classification only because the members of that party endorsed his candidacy and helped elect him. He was a greenbacker or nationalist.

#### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

The First Constitutional convention of Iowa met in the fall of 1844 and was in session from October 7 to November 1. Their labors did not prove effective, the people rejecting the constitution adopted.

The Second Constitutional convention was held in May, 1846, and was in session from the 4th to the 19th. The Constitution then adopted received a majority of 456 in a total poll of 18,528 votes. The election was held August 3d, 1846, and Iowa was admitted as a state on December 28, 1846.

The Official Register of Iowa credits Winneshiek county with representation in the Third Constitutional convention which convened on January 19, 1857, at Iowa City (then the state capital), and adjourned March 5, 1857. We were then a portion of the Forty-third district, which included Fayette, Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy, Hardin, Wright, Webster, Boone, Story, Green, Allamakee, Winneshiek and Humboldt counties. Sheldon W. Winchester was the representative from this district.

Prior to this convention Winneshiek county had acquired representation in the Legislature through the organization of the county. The most authoritative record of members from this district is found in the Official Register of Iowa.

Representative James D. McKay was our first member of the House of Representatives, serving during the fifth session. The record does not disclose who served during the sixth session, hence we can only infer that Mr. McKay was re-elected. In this respect the record is incomplete. Beginning with the Seventh session the representation was as follows: Ezekiel E. Cooley, 7th; Amos Hoag, 8th; William H. Baker, 9th; Ole Nelson, 9th, 10th; James H. Brown, 10th, 11th; Horace B. Williams, 11th, 12th, 13th; Jeremiah T. Atkins, 12th; Anders O. Lommen, 13th; Knut E. Bergh, 14th; Warren Danforth, 14th, 15th, 16th; John H. DeCou, 15th; Martin N. Johnson, 16th; Hiram C. Manning, 17th; Henry A. Baker, 17th, 18th; Levi M. Hubbell, 18th, 19th; Drenghman O. Aaker, 19th, 20th; Nels Larson, 21st, 22d; Jacob Jewell, 23d, 24th; William H. Klemme, 25th, 26th, 27th; James S. Roome, 28th, 29th; Abraham Jacobson, 30th, 31st; Philo M. Jewell, 32d, 33d; Lauritz M. Enger, 34th, 35th.

A sketch of Representative Enger will be found in the biographical volume of this work.

#### SENATORS

As stated in a previous place in this chapter, Jeremiah T. Atkins was the first direct senatorial representative that Winneshiek county had in the Legislature. He was elected in 1856 and served in the sixth and seventh sessions. George W. Gray of Lansing was the Senator from this district in the eighth session, but thereafter until 1885 Winneshiek county constituted a senatorial district, separate and distinct from all other counties. Since the eighth session the succession has been as follows: Marvin V. Burdick, 9th and 10th; Henry C. Bulis, 11th, 12th and 13th; G. R. Willett, 14th, 15th and 16th; Martin N. Johnson, 17th and 18th; Henry A. Baker, 19th and 20th; Theodore W. Burdick, 21st; \*Samuel A. Converse, 22d; Ansel K. Bailey, 23d and 24th; \*C. C. Upton, 25th and 26th; \*D. A. Lyons, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st; \*Henry C. Burgess, 32d and 33d; Philo M. Jewell, 34th and 35th.

Since 1885 Howard county has been linked with Winneshiek in the Forty-second senatorial district. Those marked (\*) were resident of Howard county.

Dr. P. M. Jewell the present incumbent of the State Senatorship was born in Mount Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, January 1, 1848. His parents, who were of English and German descent, moved with their family to Carroll county, Illinois, in 1856. He grew to manhood on a farm and secured his education as a pupil in the Mount Carroll Seminary, a private institution of learning, and later attended the Mount Carroll high school for a few terms. He began the study of medicine in 1870 in the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which institution he graduated in March, 1873. He has been continuously engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery ever since; for over six years in Whiteside county, Illinois, and since November, 1880, in Winneshiek county, Iowa. He was married to Xama Livingston in 1875. They have three children, two daughters and a son. He has taken an active interest in politics for many years and was appointed a member of the United States Pension Board for Winneshiek county in 1897, which position he still fills. Senator Jewell is a republican in politics.

The present corps of officials of the county are as follows: County Auditor, W. R. Shea of Decorah; Deputy, E. C. Meyer of Calmar; County Treasurer, G. Jorgeson of Springfield; Deputy, L. C. Christen of Decorah; County Clerk, Olaf Kallevang of Glenwood; Deputy, Samuel Moore of Fremont; County Attorney, C. N. Houck of Decorah; County Recorder, Allen Wise of Pleasant; Sheriff, L. R. Fleming; Deputy, A. M. Morrison, both of Decorah; County Superintendent, H. E. Miller of Calmar; Deputy, Karen Brandt of Decorah; County Engineer, Will M. Lee; Deputy, Frank Arneson, both of Decorah.

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First district, Peter F. Meyer of Military; Second district, G. A. Meyer of Calmar (chairman); Third district, Claude Morton of Orleans; Fourth district, Alwin P. Pfister of Pleasant. Fifth district, K. W. Knutson of Decorah.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS

The railroad history of Winneshiek county is confined largely to the operation of one company, though there have been a number of projects which did not get beyond the paper stage. Old settlers will tell you many interesting incidents of the days prior to 1870, when the larger part of their crops had to be hauled by ox team or horses to Lansing and McGregor. These are often referred to as "the good old days." If a man were fortunate the trip might be made in three days. During a part of that time, at least, he could consider himself exceedingly lucky if the money in which he was paid would pass current the day following for the amount it represented. Private bank bills were largely the medium of exchange until the passage of the National Bank Act in 1863 and it was an exceptional bank whose strength enabled it to redeem its bills at face value.

If one wished to go on a journey he had the alternative of three varieties of transportation, viz: by foot, by ox cart, or on stage coaches. The stage lines ran from McGregor and followed the military road established by teamsters plying between Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien and Fort Atkinson. The Decorah road branched off this side of Joel Post's (where Postville now stands) and came up through Frankville township. From Decorah one road went west over Hog's Back (the north line of the farm of E. L. Beard & Son, a mile west of town), and was the thoroughfare to New Oregon and west toward Osage and Otranto. Another road led out of town to the northeast, crossing the river between the Ice Cave mill and the twin bridges and passed on up the ravine to what is now known as Clay Hill. This was the thoroughfare to St. Paul and such intermediate points as then existed. It can readily be inferred that of these there were a very small number and the hospitable log house of some settler was usually the hotel in which the weary traveler found shelter. Lucky indeed was he to be provided with a board floor for a bed and his coat for a pillow.

The early settler is ever impatient for improved conditions and the people who came to Winneshiek county were no exception to the rule. They wanted transportation facilities, and their efforts to secure them were characteristic of the times. A glimpse of their efforts is disclosed in the chapter on railroad building in Spark's History of Winneshiek County, as follows:

In 1856 everything was booming. The abundant resources of a new country had reached a high state of development, money was plenty, and the prospects for the future bright. One thing alone seemed lacking to make the people perfectly

satisfied with their condition—better facilities for transportation. The time had passed when the products of the county could be transported sixty miles to market by ox teams without suffering much inconvenience and loss. The time had come when a railroad was a necessity. The railroad fever was raging throughout the West, and far-seeing ones realized the immense value that would sweep in on iron rails, drawn by the iron horse. After a due amount of talk and agitation, the Northwestern Railroad Company was formed. Decorah was its headquarters, but they took in prominent citizens of Clinton. John Thompson, of Clermont, became president; O. C. Lee, a banker at McGregor, secretary; W. F. Kimball, of Decorah, treasurer; Eb. Baldwin, chief engineer, and E. E. Cooley, attorney. With a mighty faith in the future, business men put down their names for stock by the thousand dollars' worth, and \$80,000 of the capital was actually subscribed. Whether it all could have been paid for is another matter. With such a start as this, the company felt it could appeal to the public spirit of the people, and the county was asked to bond itself to the amount of \$100,000. Strange as it may seem to later comers, who worked and toiled to gather together the few thousands which the railroad actually cost when it did come, the people enthusiastically came forward and voted aye. The bonds were printed after some delay, and were all ready to be formally signed, sealed and delivered, when the Supreme Court stamped the law under which the bonds were being put out, with the word "unconstitutional." The scheme collapsed, and the county was saved a burden of debt, which might have retarded its progress for all the years past, as well as scores to come. It is worthy of note that when the railroad did come to us it followed the line marked out by those pioneers, and proved that their plans were wise and far-sighted, if they were a dozen years ahead of the times.

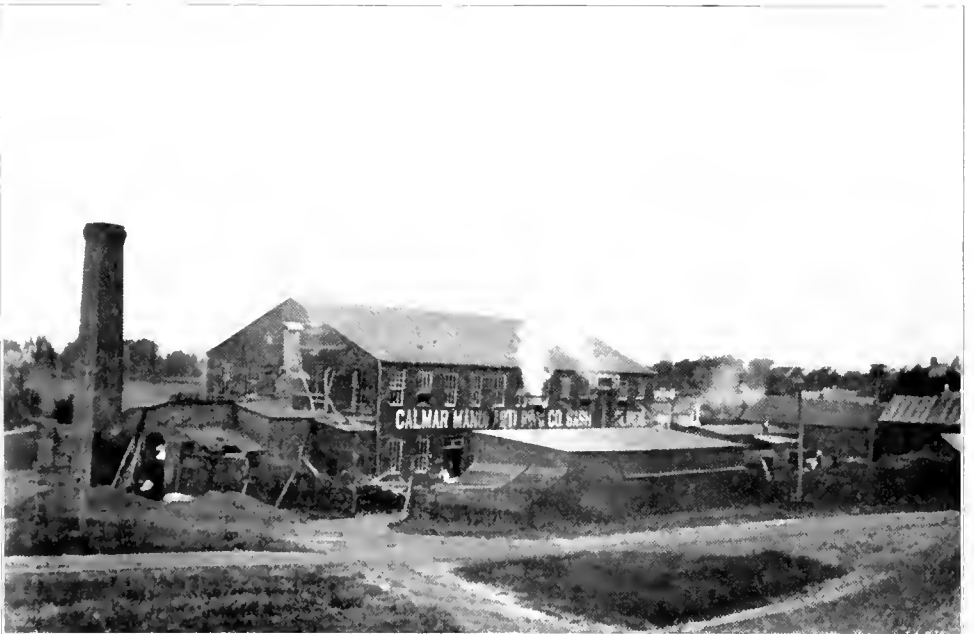
Several attempts were made before a railroad was finally built. The company to succeed was the McGregor Western. This company was organized January 19, 1863. The commencement of the road was at North McGregor. Work was commenced in March, 1863, and in one year the road was in running order to Monona, fourteen and one-half miles. The work was completed to Postville in September, 1864, to Castalia in October, 1864, and to Conover in August, 1865.

Decorah, at this date, had become a thriving inland city, well supported with newly started manufactories. Her citizens looked upon the road that was to pass them by with a covetous eye. Railroad connection, with river and lake transportation, was necessary to the future prosperity of the place. This was readily comprehended, and every effort was put forth by an energetic people to secure better transportation facilities. As a result, proposals were made to the managers of the McGregor Western Railway to build a branch line from Conover to Decorah, nine miles. The citizens of Decorah pledged themselves to furnish \$40,000, as a bonus, provided the company would build the nine miles of road, which the managers agreed to do. Nearly \$18,000 was paid in by the people of Decorah, and, on the other hand, the road was graded and bridged, ready for the superstructure. But the main line having been leased to the Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien Company, work on the branch was suspended in September, 1865.

The road is now operated under the management of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, by which name it is known. The branch was completed to Decorah in September, 1869, in accordance with the agreement made by the company with the citizens of Decorah. The event was one of great importance



SCENE AT RAILROAD YARDS, CALMAR



SASH AND DOOR PLANT, CALMAR

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
LIBRARY



to the capital city of the county. A day of celebration and rejoicing was given in honor of the event. Large crowds of people thronged to the city, and many availed themselves of the opportunity offered and made excursion trips to Conover and back.

For a time after the completion of the railroad to Conover that town was one of the most prosperous, thriving little cities in this part of Iowa. Great things were expected of it by the new residents and as a market place it outrivalled any of its neighbors. Its glory was short-lived, however. In 1866 the railroad was extended west and north into Howard county on its way to St. Paul, and Ridgeway came into existence. The same year that the branch was completed from Conover to Decorah (1866), the road was extended westward from Calmar, and Fort Atkinson thereby secured closer relations with the world.

During the succeeding ten years attempts were made to secure other railroads, but with negative results. In 1879 a narrow gauge road was built from a point below Lansing to Waukon. This line connected with the river road from Dubuque to LaCrosse which was operated under lease by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. Seeing an opportunity to secure increased transportation facilities, on August 8, 1879, Decorah township voted a four per cent tax to aid in the extension of this line to Decorah. Frankville and Glenwood townships, through which the line would pass, refused to vote the tax, but the right of way was secured, grading was done, piers for bridges were erected, and the laying of rails had proceeded some distance beyond the confines of Waukon when orders were received to cease operations. The owners of the river road had offered to sell the property to the Chicago and Northwestern Company. They were slow in entering into the project and while a party of officials were out on a tour of inspection to determine its worth the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul officials bought the property. As they already had a standard gauge line running into Decorah it would complicate matters to extend the narrow gauge to this point. They could see no profit in a connection with the river road by this route, even if the line was made standard gauge, so they ordered the extension discontinued.

As the line was never built to Decorah the tax was never collected, and the right of way reverted to the original owners. A few years ago portions of this grade were secured by the county for highway purposes.

Another attempt to secure an outlet to the Mississippi river to connect with the Chicago and Northwestern near Lansing was made in 1881-82. At that time a five per cent tax was voted to the Upper Iowa and Mississippi Railway Company, but when it became evident that the attempt would be fruitless the company had the tax annulled.

In the meantime some of the influential men of Decorah got in touch with the officials of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railway companies and opened negotiations for the extension of the line of the former company from Postville to Decorah. The representatives of Decorah were promised the extension of the line on condition that a five per cent tax be voted to aid in the construction. Decorah voted the tax on April 4, 1882, but Military township voted against it. Litigation followed and through a technicality the tax was annulled. The road was built, however, commencing at a point three miles below Postville and running north through Bloomfield, Military and Springfield townships to Decorah, with Castalia and Ossian on

the line. The town of Nordness was established in Springfield township. The line was completed into Decorah and the last spike driven on October 23, 1884, and on November 20th a celebration of the event was held. A special train bearing officials of both the Rock Island and Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern companies, and citizens of Cedar Rapids and the intermediate towns to the number of several hundred, arrived in Decorah at noon, and the visitors were entertained at a banquet held in Steyer's Opera House. It was a gala occasion in which the citizens of Decorah and surrounding territory proved themselves most cordial hosts. Some years ago the road was absorbed by the Rock Island Railway, and the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern company passed out of existence.

While the southern part of the county was busy with the various projects heretofore mentioned, the northern part of the county was not idle. A road known as the Minnesota, Iowa and Southwestern was projected from LaCrosse to Charles City and Western Iowa in 1881. Hesper, Burr Oak, and Bluffton townships voted tax aid to its construction, but a technicality in the manner of ordering the vote in Bluffton township made it illegal. In a new election in 1882 the project was defeated as far as the territory above referred to was concerned. The road was never built.

In the latter eighties the Chicago, Burlington and Northern railway projected a line from New Albin, where they intended to bridge the Mississippi river, across the northern part of Iowa. Their engineers made surveys across Allamakee county and through Winneshiek to a point about four miles northwest of Decorah, when they were withdrawn. The reason for abandoning the enterprise was never made known, but that it had been definitely decided upon at one time was assured in the statement of an official to a friend who was then one of Decorah's prominent business men. He had made several visits here and during the last one he said "The next time I come to Decorah I will ride on our own train." It was subsequent to this visit that the survey was made.

Another project on which considerable time and money was spent was the Decorah, Rochester and Red River Valley line. The late William H. Valleau, then a prominent citizen and former mayor of Decorah, was its moving spirit and devoted several years in an endeavor to finance it, even going to London in hope of enlisting English capital, but without success.

The development of the interurban has given encouragement that still further transportation facilities may yet be our portion. A route for such a line was surveyed from Chatfield to Decorah, some years ago, but the one that holds out the most hope at the present time is the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester & Dubuque line, otherwise known as the "Dan Patch" line. A preliminary survey was made five years ago. The line was built and has been in operation from Minneapolis to Northfield, Minnesota, during the past two years, and is now being extended to Faribault. It might have been completed ere this had the promoters been willing to issue bonds to finance it, but they are proceeding on the laudable plan of paying the cost of construction from sales or shares of stock and thus retain ownership for the shareholders.

The topography of Winneshiek county is such that railroad construction is not easy. It may be attributed to that fact that the northeastern portion of the county is one of the few sections of the state that is noted for its distance from railroad lines.

## CHAPTER VIII

### "THE BOYS IN BLUE"

The military history of Winneshiek county is one of which a new country could well be proud. The record has been made by others at a time when its accuracy could be assured, hence we quote without hesitation from previously published historical works. Alexander's History says:

"Winneshiek county may well remember with pride the patriotism of her devoted sons in the war for the Union. Immediately on the report of the attack of the rebels on Fort Sumter, men stood ready to respond to the call of the Government for troops, and within a week steps were taken, at a public meeting held at the courthouse, to organize and offer a military company to the Government. That the people as well as officials of the county were prompt to encourage those who should step forward for their country's service, and care for the families they left behind, is shown by the following resolutions which were passed at the time by the County Board of Supervisors, and which were fully carried out:

"*Resolved*, That under the present aspect of national affairs it is the duty of every community to do its share toward the defense of our common country.

"*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the county to drill and cause to be equipped at least one company of men; that in order to do so an appropriation by the county, enabling every person to aid in his due proportion in the common defense, is most just and equitable; that the men who risk their lives and spend their time should be provided with the means to be of service as soldiers, and that an appropriation made in pursuance hereof should have precedence of all other claims; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the county funds now in the hands of the treasurer of Winneshiek county, be and the same are hereby appropriated, not exceeding the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of equipping the military company known as the "Decorah Guard," and that the Clerk of the District Court be and he is hereby authorized to issue county warrants to Levi Bullis, D. H. Hughes and C. C. Tupper, who shall constitute a committee for the negotiation of said county warrants, and the purchase of said equipments, the said committee first giving bonds to said county, conditioned that the said appropriation be used for the purpose designed, faithfully and truly.

"*Resolved*, That the families of each member of the "Decorah Guard" receive the following weekly allowance during their term of service, viz: Three dollars per week for the wife, and one dollar per week for each child, to the extent of three.'

"Many of the actors in those stirring scenes are men from among us, while several who remained at home contributed these resolutions to Sparks' History, and to it we shall be indebted for most of the remainder of this chapter.

"On the 20th of April, 1861, just six days after the booming of cannon, heard at Sumter, had sounded the alarm of civil war, a meeting of the patriotic citizens of Winneshiek county, and Decorah in particular, was held in the courthouse. It was held for the purpose of giving expression to the outraged feelings of a liberty-loving people at the atrocious stroke made against human freedom and American liberty, and to declare their adhesion to the old flag that waved from the courthouse dome above them.

"The brave who died in the mountains of Arkansas, the marshes of Louisiana, the rocky fastnesses of Georgia, and the swamps of Carolina, are remembered less vividly by their old comrades as year by year passes away, and when this generation has gone there will be few to recall the names of the youthful heroes of Winneshiek county who faced fatigue and sickness, steel and ball, and died in the fierce front of battle, facing the foe, or fell victims to malarious diseases. But while their individual memories will have perished, the cause for which they died, the cause for which they perished, the cause of liberty and humanity will remain, and future generations will derive fresh courage to struggle for the right from the glorious example of the citizen-soldiers who crushed the 'Great Rebellion.'

"It was Abraham Lincoln, our noble, martyred president, who said at Gettysburg, 'The world will not long remember what we may say here, but they can never forget what we have done here.' And it is a fitting thing that the custom of observance of May 30, of last year, as Decoration Day, has been established; a day when we can strew with flowers the graves of those who sleep in our cemeteries, and revive the memories of those who sleep in distant or unknown graves, holding the names of them all in grateful recollection, and rendering more precious the heritage they have transmitted to us and to our children.

"The meeting was called to order, and Capt. John H. Simpson made chairman. This distinction was paid the aged gentleman because of his efficiency in commanding and his co-operation with the first militia company ever organized in Decorah.

"Capt. John H. Simpson was born in Ganston, England, March 22, 1796, and died at Decorah, July 2, 1869. He had been a member of the Royal Life Guards (Body Guard of the King) and as one of the battalion, was on his way to the field when the battle of Waterloo was fought. In 1828 he came to America and settled in New York City. He came to Decorah in 1850, and here for thirteen years he lived an honest, blameless life. He was elected captain of the Decorah Guards on the formation of the company in 1859.

"There are men yet living in Winneshiek county who remember the memorable meeting over which he presided, and how his patriotism gave vent, in the greatest effort of his life, in a patriotic speech that sent the blood tingling through the veins of every listener. In his speech he tendered the remainder

of his life for the defense of his country, though the snows of 65 winters rested on his brow. He was not accepted. Younger men, with stronger sinews and harder muscles, volunteered their services.

## DECORAH GUARDS

"But one week intervened before there was a reorganization of the Decorah Guards, and men better fitted for the hardships of a soldier's life superseded the members of the original company. The Decorah Guards, as they originally were, underwent a complete transformation, only three of the old company being retained in the ranks of the new organization. The old officers resigned, and new ones were elected. This was the first company of men in Winneshiek county to enlist in defence of the stars and stripes. They were men in the full vigor of life, men of sterling worth, the very flower of our young county, as the following summary of the company indicates: The oldest men in the company (two of them) were aged 36, one 34, one 32, one 31, one 30, one 29, two 28, three 27, three 26, six 25, eight 24, seven 23, ten 22, nine 21, nine 20, eleven 19, ten 18, making a total of officers and men of 85, with an average of 22 years, 8 months and 22 days.

"The company was known as the Decorah Guards, until mustered into the service; then they assumed the name of Company D, Third Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. The officers of the new company were:

- "Captain—G. R. Willett.
- "First Lieutenant—Emilius I. Weiser.
- "Second Lieutenant—Ole A. Anderson.
- "Orderly Sergeant—Geo. McKay.
- "Second Sergeant—A. H. McMurtrie.
- "Third Sergeant—C. W. Burdick.
- "Fourth Sergeant—Robert Ray.
- "First Corporal—E. M. Farnsworth.
- "Second Corporal—Milton Ross.
- "Third Corporal—Charles P. Brown.
- "Fourth Corporal—Joseph S. Neff.

"This company was enrolled in Winneshiek county, and ordered into quarters by the governor of the state, May 21, 1861. The company left Decorah for Keokuk, their rendezvous, May 28, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service June 10, 1861. The date of the company's departure from Decorah for the scenes of war will remain a memorable one in the recollection of the hundreds of citizens who met on Court House Square to bid the boys a last farewell. The ladies had prepared a beautiful flag, which was presented to the company by Miss Carrie McNair, whom I feel compelled to more than casually mention; and in order to do so I shall be obliged to digress from the main subject.

"Carrie McNair was born in Livingston county, N. Y., about the year 1832. She came to Decorah in the year 1860, at that period in our national existence when the very atmosphere was deadened with treasonable imprecations against the Union, and when the cloud of rebellion had so spread its mammoth proportions as to nearly obscure the bright sunlight of freedom. Being a woman of strong emotional nature, a lover of liberty and union, she early identified her-

self with the Union side of the controversy that then threatened a separation of states; consequently, out of respect and appreciation of her noble nature, and her sympathy with the Union, she was chosen, of all other women, better fitted to make the presentation. In 1862, following the many bloody battles, and not infrequent disastrous engagements, Miss McNair felt that there was need of her services in the crowded hospitals. With a heartfelt desire to render the Union any services in her power, and an anxiety and willingness to alleviate the sufferings of brave men who had fallen wounded in their country's cause, she became a nurse in a soldiers' hospital at St. Louis. She served in this capacity until the end of the war, and furnished aid and comfort to thousands of poor unfortunates.

"Following the presentation of the flag, there was a presentation of Bibles and Testaments. The scene was such as never had occurred before, and was solemn, impressive and trying.

"The company, in vehicles, pursued their course to McGregor, and from thence to Keokuk, and from here, soon after, they were transported to scenes of active service, in Missouri.

"The first hard fought battle that the company engaged in was at Blue Mills, September 7, 1861, although previous to this they had been engaged in many hotly contested skirmishes. In the battle of Blue Mills the Unionists were driven back.

"Wm. B. Miller, of Company D, was killed in this engagement and Captain Willett, Second Lieut. Ole Anderson, and Priv. Wm. B. Heckert, were seriously wounded. Captain Willett's wound occasioned his resignation, and the promotion of Lieut. E. I. Weiser to the captaincy of the company.

"Lieutenant Anderson fell, wounded in the temple, and was left on the field for dead. Company D having been obliged to retreat, he fell into the enemy's hands. His body was stripped of all clothing but the pants, and he was robbed of everything by the rebels. The next day after the battle the rebels were obliged to retreat, and then Company D reclaimed his body. Lieutenant Anderson lay unconscious three weeks, and it was a question for a long time afterwards whether he would survive or not. He entered the army a perfect athlete, and a perfect man, physically and mentally, and today, from the effect of that wound, incurred at the cost of duty and bravery, he is a mere wreck of his former self. As an officer he was efficient and brave to a fault.

"The battle of Shiloh, fought on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862, was the next great conflict in which Company D participated. Under the hottest fire and amid the most trying scenes, Company D behaved itself with coolness and bravery. After passing through that fiery ordeal, a summary of the loss it sustained showed the following: Killed—Edward Knapp, Hans H. Stenson, and Samuel D. Smith. Wounded—Capt. E. I. Weiser, Corp. J. H. Farber, Geo. H. Culver, Jas. S. Daskam, Hans Gulbrandson, Thos. Heath, Peter B. Hulverson, Knudt Knudson, Matthew Kellogg, Gilbert Knudson, Henry H. Sheldon, Geo. H. Kelley, John Jas. Fisher, Hiram S. Daskam.

"The battle of Hatchie, fought on the 5th of October, was the scene of the next hotly contested engagement in which Company D took an active part.

"The company lost the following: Wounded—Capt. E. I. Weiser, Corp. C. C. Watson, Geo. Culver, Martin E. Oleson (mortally), and Martin Pepper.

"In the battle of Hatchie the second Captain of Company D was made incapable for active service by a rebel bullet.

"Captain E. I. Weiser was born in York, Pa., April 10, 1835, and emigrated from the place of his nativity to Decorah in 1856. Being possessed with a warm heart and a genial nature, and a patriotic love of country, the threats of war against the Union aroused his impulsive nature to a desire to make any sacrifice—hardship, suffering, even life itself—in his country's cause. As a result, when the first cry of a distressed country was heard, calling on her sons for protection against the assaults of traitors, Capt. E. I. Weiser was the first and foremost of her patriots in Winneshiek County to respond. Capt. E. I. Weiser was the first man to enlist from Winneshiek County in his country's service in the late Civil war. He enlisted as a high private in Company D, and was elected first Lieutenant at the first election held by the company.

"Capt. E. I. Weiser participated in many warm skirmishes and two hard-fought battles. He was wounded at Shiloh; also at Hatchie, on the 5th of October, 1862. The wound he received at Hatchie disabled him for further active military service during the war. Eight months he was detained in the hospital by his wound, and seven of these eight months he was compelled to lie in one position—on his back. He was with his company one week while it was at Memphis. While here the boys of Company D presented him with a silver pitcher, as a mark of their regard and the appreciation they had for him as a soldier and commander. Capt. Weiser was brave, cool, efficient, and possessed all the noble attributes requisite in a successful commander. His physical disability is a glorious certificate of his bravery.

"Company D next went to Memphis where it remained six months, and from thence to Vicksburg. They were engaged in the siege of Vicksburg up to the date of its surrender. Vicksburg surrendered July 4, 1863. The white flag was raised on every fort at 9 A. M. on the 3d. The rebels sent out a flag of truce, and wished to surrender on conditions. Gen. Grant sent back word that nothing but an unconditional surrender would be accepted. On the 3d, when the white flags were hoisted, all firing ceased. The rebels came outside of their works and held a sociable with our boys. On the 4th of July, at 10 A. M., the rebels marched outside of their works, were drawn up in a line, and stacked their arms, and promptly at 11 A. M. the stars and stripes proudly floated over the rebel works.

"In this siege, on the 26th of June, Thomas Kelly, of Company D, was mortally wounded. He lived about a week, having won, in dying, the honor of being the bravest among the brave.

"The Third regiment received orders on the 5th to take up their line of march for Black River, to look after Johnston, who, with a large force had been prowling in the rear. On the 12th of July, 1863, about 225 men of the Third Iowa, among which number were many of Company D, made an assault on rebel works, behind which were ensconced about 10,000 of Johnston's men. The result of the assault was a whirlwind of death. In the first volley fired by the enemy 125 out of the original 225 were almost instantly mowed down. There were about 800 men engaged, but 225 who ventured right into the jaws of this fiery hell. The commander in charge was immediately relieved of command.

"On the 7th of July Johnston evacuated Jackson, the scene of the last engage-

ment, and here, in rebel hospitals, were found the wounded who had survived the disastrous charge of the 12th inst. Among the number was Lieutenant McMurtrie, who had both legs broken by rebel shots. His right leg had been wounded with a piece of shell, and was so badly shattered that amputation was necessary. The left leg had been broken by a minie ball.

"It was found necessary, on the 21st of July, to remove the wounded to Vicksburg. The journey had to be made in ambulances. Lieutenant McMurtrie was among the unfortunates that had to submit to the removal. Words cannot express the suffering this trip entailed upon him in his weakened condition.

"On the 23d he was placed on a hospital boat to be sent North, but died before the boat left the wharf, at 2 p. m., July 25, 1863.

"Lieutenant McMurtrie was born at Homer, Michigan, June 30, 1837. He came to Iowa in 1856. He was promoted first lieutenant of Company D, May 21, 1862.

"Lieutenant McMurtrie was endowed with a great moral character, which lost none of its noble attributes by his army career. He died a brave soldier, lamented by his comrades in arms and all who knew him.

"C. W. Burdick was promoted first lieutenant, to fill the vacancy caused by Lieutenant McMurtrie's death, which post of duty he held from that time until his three years enlistment had expired. At this time Lieutenant Burdick was the only commissioned officer in the company. During three years' service, Lieutenant Burdick was off duty but twelve days. He took an active part in every skirmish and battle in which his company was engaged, and was never touched by an enemy's fire. Few men, and I doubt if any, in Iowa can show a better record than this.

"The engagement at Jackson was the last of any note in which Company D took an active part. The time of enlistment of Company D expired on the 10th of June, 1864. The Company was stationed at Kingston, Georgia. All that did not reenlist, started home to be mustered out of the service. Many of the boys remained. At the memorable battle of Atlanta, fought July 22d, the Third Iowa literally fought itself to death.

"The boys of the Third and Company D went into this battle with that Spartan valor that had characterized them, individually and collectively, in many a hard fought engagement. As the battle grew raging hot and desperate, a handful of our undaunted men, among whom were a remnant of Company D, gathered amidst the pelting shower of shot and shell, and there around our flag and banner they stood its guard in the most perilous moments. The color-bearer, the bravest of the brave, relinquished his hold by death alone. Still the mass stood there fighting madly for its defence. Their number fast decreasing by death, their hopes began to fail, and as they surrendered themselves to the enemy, they tore the emblem of our nationality, and regimental designation, into pieces and into shreds, which concealed, they proudly brought back to us, untouched and unsoiled by impious and traitorous hands.

#### COMPANY H—"IOWA GREY HOUNDS"

"Company H, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, was organized at Decorah, in the months of August and September, 1861, and was mustered into service at Dubuque, on the 24th of September, the same year.





CONCRETE BRIDGE OVER UPPER IOWA RIVER, DECORAH



PULPIT ROCK, DECORAH



"After remaining at Camp Union, Dubuque, until the middle of October, the regiment was sent to St. Louis, and went into camp at Benton barracks. A few weeks were passed in the usual routine of camp duty, when the regiment was ordered to Pacific City, Missouri, and passed some little time in guarding railroads and arresting guerrillas. During this time the regiment was perfecting its discipline; and the diseases incidental to the climate and season, joined to the hardships of camp life, were thinning the ranks of all men who were deficient in physical vigor.

"When the expedition against Price was organized, the Ninth was ordered to Rolla, Missouri, and after a week spent in camp at that place, started on the march for Springfield. The march was made in winter, and the crossing of the Gasconade, the roads knee-deep in mud, and the cold, inclement weather tested the endurance of the men, and when the regiment was placed in the advance, after the capture of Springfield, it earned its title, 'The Iowa Greyhounds,' by marching one hundred and thirty-five miles in four days in pursuit of Price. Company H received its 'baptism of fire' at Pea Ridge, and the day before the fight marched forty miles on a half-pint of cornmeal to the man. It mustered fifty-two men when the fight opened; twenty-two were unwounded at the close of the struggle.

"On that field the boys, most of them beardless, who six months before were laboring on farms and in workshops, showed themselves able to defeat the practiced riflemen of Missouri and Arkansas, the rangers of Texas, and the trained regiments of Louisiana.

"The march across Arkansas, in the summer of 1862, followed the conflict at Pea Ridge. Some time was passed in camp Helena and in December the regiment took part in the first attack on Vicksburg. The expedition up the dark Yazoo and its unfortunate results, were amply avenged at Arkansas Post, January 10, 1863.

"In all the operations that culminated in the capture of Vicksburg the Ninth was actively engaged—from digging in the canal to storming rifle-pits and batteries. And in the charge on the 22d of May, Company H lost eighteen men killed and wounded out of a total twenty-six men in action, and of these nine were killed on the field or mortally wounded. From Vicksburg to Jackson, thence back to Vicksburg, up the river to Memphis, thence to Tusculumbia, where a severe conflict took place, then up the sides of Lookout mountain, under the lead of Osterhaus, followed by a rapid pursuit of the routed foes, and the fight at Ringgold, is a brief outline of the work Company H took part in during 1863. The majority of the company re-enlisted as veterans, and after their return from furlough the boys found themselves a part of the mighty host Sherman was about to lead 'to the sea.'

"For seventy days from the opening of this memorable campaign, members of Company H who participated in the operations, were constantly under fire, with perhaps slight intermission prior to the crossing of the Chattahoochee. The fights at Resaca, New Hope church, Burnt Hickory and Kenesaw mountain, showed the valor and discipline of the Ninth. On the 22d of July the Ninth was one of the Iowa regiments that, under the eye of Sherman, recaptured the battery of DeGress, and drove the rebels, at the bayonet's point, from the entrenched line they had wrested from the loyalists. At Ezra's church, on the 28th

of July, and at Jonesboro, where the fate of Atlanta was decided, the boys of Company H were actively engaged.

"After the capture of Atlanta and the pursuit of Hood, who was left to the 'tender mercies' of Thomas, the boys followed Sherman to the sea, and Company H furnished its full quota of able and accomplished 'bummers.' From Savannah the company marched through the Carolinas, taking part in any 'little unpleasantness' that came in the way, and actively participating in the closing fight at Bentonville. After resting a few days at Raleigh, the regiment marched to Washington and took part in the 'Grand Review,' and was shortly after mustered out of the service at Louisville, Kentucky.

"That Company H did its whole duty, the following figures, taken from the adjutant general's report, prove:

"Company H, 9th Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	53
"Total killed and died of wounds.....	19
"Company D, 3d Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	33
"Total killed and died of wounds.....	9
"Company G, 12th Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	9
"Total killed and died of wounds.....	4
"Company E, 38th Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	0
"Company K, 38th Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	1
"Total killed and died of wounds.....	1
"Company D, 38th Iowa—Total killed and wounded.....	1
"Total killed and died of wounds.....	1

"The above table shows the extent of the loss sustained by Company H in battle, as compared with the reported losses of the other companies organized in this county from the same cause. I do not think the above figures do full justice to Companies E, K and D, Thirty-eighth Iowa, for no regiment organized in the country suffered to such an extent by disease. Stationed in localities where to breathe the air was to inhale death, the boys of Companies E, D and K performed their allotted duty, sustained by naught save the feeling of patriotism, and faced death uncheered by 'the shout of victory, the rapture of the strife.'

"Died of disease: Company D, 3d Iowa, 10; Company H, 9th Iowa, 15; Company G, 12th Iowa, 17; Company E, 38th Iowa, 34; Company D, 38th Iowa, 37; Company K, 38th Iowa, 37.

"Company H, at the time it was mustered in, was commanded by M. A. Moore, who achieved no particular distinction. He resigned in the spring of 1863, and was succeeded by O. M. Bliss, who enlisted as a private and secured promotion by meritorious services. Captain Bliss was as true a soldier as ever drew a sword. Brave, earnest and patriotic, he 'dared to lead where any dared to follow.' After facing death on twenty fields he died from injuries received by a fall from his horse while acting as major, after the capture of Atlanta. J. H. Phillips succeeded to the captaincy, and commanded the company until its service was ended.

"In writing this brief sketch of the career of Company H, embracing a period of nearly four years, and services performed in eight states, from the Ozark mountains to the Atlantic ocean, a hundred incidents and memories crowd on the mind

that space will not permit me to relate. Nearly sixteen years have elapsed since 'we took the oath of muster with right hand raised to heaven,' and in looking back, the boys of Company H will instinctively date their memory of army life from the bitter, persistent struggle in the wild ravines of the Ozark, where their first blood was shed. And during all subsequent campaigning, Pea Ridge was the standard whereby to measure the severity of the conflict. And the boys of the Ninth will ever remember, with proud gratification, the tribute their valor received from the ladies of Boston—a stand of colors emblazoned with the name of their fiercest battle.

## COMPANY G, TWELFTH IOWA

"The third company raised in the county was one that became Company G, Twelfth Iowa. It was enrolled at Decorah in September, 1861, ordered into quarters at Dubuque, September 30, and mustered into the United States service November 5, 1861. It was officered as follows:

"Captain—C. C. Tupper.

"First Lieutenant—L. D. Townsley.

"Second Lieutenant—J. F. Nickerson.

"Orderly Sergeant—J. E. Simpson.

"The company became a portion of the regiment from the date of its muster in, and from that time on until disbanded always acted well its part. Company G was noted in its regiment for its excellent moral status and soldierly efficiency. It saw hard service, and took an active part in the following hotly-contested battles: Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, siege of Corinth, Corinth, Jackson, Vicksburg, Jackson siege and capture, Brandon, Tupelo, Nashville and Brentwood Hill. Besides these battles, the company did excellent service as skirmishers. The company early met with a severe loss in the death of its first captain, C. C. Tupper.

"Captain C. C. Tupper was born at Auburn, New York, December 24, 1832, and came to Decorah in May, 1857. He had received a liberal education, and prior to taking a residence in Iowa had served as agent of the Associated Press and local manager of the telegraph offices at Buffalo and St. Louis. He was admitted to the bar soon after his arrival, but for a brief time edited the Decorah Journal, a democratic newspaper. When the war broke out he took an active and intensely patriotic interest in every movement. Military life was always attractive to him, and he was unusually well versed in the manual of arms. He assisted in organizing the two companies from Winneshiek county that found place in the Third and Ninth regiments, and helped prepare them for the field. When it became evident that a third company must be drawn from the county, all eyes turned toward Captain Tupper to take its lead. Although of a frail constitution, and physically unfitted for the severe trials of army life, his patriotism overrode all prudence, and he consented. The company was rapidly recruited, and assigned to the Twelfth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. But Captain Tupper's association with the company was only a brief one. He was idolized by his men, beloved by all his associate officers, and thoroughly respected by his superiors. But these could not protect and defend him from disease and death. While going from Dubuque to St. Louis with the regiment he caught a severe cold, and in

six weeks died at Benton Barracks, in St. Louis, a victim of capillary bronchitis. In his death the terrible evils of war was first brought directly home to the community of which he had been a member. He had been the leader in the best social circles, the active abettor of every public enterprise, and his death carried sadness and mourning to almost every household in the county. Of friends who mourned his death there were scores upon scores; of enemies, none.

"The sad event narrated above necessitated the promotion of Lieut. L. D. Townsley to the captaincy of the company, which office he held until mustered out of the service, November 25, 1864. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh, in which engagement he sustained a severe wound in the left arm, and suffered with the rest of his brother officers the hardships of prison life. After his exchange he was often employed in important detached duties, which he always filled with credit to himself and country. He served out his entire term of service, and is now residing in Chicago.

"Lieut. J. F. Nickerson was made first lieutenant, and was stunned at the battle of Fort Donelson with what was supposed to be a solid shot from the enemy's batteries. From this he never recovered, was sick and ill the morning of the Shiloh fight, but persisted in going out with his company to the front, was taken prisoner, and died in rebel prison at Montgomery, Alabama, May 31, 1862. Kind but firm, a noble, brave man, beloved by his friends and all who knew him, a martyr to the cause.

"Orderly Sergeant J. E. Simpson was promoted to be second lieutenant, but resigned on account of ill-health in 1862, and is now living in Decorah.

"A. A. Burdick, second sergeant, was made orderly and then first lieutenant, and was killed at the battle of Tupelo, July 14, 1864. He was the quartermaster of the regiment, and had been ordered to the rear with his train; but after seeing his wagons properly 'parked' he came to the front, and volunteered to assist in bringing forward ammunition. While thus engaged he was struck by a shell and instantly killed. He died as a soldier would wish to die, with his face to the enemy and in the heat of battle. Lamented and mourned by all who knew him, no better man or braver soldier ever offered up his life that his country might be saved.

"Anton E. Anderson, third sergeant, became second lieutenant, served with credit to himself until mustered out, at expiration of term of service, December, 1864, and died at his farm, some years after the war, near Eldorado, Iowa.

"Robert A. Gibson, fifth sergeant, became orderly sergeant, March 27, 1863, was promoted to first lieutenant December 2, 1864, became captain of his company January 23, 1865, and for a time was captain and provost marshal at Selma, Alabama, and served with great credit to himself to the end of the war. He was then appointed second lieutenant in the regular army, and was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol at Fort Randall in 1867.

"Jacob H. Womeldorf, first corporal, became fifth sergeant, was taken prisoner with his company at Shiloh; was held prisoner for some time, and suffered great hardships that so broke down his health as to compel him to return home in 1863. He was afterward sheriff of Winneshiek county.

"Nelson B. Burdick was eighth corporal, and but a youth at school when he went into the service. He contracted the measles at Benton Barracks, and was never well afterwards. He took part in the battles of Fort Henry, Donelson and

Shiloh. Warm-hearted, generous towards all, he became a universal favorite. The hardships endured in rebel prisons were too much for his impaired frame. He reached home and died among his friends.

"John Steen, private, became quartermaster sergeant in 1864, and his whole term of service to the end was marked with ability and efficiency. Since the war he has held several positions of responsibility and trust, and is now living at Waloo, Nebraska.

"The regiment was ordered to Davenport for final pay and discharge, January 25, 1866.

#### THREE MORE COMPANIES

"In 1863 Winneshiek county again came to the front and contributed, for the suppression of the rebellion, three companies in addition to the brave men she had before sent. The companies were, respectively, D, K and E, and formed a part of the Thirty-eighth Regiment. Henry A. Cleghorn was captain of Company E.

"Company K was officered as follows:

"Captain—Samuel B. Califf.

"First Lieutenant—Levi Freeman.

"The officers of Company D were:

"Captain—George R. Humphreys.

"First Lieutenant—Newton Richards.

"Second Lieutenant—E. J. Barker.

"These companies were mustered into service at Camp Randall, Dubuque, Iowa. From here they were transferred to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, where they spent Christmas and New Years, 1863-4. They were next transferred to Fort Thompson, which they retained charge of nearly six months.

"The Thirty-eighth Regiment was next transferred to the main forces then besieging Vicksburg. In this siege the Thirty-eighth, including the three companies from Winneshiek county, formed the extreme left of the Union line. Their position was in the very heart of a malarious swamp, and here was contracted the germ of a disease which afterwards carried off these brave men by the hundreds. Within ten days after the surrender of Vicksburg the Thirty-eighth was ordered to Yazoo City, on the Yazoo river. At Yazoo City the regiment remained about a week. While there the disease bred in the swamp opposite Vicksburg began to break out, and many men died. The regiment returned to Vicksburg. They were next ordered to Port Hudson to aid in the subjugation of that place, but did not reach the scene of action until the stronghold had fallen. The Thirty-eighth remained at Port Hudson about a month, and while here the disease contracted in the swamps broke out in all its virulence. So universal was the prostration of the soldiers, that during the month, there were on an average from three to fifteen only in the whole regiment that reported able for duty. Almost hourly the death of a companion in arms was announced to his sick and dying comrades. It was while lying here that the regiment met with its severest losses. Here it was they lost their beloved colonel.

"D. H. Hughes was commissioned colonel of the Thirty-eighth Regiment by Gov. Samuel Kirkwood. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, Sep-

tember, 1831, and died Aug. 7, 1863. He died from the disease which carried almost universal death to his entire regiment. Colonel Hughes graduated at the Albany Normal Institute in 1853. In 1854 he was employed on the Prairie Farmer, Chicago. He married Adaliza Matteson, in Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, in March, 1855, and immediately thereafter came to Decorah, engaging in the practice of law. Colonel Hughes was a man of commanding stature, fine presence, the soul of honor, and became a lawyer of considerable repute. He was a democrat in politics, but was elected county judge of Winneshiek county in the fall of 1859, notwithstanding the county then, as now, was of strong republican complexion. He was the candidate of his party for state senator in the fall of 1861, and only failed of an election of nine votes. The colonel was a war democrat from the outset, and pending the consideration of a petition of prominent republicans and democrats to become an independent candidate for judge of the district court of the tenth judicial district, hearing the cry of his country for more troops, Judge Hughes promptly cast aside his political opportunity to enter upon a patriotic duty; and, warmly espousing her cause, made a stirring canvass of the county in that behalf, and thus drifted into the army.

Colonel Hughes, while stationed at New Madrid, was called to St. Louis as judge advocate in some trials then pending, and from his bearing on that occasion, and the ability he displayed, upon the conclusion of the trials the court (and it was a court of strangers to him, too) unanimously recommended his promotion to brigadier-general, which document, however, he would not allow to go forward, alleging as a reason his brief experience as a military commander, and that there were already lives enough under his charge. Such was his modesty and noble character. Colonel Hughes died respected and beloved by all his soldiers, and not more universal was the mourning in camp over the death of their commander than that of his host of friends at home.

The Thirty-eighth took their departure from Port Hudson for New Orleans, where they remained about three months. It was next transferred to Point Isabel, on the Rio Grande river. After leaving Port Hudson Company E was without a commissioned officer for nearly a year. The regiment was next sent to Brownsville, Texas. While here Quartermaster T. R. Crandall was made captain of Company E, and Walter Green was made its first lieutenant.

August, 1864, again found the regiment in New Orleans. From here it was sent to Morganzie Bend. While at Morganzie Bend the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-eighth were consolidated, and afterwards known as the Thirty-fourth. The new regiment numbered 1,056 men. Company E, of Winneshiek, and Company F, of Fayette, were likewise consolidated, and afterward known as Company K. Captain Rogers, of Company F, and Lieutenant Green, were relieved of duty, and T. R. Crandall made captain. H. T. Shumaker, of the original Company F, was made first lieutenant, and O. J. Clark made second lieutenant. Companies D and K were likewise consolidated. The Thirty-fourth participated in the siege of Fort Gains and Fort Morgan, on Mobile Bay, and here it remained until these forts capitulated. The Thirty-fourth was also present at the charge on Fort Fisher. The regiment was engaged in the last battle of the war, which was the taking of Fort Blakesly, the day before Lee's surrender. In this engagement, in just eighteen minutes, over 1,500 Union soldiers were slain and



wounded. The regiment was mustered out of the service at Houston, Texas, but did not disband until it reached Davenport.

COMPANY D, SIXTH IOWA CAVALRY

"Company D, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, was the last company donated to the Union cause by Winneshiek county. Although the men composing this company enlisted with the intention and expectation of fighting rebels, they were transferred to other fields of duty—which was even more undesirable—that of fighting Indians. The company was mustered into the United States service in February, 1863, with the following officers:

"Captain—T. W. Burdick.

"First Lieutenant—Sherman Page.

"Second Lieutenant—Timothy Fim.

"Orderly Sergeant—W. H. Fannon.

"The United States forces, in which was Company K, had several engagements with the Indians, each time coming out victorious, with great loss to the Indians and small loss to themselves."

In 1840, Fort Atkinson was erected to provide headquarters for the supervision of the Winnebago Indians and to protect them from predatory bands from other tribes. The fort was commenced June 2, 1840.

In June, 1842, Old Mission, about four miles southeast of Fort Atkinson, was established for the education of the Indians.

In 1840 a government teamster froze to death between Joel Post's and Fort Atkinson.

June 6, 1841, the first white child, Mary Jane Tupper, was born at Fort Atkinson.

In 1843, first gristmill, erected by Colonel Thomas, of Old Mission.

In 1846, Capt. E. V. Summer, afterwards General Summer, who commanded at the fort from the first, left to join the United States army in the Mexican war, and Capt. James Morgan, of Burlington, succeeded to the command of the infantry, and Capt. John Parker, of Dubuque, to the command of the cavalry.

In 1847, Captain Morgan's company was mustered out, and Captain Parker given charge of the fort till the Indians were removed in 1848.

In 1848, Gotlob and Gotleib Kruman and others are said to have come and settled near Fort Atkinson. Details are given elsewhere.

In 1848 the Winnebago Indians were ordered removed and the permanent settlement of the county commenced; for details of which, see earlier chapters and the township histories in succeeding chapters.

Fort Atkinson was abandoned as a military post in 1848, but it remained in charge of the Government until 1853, when it was sold at auction.

In 1849, first settlement of Decorah by Wm. Day and family—a notable event in county history.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

For many years no company of militia has been credited to Winneshiek county, and for that reason more than any other there is no record that will give accurate

details of the number who enlisted from this community in the Spanish-American war of 1898.

The patriotic spirit was not lacking, however; we recall a number who joined the company at Waukon. There were others, claiming Decorah as their home, who were members of the United States troops or of the militia in other states who saw service in the Philippines. The records do not disclose any fatalities among those who went from Winneshiek, although several contracted fever in camp.

## CHAPTER IX

### AGRICULTURE AND DAIRYING

It seems to have been ordained from the first that Winneshiek county would be an agricultural community. As is generally the case in newly opened country, the first settlers came here in search of land. There is a sense of security about the possession of a farm that begets confidence, and when one adds to this the courage and resourcefulness of the average pioneer there is formed a partnership that fails less often than any that may be found in the line of mercantile pursuits.

History repeats itself each year, when the country is new, in the endeavor of the settler to raise a wheat crop. He must eat to live and his first thought, even though it may not be breathed in prayer on bended knee, is—"Give us this day our daily bread." Forthwith he sets about breaking a patch of ground and from the little store of grain he has brought with him he sows it to wheat, trusting that Providence will smile upon his efforts and in due time he will be able to take to the mill a crop that will furnish his family with the staff of life during the long winter months before he can again reap a harvest.

The early comers to Winneshiek county found a country that was fair to look upon. First and all important there were streams of clear, pure water. Whether it was on upland prairie or along the banks of the streams there was an inviting growth of trees, shrubs, grass, and flowers, that told their own story of a fertile soil that only awaited the efforts of mankind to start it on its mission of feeding the thousands that were soon to make their homes here.

Wheat raising was at first the chief industry. The soil seemed to be especially adapted to this grain, and while in some years the crop was lighter than in others, there was a general increase in yield that soon made Winneshiek one of the banner wheat counties in Iowa. It is a matter of record that at one time our county was rated as fourth in wheat production in the United States. So confident were the majority of settlers in the ability of the soil to maintain its fertility that a system of re-cropping was followed that amounted to what today would be considered the most ruthless soil robbery. There could be but one result from this course. Failure was bound to come, and come it did along in the middle seventies. Many were the farmers who were caught in the net of over-confidence and mismanagement. Some were unable to finance the change

from one method of farming to another and as a result they were compelled to gather together what they could from the wreck and try their fortunes in a new country. Minnesota and the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas claimed the larger number of these, and many of them, profiting by their experience here, won enviable success as pioneers in their new homes.

While the exodus was of considerable proportions Winneshieki county was by no means depopulated. There remained behind that element that had been satisfied to make less haste, but more permanent footing on the road to success—thoughtful, prudent men who had learned the lesson of doing well that thing that was worth doing at all, and knowing first the course they wished to pursue and then following it with all the force and intelligence they could bring to bear. These men had early seen the trend of events and while their grain-raising neighbors were bending all their efforts toward the production of one crop, they had quietly been busy trying out other grains—barley, oats, corn, flax, clover,—with some pigs and chickens, horses, cows and sheep, intelligently sandwiched in between. These were the pioneers in diversified farming in this community. Soon they began to give their attention to dairying and when a copartnership with Madam Cow had been firmly established Winneshieki county began to come into her own.

Long ere this some of the men of investigating turn of mind had begun to give their attention to the development of corn and in several instances with marked success. One of the most notable efforts in this direction was conducted by A. L. Goddard, one of the sons of Josiah Goddard, prominently mentioned in connection with the organization of the county. The Goddards brought to the county some of the first, if not the very first corn of more than passable quality. They appreciated fully the value of good seed and each year made careful selection so that the succeeding crop would not fail. A few years later A. L. Goddard became impressed with the idea of developing a kind of corn that would be especially adapted to this climate, and his efforts were crowned with success in the production of "Pride of the North," a variety that was eagerly sought by farmers throughout this section. One of the most prominent seed handling firms in the United States purchased Mr. Goddard's entire crop one year and through this avenue "Pride of the North" became known throughout the corn producing states of the Union. Great as was Mr. Goddard's success with this variety, he was satisfied that he could produce a better, and straightway set about the task. Today his "Silver King" white dent corn is grown in a wide area, and at the agricultural experiment stations of the middle west it is regarded as superior in its qualities for the northern climate.

In paying this tribute to the work of Mr. Goddard, I have degressed somewhat from the main subject of this chapter. But it is not a long stride from the days of those early efforts in diversified farming to the present time. Those clear-thinking men who saw in the distance a day of better things for the farmer in this community showed the courage of their convictions by adding to their possessions some of those farms that were abandoned by the wheat farmers, and today their judgment is confirmed by the wealth that is everywhere in evidence as one drives up the valleys and out into the high lands.

Along with better farming has grown the live stock industry. At one time Winneshieki county boasted of some of the best and largest herds of full blood

cattle in Iowa. It was not an uncommon thing then for a particularly choice animal to sell at \$250.00 to \$350.00. The writer remembers with much interest of listening to the negotiations that took place one day at the county fair between Samuel Aiken of Decorah and Mons Foss of Canoe township for a cow owned by the latter. These men were rival exhibitors in the Holstein classes, but Mr. Aiken had the larger and better herd. The cow in question was an exceptionally handsome one, and no one—not even Mr. Aiken—could resist admiring her. It was while he was thus engaged that I heard him say:

"That's a pretty nice cow you have there, Mons. Is she for sale?"

"Yes, I think she is a nice animal, but I don't care to sell her," replied Mr. Foss.

"How much will you take for her?" was Mr. Aiken's next question.

Mr. Foss was reluctant to set a price, but finally he said that he would have to have \$360.00 for her. Gently rubbing his hand over her broad hips Mr. Aiken replied in a quiet tone, "Well, Mons, I guess she's mine."

I was the only witness to the transaction—no others were near—and it was not a trick of the trade to gain publicity, for at that time I was only a boy and my "nose for news," as the expression goes among newspaper men, had not been developed.

It was such transactions as these that made the fancy stock business boom. Other herds that were located or owned in the county were the Shorthorns of L. R. Brown and William Goocher of Orleans township, and John McHugh, who resided in Cresco, H. L. Coffeen and Capt. Gardner of Decorah, A. Lincoln and John Wingate of Hesper, the Red Polled cattle of S. A. Converse of Cresco, the Black Polled cattle of Robert Simpson of Burr Oak, and the Jerseys of D. A. Leach of Freeport. These were notable herds that are readily recalled by all who were familiar with county affairs at that time. Others were engaged in a less pretentious way.

There were also numerous individual horses of standard or draft breeding that helped to sustain the prestige of the county as a breeding center.

The prices of blooded cattle throughout the country became so inflated that a slump was inevitable, and when it came, nearly all the herds above mentioned were dispersed, but the value of good stock had been so thoroughly demonstrated and prices became so reasonable that many were encouraged to improve their holdings by the addition of full blooded animals, and it is a fact beyond contradiction that today there are more full blood animals on Winneshiek county farms than at any previous time. This is notably true of cattle, swine, and sheep, while the improvement in horses has been very marked and has resulted in making this an exceptionally good horse market.

During the past three years interest has been developed in the growing of alfalfa. In 1911 there were but two and three-quarters acres reported by assessors, but the reports of 1913 show a total of forty-three acres. The interest in this crop is growing and the next two or three years will see a large increase in the acreage devoted thereto.

Probably no one industry has done more to develop the worth of Winneshiek farms than dairying. It may be truthfully said that William Beard, one of the pioneer settlers of Frankville township, was the foster parent of the business. Always a great lover of cattle, long before the agitation that developed the

creamery, he was engaged in making and selling from his farm what was, for those days, a large amount of superior butter. Early in the seventies he began to give serious consideration to the establishment of a creamery in Decorah and, encouraged by some of the influential business men, he finally embarked in the enterprise. Like all other new undertakings there were many obstacles to be overcome. It was not always easy to secure cream, and especially in the condition required, while on the other hand there was a prejudice in the minds of many against man and machinery-made butter. It is no secret that many times Mr. Beard was thoroughly discouraged and sorely tempted to give up, but it was not his nature to be overcome by a project, once he had convinced himself that he could make it succeed, and ere he passed to his reward he had the satisfaction of knowing that his confidence in the ultimate development of the creamery business had been vindicated. Since that day many changes in methods have taken place and what was then a model in completeness would not now be considered for an instant. Then there were numerous small concerns working independently, with an uncertain market for their product. Today the industry has grown to such proportions that nearly every state has its dairy commissioner. Iowa was one of the first and foremost states in the movement, and Winneshiek was a pioneer in the enterprise. There may not be today as many creameries within our borders as there were a few years ago, but each year sees a steady upward trend in quantity and quality, while the demand for good butter has had the tendency to develop a host of good butter makers who depend entirely upon the local market for the sale of strictly dairy butter to people who for economic as well as other reasons prefer it to the creamery product.





Fifth Ward School



Breckenridge School



Public School  
A GROUP OF DECORAH SCHOOL BUILDINGS



## CHAPTER X

### THE SCHOOLS

The history of education in Winneshiek county, in most respects, is not unlike the history of every other county in Iowa or in the United States, for that matter. It may be claimed that it was dissimilar in the early days, prior to the coming of civilization, in that the first school was a mission school conducted by Rev. Daniel Lowry, a Presbyterian minister sent here by the Government to work among the Indians. As is related elsewhere in this volume, he built the schools at the mission five miles south of Fort Atkinson and conducted them for several years. There is no record to show that any other school existed in the county between the time of his coming in 1842 up to 1852, except as a school for the children of the post may have been maintained at Fort Atkinson.

#### THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL

In 1852 the first school in the county was taught by Mary Hanson, in a stone schoolhouse erected almost on the spot where the corners of Decorah, Glenwood, Springfield and Frankville townships meet. Here the youths of that section were given their first introduction to the English language. One of these youths, now a man well along in the sixties, tells me that in this *public* school he learned his "a b c's," while in *private* from Miss Hanson he also learned his first English sentence. It was "Blow your nose, John," and he says during the intervening years his teacher has often reminded him of this incident.

Credit for the existence of this school is due to the sturdy Norwegian settlers who acquired homes in that section in 1850. This may be considered a private undertaking, for at that time the school system was not sufficiently organized to be on a substantial footing.

Miss Hanson became the wife of Lieut. Ole A. Anderson, and today is living a serene old age at her home in Decorah, honored by all who know her for her devotion to her husband. When he enlisted in the War of the Rebellion he was considered one of the most promising young men in Winneshiek county. In an early engagement he received a wound that, though he lived until some four or five years ago, incapacitated him for the balance of his life.

In the following year (1853) school matters began to take definite shape. A schoolhouse was built in Decorah and Theodore W. Burdick, who had just come from Pennsylvania with his parents, was engaged to teach. The succeeding year he entered the office of the county treasurer, leaving a vacancy in the school which was filled temporarily by a man destined to be his lifelong friend. The story of how this teacher was engaged and his subsequent resignation reads now as an amusing incident and is thus told in Alexander's History:

"The teacher employed was a young man in the greenness of his youth, fresh from Vermont, seeking a location for the practice of medicine. He had come in through Monona, and was greatly discouraged by the residents here, so far as the prospects of medical practice was concerned, but had the offer of the school at \$30 per month, if he could pass examination. An examining committee was appointed and a day set for the ordeal. The day came, and with it one of the committee, who examined him, found him qualified, and gave him a certificate. He commenced school, taught a month, flogged a child of one of the directors, and raised quite an excitement in the district thereby. By this time his practice had commenced; he didn't care whether he taught or not. The result was, another man took the school off his hands and he devoted himself to his profession. His name was H. C. Bullis. The committee-man who examined him and gave him his certificate was Levi Bullis."

Dr. Bullis was followed by Charley Allen, who was for many years familiar to the early-day residents and is still recalled by the pioneers remaining here.

To follow on down the line and make a chronological record of the changes that inevitably followed in the ranks of teachers and the methods of teaching would be attempting the impossible. The record does not exist and even if it did it would be of little value and of less interest to the readers of this book. Suffice it to say that from those early days to the present time the cause of education has not lagged in Winneshiek county for the want of ready supporters.

From the records available at this time we learn that schools were being established quite generally throughout the county by the year 1856. Pleasant township seems to have been somewhat ahead of others in that a schoolhouse was built in Locust Lane in 1854.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

Up to the later seventies all of the schools of the county were known as public or graded schools. It was due to the initiative of the late H. L. Coffeen, then principal of the Decorah school (in the early eighties), that the high school system was introduced into the county. The first class was graduated in 1881, and the success that was attained in Decorah has been influential in broadening the work of the schools throughout the county generally. Where there were then meagre equipments of apparatus, reference books, maps, etc., today the best schools of the county have fine structures with modern appointments, equipments adequate to carry on experiments in the sciences where they are taught, libraries of the best reference and literary works, and corps of teachers competent to guide the scholars through both common and higher branches as well as music, manual training, drawing, painting, etc. In the case of Decorah high school a department of domestic science is included in the course for the coming year, and the school

building is undergoing rearrangement to provide space for it, the building of a new heating plant and the removal of the boilers from the basement making it possible.

#### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Another most helpful influence in local educational fields has been the private school.

In the very early days Sherman Page, a prominent educator, conducted the Winneshiek Normal Institute. It was suspended during the war and afterward revived for a short time.

#### DECORAH INSTITUTE

About this time John Breckenridge came to Decorah as principal of the public school and was in all ways successful. While he was busy in this work there revolved in his mind thoughts of the country boy and girl who, for one cause or another, had failed to grasp or been deprived of the opportunities that were available in the country district, had grown almost to manhood and womanhood, were too diffident or bashful to take their places in the classes of scholars much younger than they, and who would undoubtedly ridicule them for their ignorance and mistakes. These thoughts crystallized in the founding of Decorah Institute, which opened in September, 1874. Here the young man and young woman could come, confident that they would be met by others that had fared no better than they. Mr. Breckenridge was quick to see that, in a community where foreign languages were so commonly spoken, success could be courted by acquiring at least a fair understanding of them. He had a ready command of German, and it was not a difficult matter for him to add to that a knowledge of Norwegian that enabled him to converse fluently with all who could not understand or speak English. Fortified in this manner, it was not long before his school acquired a splendid reputation for the excellence of instruction given and for the high moral and intellectual training that was given its pupils. The ranks of teachers throughout the middle west muster scores of men and women whose foundation in education was acquired in Decorah Institute—men and women who have honored the cause of education in their attainment as citizens, in business, professional and social spheres.

Mr. Breckenridge died on April 21, 1899, during the height of his activities as an instructor. While the school that he founded has ceased to exist, its influence is still manifest wherever its graduates may be found.

#### VALDER COLLEGE

Another private school—one that is still in existence and whose vigor increases each year—is Valder College, established in 1888 by Prof. Charles H. Valder. When in his early manhood Mr. Valder determined to make education his life's work, he chose first to perfect himself as a penman. His success brought him to Decorah where, for a number of years, he was in charge of the depart-

ment of penmanship in the Decorah public schools. He, too, had a vision, but it was along the lines of business education, and he first established a school of shorthand, typewriting, and penmanship. While the attendance was small during the first three or four years, it was a notable fact that Valder graduates were in demand on account of their thorough preparation. As the success of his business school became more assured Mr. Valder ventured into realms of normal work, aiming particularly at the preparation of teachers, and broadening the commercial school work. Himself an excellent teacher, he was not satisfied to employ as his faculty any who could not measure up to a high standard, and thus he has built up a school that enrolls from four hundred to five hundred students annually, and whose graduates are scattered all over the Northwest, occupying positions of great responsibility in every walk, but more particularly as bankers, accountants, stenographers and teachers.

During the past year Valder College has been incorporated and Prof. Charles A. Whalen, who has been a member of the faculty for several years, has become associated financially in the institution.

#### DECORAH BUSINESS COLLEGE

To many who may read this book the mention of John R. Slack will probably mean nothing, but to pass on to other topics without at least briefly reviewing the work of this man as a business educator would be to ignore one who in his day was accounted one of the foremost exponents of the best methods on book-keeping. Mr. Slack was a native of Ohio and acquired his education in Jefferson College at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He came to Decorah in 1850 and for some years thereafter was a bookkeeper in the Winneshiek County Bank. In 1874 he established the Decorah Business College, which he continued for a score or more of years. While at no time did his school attain to large proportions, those who came under his instruction were given a grounding in the fundamental principles of accounting that could be acquired in but few schools of that day. He was the author of "Rationale and Practice of Bookkeeping," a book which was not only the standard in his own school but was recognized generally by accountants as a very reliable treatise.

#### LUTHER COLLEGE

A chapter on education in Winneshiek county would be incomplete did it fail to include the story of Luther College, the leading educational institution of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America. Like the private schools above referred to, it has nothing to do with the work of the common schools of our county and state further than that its course of study must conform to certain requirements in order that its graduates may enter the State University without passing an entrance examination. But the history of the institution is linked so inseparably with the activities of this community that it rightfully commands space in this chapter. The story of its founding has been told many times but for this record we rely upon a historical sketch prepared in 1911 by the college authorities.



Main Building  
Statue of Martin Luther

Entrance to Grounds  
Gymnasium  
Laur. Larsen Hall

SCENES AT LUTHER COLLEGE, DECORAH



"The history of Luther College is intimately associated with the history of early Norwegian immigrants in America. Norwegian immigration to America may be said to have begun with the arrival of Mr. Kleng Pedersen and one companion, in New York, in 1821. Three years later Mr. Pedersen, filled with enthusiasm for prospects in the New World, returned to Norway, where his glowing accounts of the opportunities offered in America enabled him to organize an emigration-society. The society purchased a small sloop called 'Restaurationen,' which, with fifty-two people on board, set sail from Stavanger, Norway, on its first trans-Atlantic voyage, July 4, 1825, and arrived in New York, Sunday, Oct. 9th. Some of these immigrants settled in Rochester, N. Y., but most of them went thirty or thirty-five miles farther west; and later a number of them removed to Fox River, Ill. It was not, however, until in 1836 that the main tide of emigration from Norway to the United States began, but from that time to the present day the tide has continued, and, though spreading more or less over the whole country, has been directed especially toward the northwest and has poured hundreds of thousands of immigrants into Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the two Dakotas, and the territory extending thence westward to the Pacific coast.

"Most of these immigrants—practically all, in fact,—have been very poor and have sought this land of opportunity to improve their economic condition. As they have come largely from the rural districts in Norway and have left their native land at a time when the spirit of liberty has been strong among her people, their great desire has been to gain possession of a small portion of America's fertile soil and live the independent life of a farmer under her free institutions. For these reasons they have been attracted to the homestead lands and the cheap farming lands of the newer settlements, and have gladly assumed the burdens of pioneer life with its proverbial privations and hardships.

"But, though economically poor, they have not come to America to partake of her blessings without possessing anything to offer in return. They have brought with them a heritage, the best that their adopted country could desire,—uprightness of character, habits of industry, a law-abiding and God-fearing spirit, a patriotism that impelled thousands of them to take up arms in behalf of the Union during the Civil war, and the desire to give their children the best education that their scanty means afforded. That their children might enjoy proper educational advantages has been to them a matter of great concern, for they have all tasted, at least, of the 'Pierean Spring'—have received some schooling in their native land—and they have been eager that opportunities for improvement and advancement that circumstances rendered impossible for them should not be denied their children; and the satisfaction that many of these immigrants have had in seeing their children enjoy the abundant educational advantages of this favored land has been far greater than the possession of broad acres and fertile fields.

"The chief characteristic, however, of Norwegian immigrants has been their deeply religious nature, which systematic instruction in the truths of the Christian religion and the example and precepts of pious parents early implanted in their youthful souls. This characteristic has been the fundamental factor of their existence, determining their view of life, their sense of duty and respon-

sibility as Christians, parents, citizens, and members of society in general. In this characteristic more than in any other is to be sought the explanation of the hospitality and other qualities that travelers in Norway are wont to praise and the qualities that render the great majority of those of them who have come to this country the desirable citizens that they are usually said to be. With zeal they have entered into the political and industrial life of the nation. With equal zeal they have endeavored to supply the means of nourishing their spiritual life and transmitting it to their posterity unimpaired. They are as a whole Lutherans, and have organized church-bodies to promote religious activity and have established institutions of learning for the purpose of insuring a well-equipped ministry and an enlightened body of laymen to continue the work.

"Pre-eminent, by virtue of its age and influence, among institutions of learning founded by Norwegian Lutherans in this country is Luther College, of Decorah, Iowa. In fact, so distinct and far-reaching has been its influence that it has been beyond comparison the greatest spiritual and educational factor in the life of Norwegians in America and has rendered a service to church and state that has amply rewarded every sacrifice made in its behalf.

"Luther College was founded in 1861. A beautiful tract of land had been secured for the college by Dr. V. Koren in the northwestern part of the city; but, as no arrangements had been made for suitable quarters at Decorah, school was commenced during the first year in a large vacant parsonage, which had been placed at the disposal of the Synod for this purpose, at Half Way Creek, Wis., about thirteen miles from La Crosse. School opened Sept. 4, 1861, with a faculty of two teachers, Pres. Laur Larsen and an assistant, and an enrollment of five students. Later in the year the number of students increased to eleven and then decreased to nine.

"In 1862 the college was transferred to Decorah, and for three years occupied what is now the St. Cloud Hotel, which the Synod had purchased. Later an adjoining building was erected to meet the increasing requirements for more room.

"Oct. 14, 1865, the new building which the Synod had erected on its 32-acre tract was dedicated and henceforth used by the college. The south wing, which was not built at this time and the erection of which remained to complete the structure according to the original plan, was, in the course of time, added, and the college grew and prospered.

"May 19, 1889, however, the stately edifice was destroyed by fire. The loss was keenly felt, but it was decided to rebuild without delay. In the meantime classrooms were fitted up in the basement of the First N. E. L. Church and in other buildings in the vicinity, where temporary quarters had been secured, and the work of the college was resumed the following school year under many disadvantages. The new building, reared on the foundation of the old, and of the same dimensions, was completed with all possible speed, and was dedicated and ready for occupancy Oct. 14, 1890. Since then the equipment, faculty, and number of buildings have steadily been augmented.

"In 1902, after 41 years of faithful service, President Larsen requested the Synod to relieve him of the duties of the presidency. The Synod granted his request and elected President Christian K. Prens as his successor.



## EQUIPMENT

## COLLEGE CAMPUS

"The campus is a fine natural park on the left bank of Upper Iowa river, about one mile from the center of the city. It is a 32-acre tract of comparatively level ground adorned by many shade trees, chiefly oaks. It has ample space for buildings, driveways, athletic fields, and pleasant retreats. The adjoining river, bluffs, and valley afford scenery of unusual beauty and interest.

## MAIN BUILDING

"Main Building (170x52, four stories and basement) is a noble and imposing structure, beautifully situated on an eminence overlooking the city to the east and the river valley to the west. Its well lighted interior is very attractive and affords room for offices, classrooms, the library, reading rooms, chapels, and students' rooms. The students' boarding club has the use of a large part of the basement, while the rest is used for various other purposes. The building is provided with steam heat, electric light, arrangements for artificial ventilation, stand-pipes with hose on each floor ready for instant use at all times in case of fire, lavatories, and other modern improvements. The upper floors afford accommodations for 110 students, who are thus enabled to pursue their studies under the most favorable conditions.

## LAUR LARSEN HALL

"A commodious new dormitory (center 50x40; two wings, each 90x40; all three stories and basement) accommodating upwards of 200 students has recently been erected on the campus to the southeast of the Main Building. It was dedicated Oct. 13, 1907, in the presence of a great number of visitors and given the name of Laur Larsen Hall, in honor of Dr. Laur Larsen, the former president of the College. It is a handsome brick structure, and is provided with excellent fire protection (the same system as the Main Building) steam heat, electric light, and modern conveniences throughout. Besides the excellent accommodations that it furnishes a large number of students, it has dwelling apartments for a professor and family, class-rooms, a large room for the use of the bands and other musical organizations, a chemical and physical laboratory, and a workshop for the manufacture and repair of scientific apparatus.

## LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

"The Library and Reading Room occupy quarters on the first floor of the Main Building. They contain 16,441 volumes, besides pamphlets, papers, and other printed matter. Additions of the best works in the various departments of study are made as rapidly as the available resources permit. The Library receives an annuity of \$200 from Synod, besides the annual fees paid by the students.

"The Library is furnished with a card catalogue according to the Dewey decimal classification system.

"The Reading Room contains the encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other works of reference, also such books as are temporarily assigned to it by the teachers. The Reading Room and the Students' Reading Society, 'Muspelheim,' receive together more than 50 foreign and American periodicals, besides daily and weekly newspapers.

#### MUSEUM

"The Museum occupies the building (60x30, two stories) to the northwest of the Main Building. The scientific section comprises collections of minerals, mounted animals, plants, birds' eggs and nests. The ethnological section is particularly strong in Norwegian specimens; there are also many specimens illustrative of Eskimo and Indian life. There are many photographs of churches, schools, and other public buildings erected by Scandinavians in this country, and of ministers, journalists, and other prominent men. The library section contains more than 4,000 numbers, to a great extent Scandinavian-American publications. Of Norwegian-American papers and periodicals there are over 500 complete, and a very large number of incomplete, volumes. There is also a collection of coins and stamps. Special attention is paid to the development of the Norwegian section of the ethnological department.

#### LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BUILDING

"It has been quite generally recognized for some time that the quarters occupied by the library and museum are insufficient and do not afford the valuable collections that they contain adequate protection against fire. The students themselves have become so thoroughly alive to this fact that in the spring of 1909 they voluntarily undertook to make 27,000 cement blocks (the number required for such a building according to the statement of the architect), of which 17,000 are already done.\*

#### SCIENCE LABORATORY

"The Chemical and Physical Laboratory is located in the west wing of Laur Larsen Hall. The Laboratory is a well-lighted room, and will accommodate 30 students at one time. The tables are designed for laboratory work in Chemistry and Physics, and are supplied with gas and water.

"The lockers containing the individual apparatus for students' use are well supplied. A lecture room adjoins the Laboratory, and contains most of the chemical and physical library.

"There are two rooms for the storage of apparatus and chemicals, and a well equipped shop for the manufacture and repair of apparatus.

#### HOSPITAL

"The Hospital is a small building to the south of the Main Building and was erected to furnish proper accommodations in case of illness among the stu-

\* Since this statement was compiled (in 1911) the number has increased to 20,000.

dents. It is divided into two entirely separate wards, one for contagious and one for non-contagious diseases.

#### GYMNASIUM AND AUDITORIUM

"This structure is a substantial frame building (124x75) pleasantly located to the north of the Main Building, among the shade trees of the Campus. It was originally built in 1885-6, and was paid for with money raised chiefly through the efforts of the students. In the spring of 1903 it was enlarged to nearly three times its former dimensions, and in addition to increased space for gymnastic apparatus and drills, basketball and kindred sports, it also furnishes a large and commodious auditorium for concerts and other occasions. It has a seating capacity of more than 2,000.

#### COLLEGE LIGHTING AND HEATING PLANT

"The College has its own electric light plant, which was installed by the Alumni Association some years ago at an expenditure of about \$2,500, and a central steam heating plant. Besides adding materially to the comfort and convenience of the students, this method of lighting and heating the buildings obviates a frequent source of fires, which are often caused by the use of lamps and stoves.

"The College is also supplied with city water.

#### VALUE OF COLLEGE PROPERTY AND FUNDS

"The value of the college plant (campus, buildings, and equipment) is now \$236,968.00. Its income-bringing property and funds, received mostly as legacies in sums varying from \$300 to \$7,343.23, amounts to \$16,688.95, of which the income of \$800 is applied to professors' salaries, the income of \$10,493.23 is applied to student aid, the income of \$4,000 is applied in the interest of natural sciences."

In 1911 the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the college was celebrated. The celebration began on October 13th, with a banquet in which several hundred members of the Alumni, and friends of the college participated.

On the day following the real celebration occurred. It included the unveiling of a bronze statue of Martin Luther, the gift of the women of the Synod churches, and the reading of many congratulatory telegrams, cablegrams and letters. Among the cablegrams was one from King Haakon of Norway. The student singers of Norway cabled an invitation to Luther College Concert Band to visit Norway in 1914 and participate in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Norwegian independence. The invitation was accepted and the band leaves next April to be in Christiania on May 17th.

A feature of the evening was the presentation of an \$250,000 endowment fund. James J. Hill, the St. Paul railroad builder and financier, had promised \$50,000 on condition that \$200,000 more be raised by the college. For good measure they raised \$235,000, and J. Pierpont Morgan, the New York banker, topped it off with an unsolicited check for \$1,000, but the surplus \$36,000 was used in liquidating an indebtedness.

To close this sketch here would be to leave unsung a just meed of praise to one who deserves all the good things that have been said of him. We refer to Luther's "grand old man," Dr. Laur Larsen, who for forty-one years ruled as its president and who today, having just celebrated his eightieth birthday, enjoys good health and the reverence and esteem of friends and acquaintances whose numbers are legion. Coming to the college as a comparatively young man, he has devoted his life to the training of boys and young men in the Christian virtues that have made their mature years a monument to his untiring labors, his faith, and his every-day example of clean living and love for his fellowmen. In paying this tribute to Dr. Larsen we are not forgetting those who have worked by his side. They too have done their part, but always with the knowledge that Luther College would not have attained to its present high standing had his ability and influence been lacking.

As previously stated, when Dr. Larsen retired from the presidency of the college his duties were placed upon the shoulders of Rev. C. K. Preus, who was one of Dr. Larsen's "boys" back in 1873. Under his administration the college has continued to prosper in all its departments. While the spiritual development has not been permitted to lag, the demands of business management have compelled Professor Preus to give much time and attention to this feature of the work, and he has been eminently successful.

During the past eight years the college faculty has been greatly strengthened. The best evidence of this lies in the fact that other and larger schools have made overtures to some of its members. As constituted at the present time the faculty is as follows:

A. M. Rovelstad, A. M., Latin language and literature.

T. E. Thompson, A. B., English.

Rev. Oscar A. Tingelstad, A. M., psychology and education.

Rev. Sigurd C. Ylvisaker, Ph. D., Greek language and literature, Hebrew, Greek testament.

H. S. Hilleboe, A. M., Principal of preparatory department, education, psychology, Norwegian.

B. K. Savre, A. B., mathematics.

Enoch E. Peterson, A. B., Latin.

O. B. Overn, A. B., science, mathematics.

Rev. I. B. Torrison, A. B., college pastor.

Rev. Laur Larsen, D. D., president emeritus.

Rev. C. K. Preus, president, Christianity, Augsburg confession.

Lars S. Reque, A. M., French, Roman constitution and literature.

Rev. Chr. A. Næseth, A. M., college librarian.

H. W. Sheel, B. S., science, mathematics.

W. Sihler, A. M., German language and literature, Greek.

Oscar L. Olson, A. M., English language and literature.

Knut Gjerset, Ph. D., Norwegian language and literature, history.

Rev. Carlo A. Sperati, A. B., musical director, Christianity.

#### PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

In addition to the public schools of the county, the Norwegian Lutheran congregations maintain parochial schools. In some of these the pupils are given

instruction in the common school branches up to the sixth grade, in addition to instruction in religion.

Most of the Catholic congregations also maintain schools of a similar nature. Their schools in Decorah, Spillville, Ossian, Calmar and Fort Atkinson are well attended, and the school properties are a credit to their supporters.



## CHAPTER XI

### THE NEWSPAPERS

Winneshiek county has never been overburdened with newspapers. While there have been a sufficient number to represent her wealth and progress, and to chronicle the daily doings of her inhabitants, she has been singularly and happily free from a large number of weak and struggling publications, such as mark some counties not far distant where railroad towns have sprung up and grown to proportions that demanded newspaper representation, yet were not able or willing to accord the support necessary to build up strong, substantial papers.

Decorah, as the county seat, naturally attracted the early-day disciples of Guttenburg and Faust. Here in 1855 a man named Tracy established the Chronicle. The story of this publication and its successor is briefly told in the following item taken from the Decorah Republican of Oct. 26, 1905:

"In looking over some of his father's papers recently, H. P. Nicholson, Jr., of Military township, came across some papers that bore light upon the early-day newspapers of Decorah and their efforts at existence. They also indicate that Mr. Nicholson was then, as he has always been since, a believer in publicity and an interested follower of the news of the day. The papers above referred to are—all but one—receipts for subscriptions. The first is dated November 23, 1855, and calls for a year's subscription to the Decorah Chronicle beginning with Vol. 1, No. 4, and running to Vol. 2, No. 3. Tracy & Co. were its owners and this was probably the first paper of Decorah. A little over a year later—December 6, 1856—another receipt calls for a year's reading of the Republican, of which B. F. Jones was then editor, from Vol. 1, No. 35, to Vol. 2, No. 34. This indicates that Tracy & Co. didn't any more than last the year out. June 15, 1858, is the date of the third receipt which was issued by F. Belfoy for one year of the Decorah Gazette, beginning with Vol. 1, No. 1."

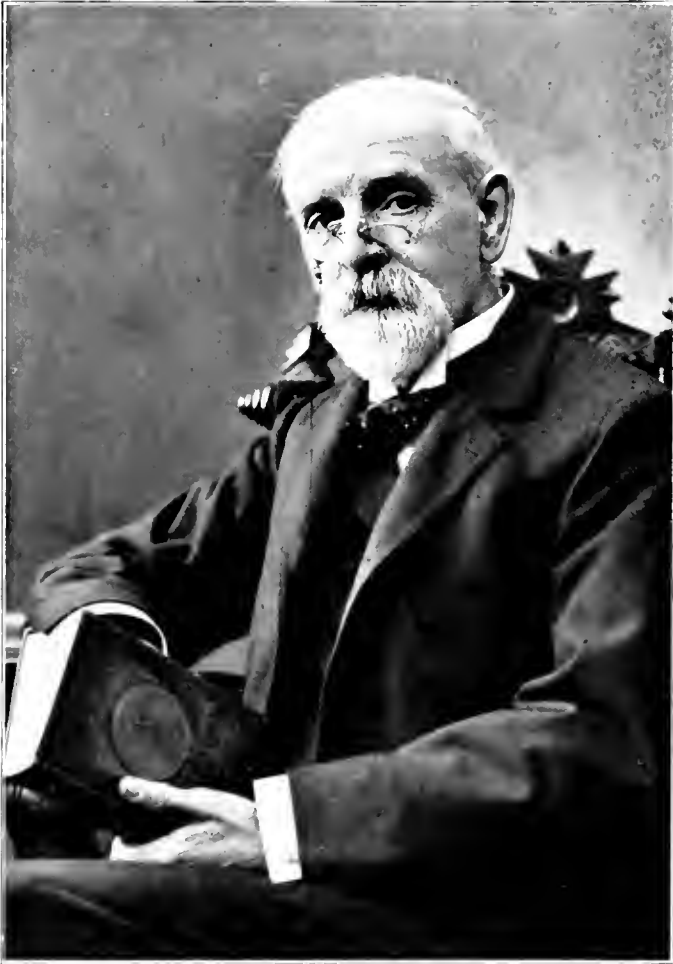
The Gazette was the immediate predecessor of the Decorah Republic. In the fall of 1859, Wesley Bailey, of Utica, New York, grandfather of this historian, came to Decorah and purchased the plant of the Gazette, engaging Mr. Belfoy to remain and hold the field until spring, when, in company with his son Ansel K. Bailey and their families, he returned to Decorah and assumed control of the paper, the firm being Wesley Bailey & Son. Its name was changed

to the Republic and the first number under the new management was issued on April 13, 1860. In March, 1860, the name was changed to the Republican and it has so remained during the intervening years. Because of failing health, Wesley Bailey disposed of his interest in the paper to his sons Ansel and Alvin Stewart Bailey in 1869, the firm name being changed to A. K. Bailey & Brother and remaining so until 1885. In that year Charles T. Bailey purchased the interest of A. S. Bailey, and the firm became A. K. Bailey & Son. Two years later E. C. Bailey purchased the interest of his brother, and in 1906 the business was incorporated, the name remaining A. K. Bailey & Son. On the death of A. K. Bailey in September, 1909, E. C. Bailey assumed the complete management of the business in both business and editorial departments.

The Decorah Journal is the second oldest newspaper in Winneshiek county. Its history begins back in 1866 with the establishment of The Winneshiek Register by George W. Haislet. Alexander's History says the office was destroyed by fire in November of that year. A new office was purchased, but in the spring of 1869 the paper was compelled to suspend. "August 25, 1869, he (Mr. Haislet) re-issued his paper under the name of Register & Ventilator, afterwards dropping the first half of the name. Several years later W. N. Burdick became a partner with Haislet, and soon bought him out entirely, and in 1874 was sole proprietor, and changed the name Ventilator to Winneshiek Register. In November, 1874, Mr. Burdick sold out to A. A. Aiken and Henry Woodruff. Early in February, 1875, the Saturday Bee was issued as an extra from the office of the Register. In the latter part of 1875 the Register establishment absorbed the Independent (which was started by Ed. Wood and S. S. Haislet in the summer of 1874), the combined paper taking the name Independent-Register. In January, 1876, Mr. Aiken sold out his interest, Henry Woodruff becoming editor and manager of the Bee, which continued without change till January, 1879, Ed. Wood taking the Independent-Register, and soon dropping the word Register from the name. About the first of June, 1876, Mr. Wood sold out and gave place to J. F. Meagher, who, in the latter part of July, stepped down and out, Mr. Woodruff of the Decorah Journal becoming its purchaser, and its subscription list was united with that of the Bee. In January, 1879, the regular publication of the weekly Decorah Journal commenced, it being virtually the successor of the old Register and Independent, and the Bee office soon dropped its separate character and became part of the Journal establishment." Mr. Haislet spent several years in Cresco, after leaving the Register, but in August, 1875, returned to Decorah and started the publication of the Ventilator, but it suspended in a short time, its editor going to Dubuque, where he remained until the fall of 1876, when he once more engaged in business here, starting the Decorah Radical. Mr. Haislet died March 6, 1881, but his widow continued the paper until May 1, 1882, when Charles H. Craig purchased the plant and changed the paper's name to the Decorah Pantagraph. On November 15, 1884, W. E. Alexander bought out Mr. Craig and the paper's name was changed to the Press, but after a few months he sold out to Mr. Woodruff of the Journal. In 1891 C. C. Coutant, who had been located at Calmar for several years, bought an interest in the Journal and two years later acquired his partner's interest also. He continued in ownership until about six years ago, when he sold out to Charles Meyer of Leaf River, Illinois, and thereafter followed three partnerships—Meyer & Mead,







A. K. BAILEY

Meyer & Holmes (the latter, W. H. Holmes, who had been foreman of the Journal for some time), and Holmes & Biermann, F. E. Biermann being the purchaser of Meyer's interest. Mr. Biermann purchased Mr. Holmes' interest in 1911 and has since been sole owner.

The third paper in age in Winneshiek county is the Decorah-Posten, the leading semi-weekly Norwegian newspaper in America. B. Anundsen, its founder, came to Decorah in 1867 and opened an office for the purpose of printing the various publications of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod. In September, 1874, he began the publication of Posten and gradually it grew both in size and popularity. In 1882 he was sending out 7,000 copies weekly, and in the years immediately succeeding the subscription list grew rapidly, passing successively in short periods the 10,000 mark, 15,000, 20,000 and on up until in the '90s the paper was going to more than 30,000 subscribers in all parts of the world. When it was changed from a weekly to a semi-weekly its popularity was still further increased and it has continued to grow steadily and substantially. At the present time 40,000 copies are issued twice each week. The equipment for printing this large number of papers is of the modern type employed by the city dailies and is complete in all departments. As is well known to the people of the county, Mr. Anundsen died in March, 1913, after an illness of about three years. His business had previously been incorporated under the title of The B. Anundsen Publishing Company and is ably conducted, the business management having fallen upon Robert B. Bergerson, who was a protege of Mr. Anundsen. In the biographical volume of this work will be found a sketch of Mr. Anundsen's life.

The Decorah Public Opinion, of which Harry J. Green is owner and editor, was first issued at Cresco by Fred L. Akers. In 1895 it was moved to Decorah and the year following Mr. Green acquired an interest in the business. In 1900 he purchased Mr. Akers' share, thus becoming sole owner. The paper has enjoyed a steady growth and is recognized as one of the prominent republican newspapers of Northeastern Iowa. Like all of the newspaper plants of Decorah its equipment is adequate and modern and its pages are always newsy.

While not strictly a newspaper concern, the Lutheran Publishing House is entitled to its share of credit in the development of the printing industry in Winneshiek country. As its name implies, its principal business is one of publishing books—prayer books, hymnals, Bibles, text and reference books—and religious publications, largely in the Norwegian language. It is the printing office of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America and here some seven or eight church and Sunday school papers are published. It has complete printing and binding departments; and while it does not seek outside work, still a large amount of such work comes to it unsought. For many years its place of business was on Main street, at the east edge of what is now the Government postoffice site, but in the '80s the former Arlington hotel building at the west end of Water street was purchased and remodeled. Last year it was again remodeled and a large addition built, and as a result the business is now housed in the most modern printing office structure in Northeastern Iowa. Its affairs are under the direction of a board of trustees, but L. S. Dale is the manager.

Calmar first acquired a newspaper in 1870 when T. B. Wood started the Winneshiek Representative, but after about a year the paper was moved to Ossian

and soon after it was discontinued. Samuel S. Haislet, brother of George W. Haislet, issued the Calmar Guardian for about two years from April 10, 1876. An interim of four years followed when there was no paper published there but in June, 1882, the Critic came into existence, piloted by W. C. Eaton. It could not have lived more than a year, for in the files of the Decorah Republican for 1883 we find mention of the starting of the Calmar Clarion by A. E. Winrott during the latter part of July. Mr. Winrott was a railway mail clerk and spent his time while not engaged on the road in the management of his printing establishment. He also developed a nice business in practice cards and cases for use by mail clerks in perfecting themselves in their work of sorting mail for the various routes. This department proved so satisfactory that he finally discontinued his newspaper and moved to Chicago, where he subsequently became prosperous through the sale of specialties pertaining to railway mail service. Soon after he left, C. C. Coutant, who had previously resided at New Hampton, located at Calmar and started the publication of the Herald, which he discontinued in 1891. S. R. Yager started the Courier in 1893 and remains at the helm.

Ridgeway is the last town in the county that has secured newspaper representation. In the '90s Herman W. Haislet, younger son of George W. Haislet, who founded the Winneshiek Register in Decorah in 1866, established the Ridgeway Record. It had an existence of about a year. In 1902 E. W. Boston established the Review, which he sold to M. Lee Hathaway in 1904. Under Mr. Hathaway's management the paper has steadily improved, and the office equipment is as complete as any small town can boast of. Fort Atkinson, for some years, had a worthy representative in The Times, which was established by A. R. Dodd. C. V. Summers later purchased an interest and subsequently became sole owner. Seeing what he considered a better opening, Mr. Summers moved his plant to Lime Springs, and since that time Fort Atkinson has been without a paper. Prior to this two other newspapers had existed. In 1875 Frank L. Bradley published the Fort Atkinson News, and about 1889 Henry Hess published "Life Bote," a German paper.

As stated in the history of the Calmar newspaper, Ossian's first publication was the Winneshiek Representative. Among its successors was the Herald, which had an existence of some time, but it was not until 1885 that a permanent newspaper was acquired. Early in that year Henry Woodruff of Decorah started the Ossian Bee, and in May, M. J. Carter became associate editor. In 1887 Mr. Carter bought the business and for a number of years thereafter was its publisher. A. C. Heck was its next editor. For several years he was sole proprietor and enjoyed a good patronage. In 1905, T. F. Schmitz purchased a half interest, the partnership continuing until 1910 when Mr. Heck sold his holdings to Mr. Schmitz, who has since been in sole control.

In 1906 Alexander K. Kaupel began the publication of the Ossian Enterprise. The town was scarcely large enough for two papers and after an existence of nearly four years the paper was discontinued on August 1, 1910.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The record of the medical profession in Winneshiek county, for the earlier years, has proven difficult to trace. No history that has been compiled seemed to consider these most necessary citizens worthy of separate consideration. Here and there may be found mention of them separately, but quite generally such mention is made in connection with some activity foreign to their profession. This in itself is indicative that the pioneer physicians were men of more than ordinary character, whose ability was not confined to the treatment of the ills of mankind.

Possibly one of the first of the medical profession to locate in the county was Doctor Andros who spent some years in Fort Atkinson and Decorah. The record clearly indicates that Dr. J. M. Greene and his brother-in-law, Dr. Thomas J. Hazlett, were among the early day practitioners in Decorah, and it is well known that Dr. Henry C. Bullis came to Decorah in 1852, making his home here until claimed by death. He was one of the busy, successful physicians, and a man who did much in shaping the welfare of the county and state. Beside his home activities he served as trustee and regent of Iowa State University, was examining surgeon on the pension board from 1865 to 1876, and was also president of the State Medical Society. Mention is found of him in the chapter on schools and railroad construction. Dr. George Bolles, was also one of the pioneers here, later moving to South Dakota where he repeated his experience of the early '50s in this county.

In 1857 Dr. W. F. Coleman joined the ranks of physicians. He became the first mayor of Decorah after its incorporation, served on the pension board and as a member of the commission of insanity. He also served for two years as assistant surgeon of the 17th Iowa Infantry.

Memory must serve partially in referring to some of the men who followed the foregoing, nor are we writing to declare that these were the only ones who were then practicing here. It is the impression of this writer that Dr. J. Wilber Curtis was here before 1860. He was a man of many eccentricities, but nevertheless a most capable physician, and with his interest aroused he has been known to lead many a forlorn hope to victory. As an obstetrician he had few equals.

Dr. Fordyce Worth, the last of the early day physicians, came to Hesper in 1856, where he engaged first in merchandising. He had previously pursued the study of medicine, but it was not until 1870 that he acquired his sheepskin and began devoting himself more exclusively to practice. He still resides at Hesper, a well preserved man of more than eighty-two years.

In the year 1866 Dr. J. S. Roome established himself at Calmar, and for many years he was practically alone in that field. So successful was he that the residents of a wide territory would think of having no other. He became one of Calmar's most substantial and widely known business men and retired only three years ago, moving to California to spend the balance of his days. He represented Winneshiek county during two sessions of the Iowa Legislature. Dr. C. D. Roome, a brother of Dr. J. S. Roome, was located for a time at Ridgeway where he established himself in 1874. He later moved to Cresco.

Dr. W. M. Fallows located at Fort Atkinson in 1872; Dr. C. W. Cady, now of Mabel, Minnesota, was for many years following 1877 the resident physician at Burr Oak; Dr. R. Small came to Decorah from Fayette county in the early '70s and died some years ago; Dr. Austin Pegg was a successful practitioner at Ossian at about the same time; Dr. J. Billington was for many years located in Decorah. At the time he was the only Norwegian physician here.

The men that have been referred to were all allopaths—followers of the old school. Practically alone in his field was Dr. Edmund Cartwright, homoeopath, of Decorah. Previous to coming here he had spent some time at Lansing. His son Richard Cartwright chose to follow his father's profession and was associated with him for a time but for many years has been one of the leading physicians at Salem, Oregon. Dr. C. H. Strong, now of Toledo, Ohio, was also engaged here for a short time.

Among all the physicians that have been mentioned herein none was a specialist—there was little opportunity for such practice—but in the realms of every day service where all-round experience was demanded, they asked no odds of any set of men.

If memory serves aright, Dr. A. C. Smith was the first specialist to locate here and remain for a sufficient time to be considered permanent. Although he would occasionally take a case in general practice he preferred to devote himself to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and for many years maintained his office in Decorah where he enjoyed a lucrative practice. It is only within a few years that he has retired. His son, Dr. Carsten C. Smith, has entered the ranks of general practice and is now located in Minnesota.

The present day finds the local ranks well filled. In Decorah are P. M. and M. D. Jewell, A. F. Barfoot, A. J. Swezy, Harriett B. Amy, A. C. Hoeg, T. Stabo, and H. H. Thomas, allopaths; A. C. Woodward, homoeopath, and Doctors Urban & Urban, osteopaths. At Calmar are located E. M. Hellen; T. C. Hennessy and E. H. Ellingson. Ossian is served by J. A. Juen and J. W. Lynch. At Frankville Doctor Kiesaw is alone. He was preceded there by Dr. E. T. Wilcox, one of the most successful men that part of the country ever knew. Preceding Doctor Wilcox was Dr. F. W. Daubney, who died in November, 1912, after a residence in Decorah of about twenty-five years, during which he enjoyed a very lucrative practice. At Highlandville Dr. J. D. Hexon has won a worthy success. Dr. W. H. Emmons stepped into Doctor Cady's place at Burr Oak and has an exten-

sive practice. Dr. Gertrude G. Wellington is practicing in Hesper. The most recent addition to the profession is Dr. Byron Lewis, who in August, 1913, purchased the practice of Dr. L. J. Kaasa at Ridgeway. Doctor Kaasa was the successor two years ago of Dr. J. C. Lewis, who was for many years the main dependence of the citizens in the western part of the county.

#### THE DENTISTS

While not, strictly speaking, members of the medical profession, the dentists are eligible to enrollment in this chapter. In Decorah are F. W. Conover, C. L. Topliff, T. C. Hutchinson, O. Boe and W. R. Toye. At Calmar, J. F. Conover, and at Ossian, J. P. Schneeberger.

#### THE DECORAH HOSPITAL

During the past summer (1913) interest has centered in the prospective establishment of a hospital in Decorah. William H. Smith, a wealthy retired farmer, made a proposal to contribute \$10,000 on condition that the Commercial Club raised \$15,000 more. This was accomplished and the organization of a hospital company is now under way. Probably before this book leaves the printer's hands the choice of a location will have been made and announced. Dr. J. R. Guthrie of Dubuque, a man of high rank in the Middle West, has been engaged as chief surgeon, and all physicians of the county will be on the hospital staff. The people of Decorah and the county generally regard this accomplishment as one of the most worthy ever undertaken locally.





## CHAPTER XIII

### THE LEGAL PROFESSION

"The First Things of Decorah" was the title of a discourse delivered by Rev. Ephraim Adams on Thanksgiving day (November 28), 1867. Among other things he said: "In the same year, July 3, 1851, the first lawyer made his appearance. Undertaking to walk out from Lansing, he got lost by the way and stopped the first night at a Norwegian's house six or eight miles east of this. Starting on the next morning he came along about noon to the log tavern, and inquired the way to Decorah, rejoicing, no doubt, to be at his journey's end ere he had found it. His name was John B. Onstine. The second of his profession was Dryden Smith; the third, A. B. Webber; the fourth, John L. Burton; and the fifth, L. Bullis; the sixth, E. E. Cooley, who came in October, 1854,—and so on."

The record made by former historians discloses the name of James D. McKay as the successful candidate for Prosecuting Attorney in the election of 1852. Mr. McKay resided on Washington Prairie. In 1855 the name of William Bailey appears as an unsuccessful candidate for the same office. In 1856 L. W. Griswold had entered upon the scene. In 1857 G. R. Willett joined the local bar.

Thus is established the basis of the legal profession in Winneshiek county. Justice may have been crude in those days, but from the above list there developed men of more than passing attainment in our local courts, and at least one gained a reputation before the higher tribunals that marked him as the possessor of an unusually keen, analytical mind. We refer to the late Judge G. R. Willett. Canadian born, of American parentage. He acquired his early education in the Dominion. This was followed by a law course at the Albany Law School, and in 1857, a year after his graduation, he came to Decorah where his ability soon gained recognition. He was a man of deep feeling for any cause that enlisted his sympathy. When the call came for volunteers in 1861 he was the first man to enlist in Decorah, and raised Company D, Third Iowa Infantry, of which he served as captain until a bullet wound in his knee incapacitated him for further duty. He was elected County Judge in 1864, served in three sessions of the Iowa Legislature, was president pro tem of the Senate and chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments in 1874, and chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 1875, beside serving on other important committees. From his

first days in the county Judge Willett was prominent in the activities of the people. But it was in his profession that he won his greatest distinction. He delighted in cases that presented the toughest legal knots. With such it was his practice, as he put it, to "hold it up by the four corners," and if he was satisfied that the equities were on his side he felt no misgivings of the outcome. Sometimes he was compelled to go to the highest tribunals to win his verdict, but in a long and rather intimate acquaintance with him the writer cannot recall a case he lost in the Supreme Court. He was a man of jolly disposition, quite given to reminiscent story telling, and he had a fund of them at his command.

Reference to Judge Cooley and Levi Bullis will be found under the head of "Politics and the Politicians." They, too, were men of force and influence. Mr. Bullis was particularly popular among young men. It was his pleasure to have them about him. Although a man of positive likes and dislikes and very outspoken in his opinions of men and events, he had a following whose loyalty could not be shaken.

Judge M. V. Burdick, elected as the first Circuit Judge in 1869, was another of the early and prominent attorneys. Prior to going on the bench he was a partner of Judge Willett and possessed to a degree the same analytical quality that won success for his partner. He moved to Lansing after retiring from the bench, and died May 8, 1886.

One of the men who is scarcely ever referred to now, but a pioneer lawyer of much ability, was Seneca A. Tupper. He and his son Charles Tupper practiced in the local courts, the latter for a comparatively short time. He entered the army and was among those who gave up their lives in the struggle of 1861-65. The senior Tupper died some years later, generally respected as a lawyer and citizen.

Advancing a few years we find the names of John T. Clark, Cyrus Wellington, Charles P. Brown and Orlando J. Clark prominently mentioned. Of this quartette John T. Clark was probably most prominent for a number of years. It was said of him that, prior to revision of the Code of Iowa in 1873, a young attorney had little show against him. He was thoroughly versed in the Code of 1858, and could carry a less informed opponent off his feet, particularly if the case happened to be tried before a jury.

In 1876 Brown & Wellington, then partners, won considerable distinction as criminal lawyers in their defence of Helen D. Stickles, charged with the murder of her husband, John P. Stickles. Pitted against them were O. J. Clark, as prosecuting attorney, and John T. Clark. Stickles died under circumstances indicating strychnine poisoning. A post mortem examination strengthened this opinion and resulted in the stomach being sent to Dr. P. M. Hatfield of Chicago for chemical examination. His examination confirmed the suspicion and Mrs. Stickles was brought to trial, but while the general belief of her guilt was entertained, on the trial the jury disagreed, and on a change of venue to Fayette county she was acquitted at the second trial.

This trial brought Cyrus Wellington particularly before the public. He subsequently was chosen district attorney and was holding office when a change in the court system caused the discontinuance of the attorneyship. Some years later he moved to St. Paul where he attracted the attention of James J. Hill and became the attorney of the Great Northern road. He was compelled by

approaching blindness to give up his duties and died several years ago at a lake resort in Wisconsin where he lived in retirement.

Mr. Brown also moved to St. Paul where he died. John T. Clark died at Postville January 17, 1885.

The record as to the attorneys is more or less fragmentary at best, and a searcher after historical data is compelled to take much upon faith or only glance over all but a few of the more prominent personages.

Among the attorneys who were practicing in Winneshiek in the '70s were Martin M. and Lewis Johnson. They moved to North Dakota where the former became the first Congressman after that state was admitted to the Union. At the time of his death he was serving as one of the two United States Senators. Previous to going to North Dakota he enjoyed experience in Iowa as Representative and Senator from Winneshiek in the Legislature.

Others who joined the ranks of the attorneys about that time were John B. Kaye, who located at Calmar in 1872, and M. J. Carter at Ossian, who was admitted to the bar in 1877, and R. F. B. Portman of Decorah, in 1878.

Mr. Kaye was an Englishman by birth, coming to America with his parents in 1842. The family settled near Geneva, Wisconsin, in 1848, and in 1863 Mr. Kaye went to Nevada where he spent four years in gold camps. The next four years were a time of roving with him, but after a year at his old home he came to Iowa. He was a student, not only of law, but of the Bible and all other good literature, and possessed a poetic nature that first found expression in numerous bits of miscellaneous verse. In his later years he produced three books of his writings, the most worthy of these bearing the title of "Vashti." In his legal practice his literary tendency was apt to be shown in his ready application of quotations from various writers. He won distinction in his defence of John Cater of Burr Oak, charged with the killing of his wife, and in his assistance on the side of the state in the Gifford-Bigelow murder trial. Although in each instance he was on the losing side, his handling of the cases clearly demonstrated an unusual ability.

Mr. Carter began life in this county as a boy on a Bloomfield township farm in 1856. In 1874 he engaged in clerking, subsequently studying law in the office of G. L. Faust in Ossian. After being admitted to the bar he opened an office in Ossian where he has since remained, enjoying a lucrative practice.

Of Mr. Faust, little is recalled today. He was prominent politically during his residence in the county, but did not remain here for many years.

Mr. Portman, like Mr. Kaye, was a native of England. He came to Decorah in 1872, having previously seen service in the British navy. He was a member of the firm of Horn, Portman, Clive & Company in the old Eagle foundry for about three years, but in 1876 entered C. P. Brown's office to study law and, on being admitted to practice in 1878, became Mr. Brown's partner. Mr. Portman never aspired to be a trial lawyer, but confined himself largely to practice in probate court and as an office attorney. In this he was successful, and is today one of the three men in Decorah who link the past with the present.

Another is Norman Willett, second son of Judge Willett, who sustains in a large measure the same relationship to his clients and the bar as did his worthy father. For a time in the early '80s, Mr. Willett was in his father's office. A position was offered him with one of the prominent farm implement houses

as traveling collector, and his acceptance was followed by several years of service in this capacity. When he returned to Decorah it was to become a partner in the practice that had come to Judge Willett. It is not strange that he inherited many of the characteristics that made his father an able lawyer, or that, working on similar lines, he has built for success in his profession. He has been accorded political preferment at the hands of the voters, serving as county attorney with distinction, and has been frequently mentioned as possessing excellent qualifications for the judgeship, but he entertains no aspirations in that direction, being content with his personal business and the pleasant associations that it permits.

George W. Adams is the third of the trio above referred to. Mr. Adams began practicing law some years before either Mr. Willett or Mr. Portman, ante-dating Mr. Carter of Ossian, if we are not mistaken.

Among the younger attorneys whose names were associated with the pioneers were Walter E. Akers, Charles M. Cooley and William H. Fannon. Mr. Akers and Mr. Cooley were students in the office of E. E. Cooley while Mr. Fannon was a law school graduate. The firm of Fannon & Akers was in existence at the time that Judge Cooley was appointed to the bench. C. M. Cooley, who had been in his father's office, joined Fannon & Akers and the firm became Cooley, Fannon & Akers, remaining so until 1882 when Mr. Fannon was compelled to retire on account of ill health. Mr. Cooley also withdrew and went to South Dakota. When Judge Cooley left the bench the firm of Cooley & Akers was formed. They subsequently moved to Minneapolis where Roger W. Cooley, the younger son of Judge Cooley, joined them, and the firm of Cooley, Akers & Cooley maintained offices in Minneapolis and Luverne, Minnesota. Mr. Fannon sought to recuperate his health on a farm near Neleigh, Nebraska, but in this he was unsuccessful. C. M. Cooley later moved to Minneapolis, but many years ago established a residence at Grand Forks, North Dakota, where now he is judge of one of the higher tribunals. Judge E. E. Cooley returned to Decorah where the remaining years of his life were spent. Mr. Akers met a tragic death while still in his prime. In attempting to go from one coach to another on a fast moving train, while returning from Chicago, he was thrown from the car and killed.

Roger W. Cooley for many years preferred to follow newspaper work. In later years he was associated with the West Publishing Company, of St. Paul, in an editorial capacity in connection with their law book publications. He became an authority on insurance law, and at the present time is Dean of the Law School at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

In the more recent years the name of Dan Shea appears. Mr. Shea had served as Superintendent of Schools for several terms and on leaving office took up the law. At a time when he had just entered on what promised to be a period of great success his career was closed by death.

M. A. Harmon, who is still a member of the bar, likewise followed service as a county official by engaging in the legal profession. For a number of years he was city attorney of Decorah.

Arthur F. Anundsen, oldest son of the late B. Anundsen, founder of Decorah-Posten, was a member of the local bar for a period in the '90s and the years immediately following. He was a man of recognized ability, but abandoned his

practice to go into the banking business at Detroit, Minnesota, where he died three years ago.

The bar as it is composed today claims as its members Messrs. Willett, Portman, Harmon, Carter, and Adams, heretofore mentioned; Charles N. Houck, County Attorney; E. R. Acres, Frank Sayre, E. W. Cutting, C. S. Boice, E. J. Hook, H. F. Barthell, J. A. Nelson, W. M. Strand, and E. P. Shea, all of Decorah; W. M. Allen of Ossian, and T. H. Goheen of Calmar.

The foregoing record takes no account of a number of the profession who either remained here only a short time, or failed to leave an impress upon the public mind. Nor does it take into account the career of E. P. Johnson, whose disbarment was the sensation of the February term of court in 1910.

Possibly what has been written may inspire some one to complete the record. It would prove an interesting document for the files of the Winneshiek County Bar Association when the organization of that body, which was commenced some years ago, is completed.



## CHAPTER XIV

### BANKS AND BANKERS

The chronological data of Winneshiek county states that in the winter of 1855-56 there were nine banking houses in Decorah, from two of which subsequently developed the Winneshiek County Bank and the First National Bank. If there is any record of the other seven banks we are unable to locate it.

#### THE WINNESHIK COUNTY STATE BANK

It was in 1855 that Horace Weiser, then a young man, came to Iowa from York, Pennsylvania, and located in Decorah. With the ownership vested in H. S. Weiser & Co., he at once engaged in the business of banking, choosing the title of Winneshiek County Bank. That he was a shrewd and an able financier is the uniform testimony of all who knew him, and the fact that his institution weathered the vicissitudes that imperiled many of the banks of that day is a forceful testimonial to his good judgment. Yet with all his conservatism he bore a splendid reputation for fairness and consideration of the man who, through misfortune or other cause, found himself in financial straits. For twenty years he remained at the head of the bank. Death claimed him on July 19, 1875, when, it may well be said, he was in the prime of manhood and executive ability. The business that he had so successfully established passed into the control of his family, and with the exception that the title of the firm became Mrs. H. S. Weiser & Co. there was no change. E. W. D. Holway became the bank's cashier and C. J. Weiser, assistant cashier, and under their management enjoyed splendid growth. Mrs. Weiser died November 8, 1898. During all these years the institution remained a private bank. In 1902 the owners decided to incorporate under the state banking laws, and the title was changed to the Winneshiek County State Bank. Charles J. Weiser, who entered the bank as a young man, has been with it through its years of greatest advancement and usefulness to the community, building upon the foundation laid by his father and planning for years to come when he may have put aside the active management to give place to his sons that they may carry on the policies that have made the bank so successful and substantial. It is worthy of note that the Winneshiek County

State Bank is the oldest bank in Iowa, either private or organized under laws of Iowa or the nation, and it has always been under one family management. At the present time the bank's resources are nearly a million and three-quarters of dollars and its deposits are over that amount. Twenty years ago the business outgrew the old building that had housed it so long and a new modern structure was erected. As this history is being prepared another new building to take the place of the one of twenty years ago is nearing completion. It will be one of the finest banking houses in Iowa, excelling in beauty and completeness anything in this portion of the state.

The officers of the bank are—C. J. Weiser, president; E. W. D. Holway and R. Algar, vice presidents; A. Anfinson, cashier; Anna C. Whalen, assistant cashier.

#### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

In 1854 the firm of Easton, Cooley & Co., opened the Decorah Bank. The members of the firm were W. L. Easton of Lowville, New York; E. E. Cooley and Leonard Standring. Success attended their activities from the first, and in 1862 James H. Easton, oldest son of W. L. Easton, joined the institution, becoming its president. The interests of the other partners were acquired by the Eastons and for several years the firm was known as W. L. Easton & Son. In 1870 advantage was taken of the National banking act and the First National Bank of Decorah took its place. In the years that followed it forged to the front and was recognized as the leading financial institution in this portion of Iowa. It may be said the bank enjoyed too much prosperity, and as a result some of its officers sought investments elsewhere. Almost without exception these investments proved unfortunate, large losses were sustained, and the bank became so involved that in November, 1896, it was forced to close its doors.

The Savings Bank of Decorah was an adjunct of the First National Bank, organized in 1873 for the purpose of handling a certain line of business that was not permitted under the national banking act. After an existence of thirteen years it went into voluntary liquidation, the exigency for its maintenance having passed.

#### THE CITIZENS SAVINGS BANK

The third bank to be opened in Decorah was the Citizens Savings Bank. Its incorporators were C. W. Burdick, L. L. Cadwell, George Phelps, A. W. Grow and Nelson Burdick, and it opened for business on February 20, 1884. Its growth was not rapid, but it was steady and substantial. Up to October, 1907, it was located in the building now occupied by the Decorah Tailoring Co. at 111 Winnebago street. In that year the building at the corner of Winnebago and Water streets, opposite Ben Bear's store, was purchased and remodeled as a banking home and office building. Here the bank has continued to thrive, winning new friends and patrons each year and holding its old ones as well by its sound policies and courteous treatment to all.

In January, 1904, C. W. Burdick, who had been the bank's president from its organization, sold his interests to his associates, and E. J. Curtin was elected





OPERA HOUSE, DECORAH



NEW STATE BANK, DECORAH



to succeed him. Mr. Curtin became associated with the bank as messenger and bookkeeper soon after it opened for business and advanced steadily, both in official capacity and in the esteem of its patrons, proving his capacity in all departments. His worth has also been recognized among the bankers of the state. Within the past five years he has served as treasurer and president of their state organization, as well as on important committees of the national organization. He is a member of the board of directors of the Iowa State Agricultural Society and has financial interests at Beach and Sterling, North Dakota, in addition to his local interests, which combine to make him one of Decorah's busiest business men.

Associated with him in the management of the Citizens Savings Bank are Ogden Casterton, R. F. B. Portman, Dr. F. W. Conover and John Curtin as directors. Ogden Casterton is vice president, B. J. McKay is cashier, F. E. Cratsenberg and Richard E. Bucknell are assistant cashiers, and Miss Minnie Palmer as stenographer and bookkeeper completes the personnel of the force. The bank's resources are between \$500,000 and \$600,000 and each year sees a healthy increase in its volume.

#### THE NATIONAL BANK OF DECORAH

The National Bank of Decorah was opened for business on July 12, 1897. Anticipatory of this event the stockholders purchased the building of the defunct First National Bank. In so doing they secured without the necessity of construction a plant that was ample in its capacity, admirable in its appointments, and central in its location. Engaging in business at a time when there was not a little prejudice in the local mind because of the failure of the First National Bank, it was to be expected that their growth would be slow. They soon outlived this prejudice, however, and the close of the first ten years of its existence found it carrying deposits of \$425,433.63 and resources of \$549,522.62, its capital of \$50,000 having been augmented by a surplus fund of \$10,000. The men who made this growth possible are among the substantial men of the county. L. B. Whitney, the president, began commercial life as a member of the firm of Cratsenberg & Whitney at Burr Oak. Subsequently he served as treasurer of Winneshiek county for four years, and in these relations sustained a splendid reputation for ability and integrity. O. C. Johnson, the vice president, was for many years a merchant in Decorah, later county auditor; a man of sterling character. H. C. Hjerleid, the cashier, came to Decorah from the Cresco Union Savings Bank and at once established the fact that he was a capable banker. W. F. Baker, the assistant cashier has grown up with the bank and has won deserved recognition both as a bank officer and on the city council where he has served with distinction as alderman for several years. The directors of the bank are J. J. Haug of Spillville, G. F. Gunderson of Ossian, F. H. and A. C. Baker of Decorah, O. L. Wennes of Highlandville, and E. R. Thompson of Cresco, all men of recognized high standing in their various communities.

Some years ago the bank acquired the abstract books of C. W. Burdick and these have become a valuable adjunct of the business. They are in charge of Miss Cora Auchmoody, who enjoys the distinction of being one of the most accurate abstracters in Northern Iowa. Miss Lilian Wise is Miss Auchmoody's assistant.

## THE DECORAH STATE BANK

In September, 1906, the Decorah State Bank was organized in Decorah. Its incorporators were R. A. Engbretson, A. L. Haakenson, G. E. Soland, A. J. Dyrland, T. O. Storla, Dr. T. Stabo, E. J. Hook, and E. P. Johnson. The bank opened about October 1st, with a capital of \$25,000, in the Sampson building (at the corner of Water and Washington streets) which had been purchased and remodeled to meet its requirements. The equipment was modest, but ample for a considerable period of growth, and while it has not yet made a demand upon its full capacity, the bank has enjoyed a steady, substantial success from the first. By many it was not believed that a fourth bank could find a place in Decorah without taking business from other local institutions, but this prediction has not been borne out, in any respect. In fact, the reverse has been the result. The business that has come to this bank has, in a large measure, been new business, and at the same time the other banks have enjoyed the most prosperous period in their existence. When the bank was first organized R. A. Engbretson was chosen as president; E. P. Johnson, vice president; A. L. Haakenson, cashier. Mr. Haakenson was compelled by ill health to resign two years ago, and the vacancy was filled by the election of E. E. Berg, who had formerly been assistant cashier. E. P. Johnson retired from the vice presidency and moved to Minneapolis, L. S. Reque taking his place. At the annual meeting last January, Arthur R. Johnson was made assistant cashier. The board of directors include Messrs. Engbretson, Reque, Berg, G. E. Soland, Dr. T. Stabo, E. J. Hook and Berger Hanson. The bank has capital and surplus of \$57,500, the deposits and loans being about \$200,000 each, and total resources of \$258,000.

Affiliated with the Winneshiek County State Bank of Decorah, but independent in their management, are the Winneshiek County Banks at Calmar and Ridgeway, the Home Savings Bank at Fort Atkinson, the Citizens Bank at Spillville, and the Canton State Bank at Canton, Minnesota. The Winneshiek County Bank at Calmar was organized about seventeen years ago with Ole P. Ode as cashier. He has remained as the manager through these successive years and H. A. Dessel is his assistant. The Ridgeway Bank was acquired by purchase in February, 1902, from George R. Baker, who had for several years been engaged in the banking business there. Sivert R. Ringeon was made cashier. At the present time he is being assisted by his nephew, Elmer Ringeon. A month following the purchase of the Ridgeway Bank, the bank at Fort Atkinson was purchased from W. F. Miller. Several years ago the business was incorporated under the state law, the title being changed to the Home Savings Bank. Frank J. Ponska is its cashier and Fred J. Huber is his assistant. The Citizens Bank of Spillville was organized in 1908. Local interests at Spillville joined with the owners of the Winneshiek County State Bank in the organization. Chas. E. Houser was its first cashier, but on his removal from Spillville, A. A. Novak succeeded to the cashiership. C. J. Andera is his assistant. F. A. Masters is cashier of the Canton State Bank. Although not a Winneshiek county institution we mention it because of its association with the Winneshiek County State Bank and the further fact that considerable Winneshiek county money is on deposit there. These banks have been uniformly successful, serving their several communities in a manner that is in every way satisfactory.

At the time of the organization of the Winneshiek County Bank at Calmar, A. McRobert was in the banking business. He was compelled eventually to close the institution. Among the early bankers of Calmar was John Scott, postmaster and druggist.

In 1911 the Calmar Savings Bank was organized with a capital of \$10,000. The incorporators included some of the officials of the Citizens Savings Bank of Decorah as well as prominent citizens of Calmar. It has established a surplus fund of \$1,000. Its deposits aggregate \$25,000 and its loans and discounts \$18,000.

For its size the town of Ossian is as well fortified in its financial interests as any town in this section of the state. In 1880 the Ossian Bank, with Meyer, Carter and Figge as partners, came into existence. It enjoyed a steady and increasing patronage for about a score of years, when it was organized under Iowa law as the Ossian State Bank with capital of \$25,000 and surplus of \$5,000. Its deposits, according to a recent bank directory, are over \$500,000 and its loans and discounts approximate \$450,000. Its officers are Fred J. Figge, president; L. A. Meyer, vice president; J. W. Meyer, cashier; Cornell Riveland, assistant cashier.

In 1901 a competitor entered the field in the Citizens Bank of Ossian. Its incorporators were some of the prominent business men of the town. The original capital of \$10,000 has never been increased, but a surplus fund of \$18,000 has been established. Its deposits approach the \$400,000 mark and its loans and discounts are \$300,000 or better. R. W. Anderson is its president; G. F. Gundersen, vice president; M. J. Klein is its cashier, and E. H. Kleisart is assistant cashier.

At Castalia, the Castalia Savings Bank, organized in 1902, may be considered an offspring of the Ossian State Bank. It has a capital of \$15,000, surplus of \$5,000, deposits of \$120,000 and loans and discounts of \$110,000. L. A. Meyer is its president and D. C. Malloy its cashier.

Burr Oak has a substantial little organization in its savings bank which was organized in 1910. Dr. W. H. Emmons is its president, J. A. Thompson its vice president and E. Kippe its cashier. Its capital is \$10,000, deposits \$61,000 and loans and discounts \$48,000.

Another bank that has Decorah affiliations, but which is not strictly a Winneshiek county bank, is the State Line Bank of Prosper, organized in 1911. John T. Ask is its president, G. O. Lermo is its cashier, while stockholders in the National Bank of Decorah are also interested along with a number of prominent farmers and business men in Prosper and vicinity.

For many years it has been a matter of common knowledge that Winneshiek county has provided the Northwest with more bankers than almost any county in the state of Iowa. Scattered throughout the Northwest are men who have received their grounding in the banking business in Winneshiek county institutions or have entered the business after leaving here. With few exceptions they have won worthy successes and have had much to do with the building up of the communities in which they have located. Were it possible to take an accurate census of the men who now are and have been engaged in banking and once claimed Winneshiek county as their home we dare say that the number would reach well up towards five hundred.



## CHAPTER XV

### MANUFACTURING

The record of manufacturing in Winneshiek county has not been one of marked successes. Yet here and there may be cited instances that give evidence that success can be won. If the reader follows the course of the Upper Iowa river as it winds through the county he will be impressed with the opportunity it affords for natural and cheap power. It must have so impressed the early settler, for from Kendallville down to the east line of Glenwood township, where it says good-bye to Winneshiek and hurries on its way through the northern part of Allamakee county to empty into the Mississippi, there are evidences in many places of dams that were built to supply power for some primitive grist or saw mill. Down in the southern part of the county where the Turkey river flows we find the same thing. Nor is that all; the smaller streams were made to do duty in a similar, though less forceful, way. The march of civilization may be blamed for the failure of some of these projects.

Of the early day mills on the Upper Iowa, but two remain—the Kendallville mill and the old stone mill in Decorah. To them may be added the Ice Cave mill built by James Hunter and John Greer in 1873 and the Tavener grist mill. Over on the Turkey we find the mills at Fort Atkinson and Spillville. The Bernatz family—once owners of Evergreen mill at Fort Atkinson (they sold it to the present owner, George Weist, I believe), are the leaders in milling today. A. Bernatz & Sons own the two Decorah mills, which have become very successful properties under their management, and John Bernatz owns the Spillville mill.

In the early days of Decorah there grew up the plant of Ammon, Scott & Co., manufacturers of wagons, plows, etc. One of the adjuncts of the business was the old stone mill, where a grade of flour was made that commanded a ready sale. Their wagons and plows enjoyed prestige also because they were made on honor, but one morning the firm awoke to the fact that they were facing a financial crisis. For some cause their flour was being refused by dealers who had handled it steadily, stocks had piled up, sales were few, and every effort to unload proved unavailing. A run of poor wheat—unsuspected and unknown until efforts to use the flour made from it proved futile—had

so spoiled the reputation of the mill's output as to jeopardize the whole manufacturing enterprise, and the institution closed its doors.

We might go on down the line, citing such cases as the Decorah and Trout river woolen mills, the Freeport paper mill, the Decorah Manufacturing Company, the scale works, the windmill factory, and others, but why dwell upon an unpleasant subject? The various causes that contributed to their failure or removal would extend the pages of this chapter beyond the patience of the reader. They may be summed up in a few words—superior competitive equipment lack of knowledge of the business undertaken, mismanagement, faulty sales management, to say nothing of inadequate transportation facilities.

But let us look at the other side of the picture. In Decorah there have grown up five establishments in one line whose combined pay rolls are probably the largest of any single manufacturing business in the county. We refer to the printing industry. Few people look upon a printing office as a manufacturing plant, but it is essentially of that class. Every piece of work produced is a separate and distinct article—a special order, that is seldom duplicated in every detail. Whether it be the issuing of a newspaper or the printing of a wedding invitation, or any other piece of printing, there may be a general outline or pattern to follow, but each time the details and results are different.

Decorah has successful machine shops, marble works, bottling works, valve works, sheet metal shops and an ice cream factory that sends its products all over northeastern Iowa.

A notable success had been attained in the production of electricity for commercial use. Twice within the past five years the Upper Iowa river has been harnessed, and its dams and power plants in Glenwood township are models of engineering. From them power and light is radiated to Decorah, Waukon, Cresco, Postville and Lansing.

At Ossian, Bullard Brothers have just established an electric plant to serve the town.

The Decorah Gas Company's plant and the municipal gas plant at Calmar are rightly classed among the manufactories that are successes.

Calmar presents two cases of going enterprises in the Henry Miller wagon works and the Calmar Manufacturing Co. The product of both these institutions is known throughout a wide territory and alone constitute a refutation of the claim that manufacturing does not pay in Winneshiek county.

The successful creameries of the county emphasize this refutation.

The time will come when the resources that surround this community will be recognized, and they will be put to work. No magic need be used—all that is required is accurate knowledge and ability to apply it. For years opportunity has been calling for some one to establish rock crushing plants within our county lines and to develop the building stone industry. The pioneer burned his lime from the rock that crops out in a thousand places about the county, yet today we ship in our lime and send our money away to keep the industry prosperous elsewhere.

Of mining there is none, nor is there any evidence of mineral wealth to cause one to spend valuable time in investigation.



## CHAPTER XVI

### PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

#### DECORAH CITY PARK

The people of Winneshiek county have never realized the necessity for parks. A kind Providence caused the glacial flow to turn this corner of Iowa into a series of the most beautiful hills and valleys that can be found in any land, and then he studded them with nature's choicest gifts—trees of many kinds, flowers and ferns and shrubs of countless variety—and scattered through the valleys streams of crystal water that wend their way toward the Father of Waters that forms one of the boundaries of the state. With such an environment, need one think of a park? It is only within the past three years that a systematic effort to establish and maintain a park has been made at any point in the county. Three years ago Mr. Sivert Larsen secured an option from Mr. Milton Updegraff upon a tract of ground on the heights overlooking the Fifth ward and the valley northwest of Decorah. It held admirable possibilities that were not realized by the majority of the citizens, but when the project was placed before the Decorah Commercial Club, that body took steps at once to secure the property. While it is yet in the formative period much has been done in the way of improvement, and its fame is spreading to surrounding counties and states. It is first of all a natural park, and an endeavor has been made to retain all of its native beauty. Here during the summer months scarcely a day passes that does not see little gatherings of people bent upon wholesome pleasure. Mr. Larsen, Mr. L. B. Whitney and Mr. N. L. Bailey are the park commissioners.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The first public building in Winneshiek county was that little stone school-house, built in 1852 at the four township corners southeast of the city of Decorah, wherein the first public school was taught. It is not the writer's purpose, however, to go into the details of this structure, or to refer particularly to the school-houses as public buildings further than to point to them as evidences of the belief of the residents of the county in schools. By some it might be considered

proper to include a number of buildings such as hotels, in this chapter, but importance could attach to but few of these. A notable exception would probably be the old Winneshiek hotel, built by William Day in 1854-55. Its predecessor was the Day log cabin home, which was a family abode as well as a place of shelter for the traveler until the hotel was built.

#### THE COURTHOUSE

We must begin in 1857, when, after a loan of \$6,000 had been voted, to be collected with the taxes of 1857 and 1858, the construction of the Winneshiek County Courthouse was commenced. Alexander's History tells of the building of the courthouse and jail in the following paragraphs:

"The courthouse was completed in 1857, a tax having been voted in 1856. The courts previous to that time were sometimes held in rented rooms—though for a while at first in the log house of William Day, and afterwards in Newell's Hall. The cost of the courthouse buildings, including the jail in the basement, was about \$18,000. The land for the grounds was donated by William Day and William Painter, and occupies one square, being bounded on the north by Main street, on the east by Winnebago street, on the south by Broadway, and on the west by Court street. The courthouse building has a basement of stone in which were originally the jail and sheriff's residence, and above this two stories of brick; the courtroom occupying the upper floor and the county offices the remainder of the building. After the erection of the new jail the basement was given up to the Recorder's office with a large fireproof vault, the Clerk's office with also a fireproof vault, and the office of the County Surveyor. The offices of the County Treasurer, Auditor, Sheriff, and County Superintendent are now on the floor above. The courtroom is on the upper floor as originally constructed. In the fall of 1876 a county tax of \$12,000, to be divided between 1877 and 1878, was voted for the erection of a new jail. The jail was commenced and completed in 1878. The cost of buildings, with cells, etc., was \$11,114.25. The courthouse was, for that time, a magnificent building, and is still respectable looking, though a little ancient. Its position is commanding, overlooking the city and surrounding valley, and will some of these days, no doubt, be the site of an imposing edifice."

Alexander little realized how faithfully the prediction in the foregoing paragraph would be carried out. It became evident along in the '90s, to those who were best informed, that every office in the courthouse was cramped for room. Many of the most valuable records and documents were without any protection from fire save what might be accorded by the Decorah Fire Department, but it was difficult to bring home to the people the gravity of the situation. The proposition to issue bonds for a new building was discussed for some time, and in 1898 the matter was put to vote with the result that it was overwhelmingly defeated. In 1902 the Board of Supervisors again ordered a vote taken, resulting in a handsome majority for a bond issue of \$75,000. In March, 1903, the old building was abandoned and torn down, and work on the new structure commenced. It became evident before the work had progressed far that a larger sum would be required and the tax payers voted an additional \$50,000. Probably \$25,000 to \$35,000 was subsequently spent, but the result is a building that will

outlive many generations, both in its substantial beauty and its ample proportions. While there was some feeling at the time over the expenditure of such a large amount, today the wisdom of building for the future is not questioned. The building was occupied in the fall of 1905. The first floor or basement provides quarters for the Superintendent of Schools, the County Engineer, the janitor, and ample storage space. One room is also assigned to the Superintendent as an examination room. This room is also used by the Decorah Public Library. On the main floor are the offices of the Auditor, Treasurer, Clerk, Sheriff, Recorder and Board of Supervisors. The third floor contains two courtrooms, the County Attorney's office, private offices for the judges, consulting rooms, rooms for witnesses and jurors. All the offices are equipped with ample vault room, and the building is lighted by a private electric light plant installed in the boiler house. Gas is also piped into the building.

#### THE COUNTY FARM AND HOME

In 1866 the necessity for a county farm and home, to provide shelter for indigent people, became apparent, and a tract of sixty acres was purchased at Freeport. This has been enlarged by several subsequent purchases and now contains 220 acres. The buildings are all substantial and include a separate structure for incurable insane patients. Every comfort consistent with reasonable expenditure is afforded the inmates of the home, and precautions for their safety have been provided. The structures are steam-heated and electric-lighted. C. A. Funke is the steward at present.

#### THE DECORAH POSTOFFICE

This building, which was completed in March, 1912, occupies the southeast corner at the intersection of Main and Winnebago streets. It was constructed at a cost of about \$65,000 and is generally conceded to be one of the handsomest of the federal buildings in Iowa. Its equipment is complete in every detail, the comfort of the employes being considered no less than the convenience of handling mail. The business of the Decorah postoffice for the past fiscal year was in round figures \$28,000. Postmaster F. E. Biermann was one of President Wilson's first appointees in Iowa. Under him are Deputy Postmaster E. J. Powers and a corps of six clerks, four city carriers and eight rural carriers.

The foregoing comprise the only buildings in the county that come strictly under the head of public buildings. The Grand Opera House of Decorah, the Auditorium at Ossian, and the town hall at Castalia are also public buildings, but are owned by stock companies, as is the Winneshiek Hotel of today, but these are all more or less commercial enterprises.



## CHAPTER XVII

### GEOLOGY

Students of geology find in Winneshiek county some of the most interesting outcroppings and limestone formations of the middle states. Here one may find the lower sandstone, the lower beds of the Galina limestone or the lower Magnesian, but the Trenton limestone predominates and in it are imbedded fossils of odd and beautiful shape. At many points along the Upper Iowa river the banks rise in perpendicular bluffs faced with this rock for a height of one hundred feet or more. The glacial deposits have been clearly traced by geologists and their researches form an interesting volume. Here and there throughout the county may be found outcroppings of iron ore, but nothing to excite more than passing curiosity or warrant investigation.

### TOPOGRAPHY

The late Samuel Calvin, state geologist, made a careful survey of this portion of Iowa. Its beauty was always an allurement to him and caused him to refer to it in a printed article as "The Switzerland of Iowa." The appellation is a most accurate one, for the topography of the counties of Allamakee, Clayton and Winneshiek is largely a succession of high hills, and, consequently, deep valleys. Winneshiek, while lacking nothing in the beauty that such topography suggests, is less objectionable from the standpoint of crop cultivation than her sister counties. The land is rolling, and along the rivers and small streams there is much of it that presents problems to the owners; still, as one gets back onto the highlands, broad prairies stretch out and present a most inviting scene. Whether it be valley, hillside or prairie, the soil is fertile. One of the reasons why the land in Winneshiek county has not advanced as rapidly in price as has some of the less rolling sections is because the prairie farmer does not appreciate the possibilities that here await him and is too timid to take a chance as a general rule.

### CLIMATOLOGY

The climatic conditions of Northeastern Iowa (and that means Winneshiek county as well as others) are, in the main, admirable. There are seasons of

extreme cold, when the mercury seeks the bulb and registers from 20° to 30° below zero; and, by the law of average, it can be expected that the summer months will supply the other extreme. I can say most truthfully that our expectations are seldom disappointed, for we have days when 90° to 100°, and occasionally higher temperatures, are recorded. But between these seasons there are long periods of the most delightful temperatures, with growing rains, glorious sunshine and clear atmosphere. The conditions for profitable crop culture and good health are here combined to a degree that leaves little to be desired.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE CHURCHES

It has often been said that "The sword follows the flag." The history of every nation seems to bear out this declaration. It is equally true that the missionary is not far behind the sword and many times he is some distance in advance of the flag.

#### IOWA'S FIRST PREACHER

The records seem to indicate that long before the white man thought to occupy this territory efforts were being made to Christianize the Indian. In 1842 Rev. David Lowery, who had been appointed agent for the Winnebago reservation, began the erection of a mission school at Old Mission. He was subsequently transferred to Minnesota, and though the mission was continued under other management, history does not record that any material advancement was achieved in the cause of Christianity. However, it is worth while to perpetuate the fact that Reverend Lowery was probably Iowa's first preacher. He was a Kentuckian and a Cumberland Presbyterian.

#### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The most trustworthy authorities available at this time give to the Catholic church credit for the erection of the first church edifice in Winneshiek county. At the risk of being accused of repetition we refer to the paragraph in Harrison Goddard's sketch of Washington township, written for Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas and republished in the chapter on towns and townships. Mr. Goddard says most of the settlers of 1840 were strict adherents of the Catholic faith; that they purchased lands and Indian huts, and that the largest of the huts was converted into a chapel, Father G. H. Plathe being sent to minister unto them. In 1853, when this little church was destroyed by fire, a site was secured at Twin Springs. We refer the reader to Mr. Goddard's sketch for the full details, which will be found interesting.

Besides the Twin Springs congregation there are large and flourishing churches in Fort Atkinson, Calmar, Ossian, and Spillville. The Decorah and Bluffton

congregations, while maintaining separate churches, are practically one parish with Rev. J. Hawe, assisted by Father Ranier, who was recently transferred from Marshalltown, at their head. The Decorah church was built in 1864 and occupied on October 22d. It cost about six thousand dollars. At the present time plans are maturing for the construction of a new church to cost \$25,000, the old one having become too small. Plymouth Rock also has a church.

#### THE FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

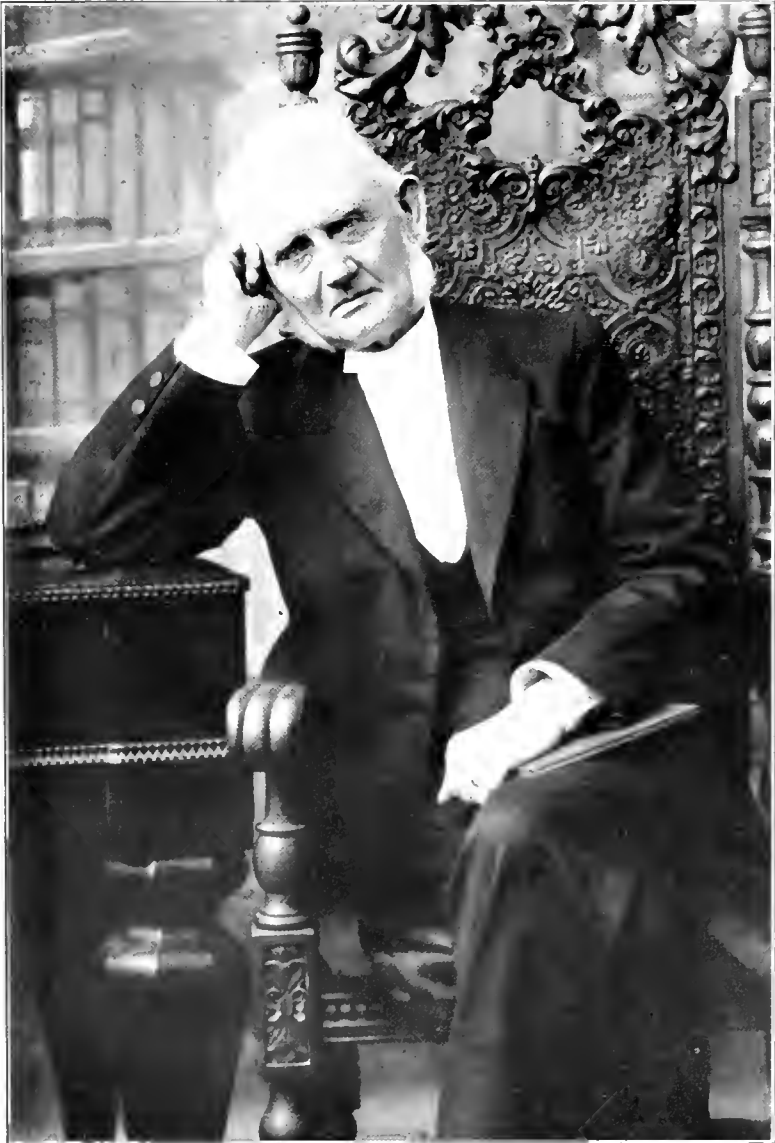
Close upon the heels of the Catholics came the Lutherans. The settlement by Norwegians, which began in 1850 and grew and spread rapidly in the next eight or ten years, naturally invited ministers of their faith to come and be pioneers with them. Rev. N. Brandt, who subsequently became a professor at Luther College, was probably the first minister of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America to visit the county. He was located in Wisconsin at the time and was doing missionary work over a wide and constantly widening territory. He is credited with visiting this territory and holding services, and it is well known that in 1850 he performed the first marriage to take place in Madison township.

It was not until 1853 that the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America was organized and the county acquired its first resident Lutheran pastor. In that year Rev. Vilhelm Koren, fresh from the University of Christiania, brought his bride to Washington Prairie (Springfield township) and established residence in a log cabin that was at once a home and a house of prayer. At the same time there was hospitality for the wayfarer who might be storm stayed or overtaken by darkness. While nominally he was pastor to the little colony that had settled on the prairie, his parish knew no limitations except the Mississippi river on the east. He was the only Norwegian Lutheran pastor west of the river and soon his charge became known as Little Iowa, and he would make long trips up into Minnesota as well as throughout this part of Iowa, ministering to the spiritual welfare of his countrymen. Reared in a home of refinement and true aristocracy, Reverend Koren was still democratic enough to welcome the hardships of the pioneer, and to meet and overcome obstacles that another would have shunned.

As the country became more thickly settled others came to join him in his religious work, congregations grew up here and there and churches were built, but Reverend Koren's labors were not curtailed. Recognizing in him a leader, he was made president of the Iowa district, later he became vice president of the Synod, and finally the presidency came to him both as a reward for and a heritage of his service. While he was performing his official duties he was also serving as pastor to the congregation that claimed him as their leader in 1853. For fifty-six years he delivered a Christmas sermon to his flock, using as his text the story of the coming of the Christ child, each year drawing from it a new message.

It was due to the foresight of Reverend Koren that Luther College came into possession of the beautiful grounds where her buildings are now located. Even before it was determined to move the college to Decorah he had paved the way to their acquisition, and the Synod has many times been thankful that among their numbers there was one whose judgment had been so wise and helpful. Reverend Koren had a rare faculty with young men, and when he died in





REV. V. KOREN

First resident Norwegian Lutheran clergyman west of Mississippi River.



1911 no man could have been more truly mourned. His influence was not confined to his own nationality, but extended to all who knew him.

#### THE NORWEGIAN METHODISTS

Not all of the Norwegians were of Lutheran faith, however. For a number of years there were several small congregations of Norwegian Methodists, but by the time the younger generations began to take the place of the pioneers they had acquire<sup>d</sup> such facility in the English language that more and more they affiliated with the English churches, until the membership of the Norwegian congregations was completely absorbed.

#### THE UNITED LUTHERANS

Even among the Lutherans there was not a unanimous sentiment upon the matter of creed. Sixty years ago what was then known as the Hauge branch established a church on Washington Prairie, and through all the intervening years it has prospered and is today one of the strong congregations of the county.

The differences that arose among members of the Lutheran Synod some thirty years ago resulted in a division of congregations and the establishment of many new churches known as the United Lutherans. At the time it was feared that serious harm would surely follow, but the record of the years does not bear out that prediction. There may have been—undoubtedly was—a temporary struggle in which the financial side of the controversy loomed large, but where there is spiritual strength to weather such a storm there need be little fear of the ultimate outcome. It is a matter of much gratification to all concerned that today both the Synod and United Lutheran congregations of this county are stronger than ever before, and there can be seen a day not far distant when the differences of the past will have been forgiven and forgotten, and their members will again be marching under one standard.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH

"The Methodist Episcopal church was introduced into Decorah, Iowa, when there were but three so-called houses here, viz: Mr. Day's, Mr. Painter's and that of Father and Mother Morse. It was at the house of the last named that Rev. Albert Bishop knocked one rainy evening in September, 1851. Mother Morse opened the door, and seeing a stranger dripping with rain, was accosted as follows: 'Does Brother Morse live here? I am a missionary seeking for the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' 'You have found them,' said she, 'this is the place, walk in.'"

The foregoing is a quotation from an historical sketch of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decorah prepared by Rev. G. W. Brindle, one of its early pastors. The record goes on to state that the next day the first religious service was held in the Morse cabin, and during the week Elder Bishop remained here the church was organized with a class of four, consisting of Philip and Hannah Morse and E. A. Coger and wife. The missionary's circuit included Lansing, Monona, and all the intervening territory. He served for two years, being followed by

Reverends L. S. Ashbaugh and H. S. Brunson in 1853, and by Rev. John Webb and Brother Davis in 1854. In 1855 Rev. E. E. Byam was appointed to serve the Decorah congregation and during his pastorate he raised funds and built the first church building the town had known. It was completed and dedicated in 1856. L. L. Couse, as clerk of the church, has in his possession the original subscription list. Alonzo Bradish is the only survivor among the list of contributors.

In the early '70s this church had become too small and the congregation decided to build a larger one. The building was sold to the late Col. W. T. Baker and Edwin Farnsworth, who moved it onto lots directly south of the courthouse, where it served as the home of the Christian church. Later it was sold to John Breckenridge who converted it into a school building, though the Christian church continued to use it during the remainder of their short existence. The removal of this structure from its former location permitted the erection of the large brick building that has served the Decorah congregation since December 20, 1874, the date on which it was dedicated. Fire has twice damaged this building, and more recently it was damaged by wind and hail, but these have only served to test the faith and loyalty of its members, and in neither have they been found wanting.

Among the men who have served as pastor here the names of Rev. G. W. Brindle, Rev. F. E. Brush and Rev. S. G. Smith are frequently recalled. Of this trio Rev. Smith is the only survivor. For many years he has been the pastor and leading spirit of the People's church of St. Paul, Minnesota, and has gained an international reputation as a pulpit orator and worker along sociological lines.

The establishment of the church in Decorah was the entering wedge that was instrumental in its establishment in almost every center of importance in the county. As far back as forty years ago Freeport had its church building, Calmar, Ossian, Ridgeway, Burr Oak, Hesper, and Kendallville are served regularly, and Frankville occasionally. Ridgeway has a handsome little church built a few years ago that is an ornament to the town.

The German Methodists also maintain services at Decorah, Canoe and in Lincoln township, owning church homes in each of these localities.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational church is now represented by one congregation—that at Decorah. Rev. A. M. Eastman came to Decorah only a few weeks after Elder Bishop in 1851, and established monthly meetings which were held in the log tavern of the Day family. In 1855 the church was organized, and Rev. W. A. Keith, living at Freeport, was the first pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. Ephraim Adams in 1857, services being held in the courthouse until November 17, 1861, when a church building, which had been under construction during 1860 and 1861, was dedicated.

Reverend Adams was a man marked for a great service, both to the Decorah church and Congregationalism in Iowa. He was a member of the "Iowa Band," a company of fourteen young men who came to Iowa in 1843 from Andover College. Of this company, F. L. Herriott of Drake University, in his article on "The Nativity of the Pioneers of Iowa," published in Iowa Official Register of 1911-12 says: "In 1843 came the 'Iowa Band,' a little brotherhood of Andover missionaries and preachers, graduates of Amherst, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, Harvard,



REV. EPHRAIM ADAMS



New York City University, Union College, the Universities of Vermont and Yale. It may be doubted if any other group of men has exerted a title of the beneficial influence upon the life of the state that was exerted by those earnest workers. The two oldest educational institutions in the State owe their inception and establishment to the far-sighted plans and persistent self-sacrifice and promotion of Asa Turner and the Iowa Band. It is not extravagant to presume that it was the emulation aroused by those apostles from New England that created the 'passion for education' among the pioneers of Iowa, that resulted in the establishment of the fifty academies, colleges and universities between 1838 and 1852. From this fact doubtless Iowa came to be known as the 'Massachusetts of the West.'

"The election of James W. Grimes, Governor of Iowa, in 1854, and the revolution in the political control of the state which that event signified, first attracted the attention of the nation to Iowa. Prior to that date Iowa was regarded with but little interest by the people of the northern states. She was looked upon as a solid democratic state and was grouped with Illinois and Indiana in the alignment of political parties in the contest over the extension of slavery.

\* \* \* "In the accomplishment of this political revolution, New Englanders, energized and led largely by members of the 'Iowa Band,' were conspicuous, if not the preponderant factors."

Reverend Adams remained with the Decorah church until 1872, when he resigned to take up missionary work, and until his health compelled him to cease his labors he was attached to the Iowa Home Missionary Society. Of that little band of fourteen he and Rev. William Salter of Burlington were the last survivors. Reverend Adams and his wife, who was his efficient helper as well as beloved companion through a long and happy service, rest in Phelps cemetery, Decorah.

The Decorah church was subsequently served by Rev. H. B. Woodworth, for ten years. Rev. John Willard of Newtonville, Massachusetts, was called by the church in December, 1882, and assumed the pastorate early in 1883. For the past fifteen years or more Rev. Mahlon Willett has been pastor. Reverend Willett was a youth in the Congregational Sunday School when Reverend Adams was its pastor. After graduating from theological school he served an Illinois church for a short time, going from there to Texas, where he was pastor of the first White Congregational church in that state, and thence to California where he held long and successful pastorates in several parishes.

In 1895 a crisis faced the church. The building erected in 1860-61 had outlived its expectancy. It was not merely an old structure—it was inadequate, and fears were entertained that it might fall, its walls having become badly cracked. Subsequent events proved these fears groundless, but the society decided the time had arrived when their steps must take one of two courses, and they chose the forward movement. A building committee was appointed and funds were solicited, resulting in the erection, at a cost of about sixteen thousand dollars, of the present edifice. The church was dedicated in February, 1896, and in many ways it is a model in its compactness, convertibility for large or small gatherings, comfort and beauty.

Two other Congregational churches were maintained at different times in the county. One at Burr Oak was ministered unto by Reverend Bent, father of

George P. Bent, the Chicago piano maker, and a German church at Fort Atkinson for many years claimed Reverend Hess, father of Mrs. W. M. Strand of Decorah, as its pastor, but these churches were never strong and their congregations gradually scattered.

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grace church is the only Episcopal organization in the county. Its existence traces back into the '70s and for several years its services were held in the Congregational church, but in 1875 and 1876 the edifice on Broadway was built, and dedicated on March 14th. Its congregation has never been large, but its members have made up in faith what was lacking in numbers. Of its several rectors, Rev. F. J. Mynard, and Rev. Wellington McVettie, the present incumbent, have been the most successful, and the church today is in a healthy and flourishing condition.

#### OTHER CHURCHES

The Friends and Presbyterians are each represented by a congregation—the former at Hesper, where Rev. H. C. Carter is the pastor, and the latter at Frankville. At the time this sketch is being penned the Frankville church is without a pastor, but the society is maintained loyally.

The Friends have maintained their church at Hesper since an early day. Many of the pioneer settlers were members of that faith and they were men of sturdy character. They and their decendants have died or moved away, but their places have been taken by others who zealously uphold the faith. In the chapter on towns and townships will be found a sketch of Springwater (Canoe township), by Mr. Edgar Olson of Faribault, Minnesota, and printed in the Decorah Republican of August 21, 1909, at the time of the Home Coming. In it are mentioned the names of many of these Quaker pioneers.

The Seventh Day Adventists are represented by a congregation at Burr Oak that has had a long existence. Accessions to their ranks have been numerous, though the services of a pastor have not been maintained at all times. During the past two years services have been held in Decorah and a small congregation has been organized.

At Castalia the United Brethren have a prosperous church, and services are held by the Christian Scientists in Decorah, so it may be truly said that Winneshiek county is not lacking in churches or devotion to religious work. As a general rule the various denominations contribute liberally to the support of benevolences such as home and foreign missions, etc. The work of the Sunday school is maintained by most of the organizations, and societies of Christian Endeavor, Epworth League and Luther League flourish in many of the towns.

At the present time there is no Baptist congregation in the county. In 1891 the society organized a church in Decorah which flourished for a time and built a church building, but for several years it has been inactive and the property reverted to the state organization. The Unitarians were also active in Decorah for some years during the '90s and up to four or five years ago. Last year their church home on Main street was sold to the Decorah Lodge of Elks, and during the present year it has been remodeled and enlarged into a lodge home.



## CHAPTER XIX

### PATRIOTIC AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

#### PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

But three patriotic societies may be said to exist in Winneshiek county at the present time, though four have had organizations.

On May 8, 1883, Colonel Hughes Post, No. 168, G. A. R., with its Woman's Relief Corps, was organized. In selecting a name the boys in blue honored the memory of one of the early volunteers from Winneshiek county—Col. D. H. Hughes—whose record and date of death will be found in the military history given elsewhere. Maj. Charles H. Hitchcock was the first commander. Capt. E. I. Weiser was the second commander, serving consecutively for ten years. Then in succession of one year each the commanders were L. L. Couse, L. L. Cadwell, Patrick McCusker and H. L. Coffeen. Captain Weiser was again elected and served until his death on October 2, 1902. Altogether he was commander for fourteen years and he was beloved as was no other among the members of the post. On his death L. L. Couse, as senior vice, again took the commander's chair and served four years thereafter. L. L. Cadwell, the present commander, has served since January 1, 1907.

The Relief Corps has enjoyed a prosperous existence. It has grown steadily, and particularly in late years its membership has been augmented. Miss Jessie McKay, one of its prominent workers, served for two years as treasurer of the state organization.

The Sons of Veterans was the third patriotic body to be organized locally, but its charter has been permitted to lapse.

Garfield Circle, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, was formed four years ago and is a thriving organization. Although one of the younger circles in Iowa it has already received recognition, Mrs. Mary J. Couse of Decorah having served as its state president for the year that closed in June.

#### FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

Of the fraternal societies that maintain lodges within the borders of Winneshiek county, two stand out prominently—the Masons and the Odd Fellows.

The Masons have lodges in Decorah, Calmar, Ossian, Frankville and Burr Oak. To Frankville belongs the distinction of having the first Masonic lodge. At just what date Union Band Lodge No. 66 was organized we are unable to state, but Sparks' History of Winneshiek County said, among other things, "As an illustration of the importance Frankville attained when at its acme it will only be necessary to state that the Free Masons of Decorah used to go to the former place to hold lodge meetings." It is known that Frank Teabout was instrumental in the organization of the Frankville lodge, consequently it is safe to assume that the date was in the early '50s.

Decorah Lodge No. 98 was the second in order, but it became extinct in 1861. In 1866 Great Lights Lodge No. 181 received its charter. Taking them in their numerical order Arcturus Lodge No. 237 of Ossian was the next to be organized. Copestone Lodge No. 316 of Calmar followed and Cement Lodge No. 567 of Burr Oak was the last. The dates of organization of the Ossian, Calmar and Burr Oak lodges are unknown to us. King Solomon's Chapter No. 35, R. A. M., was organized in Decorah in 1867; Beausant Commandery No. 12 in 1869, and Decorah Chapter No. 73, O. E. S., came into being in 1888. These lodges have experienced liberal accessions to their membership and the lodges are all in a healthy, growing condition. The fraternal spirit is ever in evidence whether in lodge room or elsewhere.

#### THE ODD FELLOWS

It is a matter of doubt as to whether the Masons or the Odd Fellows were the first fraternal order to establish a lodge in this county, but it is a matter of definite knowledge that Moneek Lodge No. 58, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Moneek on October 26, 1854, with Abner DeCon as its first Noble Grand. When the death-knell of Moneek was rung by the establishment of the Military road to Frankville, permission was granted to remove the lodge from Moneek to Ossian. This was in 1855. In November, 1857, another removal was granted and this time the lodge was established at Decorah. Its name was changed to Winneshiek Lodge No. 58, and it so remains. Today among the men who were members of the lodge in the '50s there remain Philip Husted, who joined in 1856, and Alonzo Bradish, who joined in 1858. George Draper joined in 1868, Jacob Ammer in 1875, R. F. Gibson, who was a member of the Odd Fellows in Ohio as early as 1851, joined by card in 1876.

On October 15, 1880, Decorah Encampment No. 133 reclaimed a surrendered charter and once more came into existence. On October 20, 1890, Oneonta Rebekah Lodge No. 175 was organized.

The only other Odd Fellows lodge in the county is located at Burr Oak. For a lodge located in a rural community the Burr Oak lodge is one of the large and prosperous ones of the state. They have owned their lodge hall for a good many years. Usona Rebekah lodge is the auxiliary at Burr Oak, and this lodge as well as the lodges in Decorah are enjoying prosperity in its best fraternal sense.

#### THE EAGLES

A lodge of this order was organized some years ago in Decorah, but its life was brief and the charter was long since surrendered.

## BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

The Elks lodge of Decorah—Decorah Lodge No. 443—may be rightly considered something more than a local organization. It was established on June 22, 1899, and has grown steadily. Its membership embraces many of the prominent business and professional men of Decorah and includes residents of other towns in the county as well as good representations in Waukon, West Union and cities in other nearby counties. Two years ago the lodge took up the question of securing a permanent lodge home and negotiations were opened for the purchase of the Unity church building. The building was acquired early in 1912 and plans were perfected for remodeling and enlargement. These are now nearing completion and it is the expectation of the lodge that they will soon be dispensing good cheer and extending the hand of fellowship to visiting brothers in their new quarters. The building, which cost over ten thousand dollars, is located on the northwest corner of Main and River streets, just outside of the business district and is admirably adapted to lodge requirements. Its present membership is about two hundred and fifteen.

## THE OWLS

The Owls is the youngest fraternal order to be established in the county, the Decorah nest being the only representative. It has lodge rooms in the Hutchinson building on Washington street and a membership of about eighty.

## KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Lodges of this society are maintained in Decorah and Calmar. The Calmar lodge is the older of the two. A quarter of a century ago a lodge was organized in Decorah, but after a short existence surrendered its charter. In 1902 a new charter was sought and on September 5th the lodge was organized. It has since been maintained, its growth being not large, but steady and substantial.

## OTHER SOCIETIES

Scattered through the county are a number of lodges of the various mutual insurance companies. First and foremost among them is the Modern Woodmen of America, which is likewise the oldest. There are also healthy lodges of Woodmen of the World, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, Degree of Honor, Macca-bees, the Catholic Order of Foresters, Royal Neighbors and possibly others.







WINNEBAGO STREET, DECORAH



WATER STREET LOOKING EAST, DECORAH

## CHAPTER XX

### CITY OF DECORAH

The following sketch was prepared by A. K. Bailey for Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas. It is now adopted, with such corrections as a lapse of eight years requires:

White men may have camped on the site of the city of Decorah, the shire town of Winneshiek county, previous to June 10, 1849, but, if so, they left no evidence of their visit. Tradition refers to such visitors with the hint that they were of the class that prefers the borders of civilization to civilization itself.

It was on the above date that a homeseeker's wagon halted beside a magnificent spring that existed for many years several rods in rear of the present "Winneshiek House." That spot became the future home of the Day family. They were Virginians of the enterprising class and were seeking a location with larger advantages than their earlier home had afforded them. This company consisted of the wife and mother of the family (who was also its master spirit) and three sons. "Mother" Day's keenness of observation had noted that cities and villages were mostly located on living streams or beside considerable bodies of water; hence she sought that advantage as a desirable addition to good farming lands. In the charming Upper Iowa river valley and the splendid spring beside which the party had halted, it was then and there settled that here was to be the future home of the Day family.

The remains of the largest village of the Winnebago Indians were still in existence. This tribe left their Iowa home reluctantly, but the fiat had gone forth that they must "move on," and the formality of a treaty had settled this question two years previous. Perhaps, nay, probably, the Indian trails that everywhere centered towards this spot had something to do in leading their white successors to the favorite village of the Winnebagoes. Be that as it may, the same influences in tutored and untutored minds led to a choice which proved wise and profitable to the whites who succeeded the Indians.

The family of William Painter followed soon after and located close by in the same valley, a little west of the Day homestead, so close that when the village plat of Decorah was made it was located on lands owned by both these pioneers. The tide of traveling land seekers followed them. The Days kept open house.

Their log cabin became a hotel of widespread fame, at a convenient point on the overland stage route from Dubuque to St. Paul.

In 1851 the county of Winneshiek was organized (as told in the history of Winneshiek county) by John L. Carson, legally appointed organizing officer or sheriff. By the legislative act for organizing the county "Decorah" was named as one of the points to be voted for as the county seat of Winneshiek county. Mr. Carson's certificate (the first paper of any kind in the official records of the county) duly certifies that "on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1851, Decorah was duly elected to be the county seat of said (Winneshiek) comty." The legal existence of Decorah did not begin, however, until 1853; for it was not until August 17th of that year that William Day made and entered of record a plat and deed of renunciation to public use of the "east half of Decorah," and September 7th following William Painter executed a like plat and deed for the "west half of Decorah." The name was borrowed from the Winnebago Indians. Winneshiek was a distinguished chief of that tribe, and Waukon Decorah was a lesser chief. The name, however, is not of wholly Indian origin, but is believed to have come from the French and Sioux.

The earliest historian of Decorah was Rev. Ephraim Adams, a Congregational clergyman who came to Decorah in 1857 as the first resident pastor. In the Thanksgiving sermon delivered ten years later on "The First Things of Decorah," he drew this picture of the future city in 1851-2:

Let us see what we have: Three log cabins, one hotel; a lawyer and two merchants, partners in trade; with other families that might be named, though the census would not be large; the water power beginning to be improved; regular preaching once a month by two different denominations; and a county seat with, of course, regular sessions of the county court.

It was in this year that Decorah postoffice was established, with C. Day postmaster.

In 1853 the first schoolhouse was built. It was located on the lot now occupied by the First Norwegian Lutheran church; and the first teacher was Theodore W. Burdick, who for many years was one of the most prominent citizens of the city. For one term he represented this district in the lower branch of Congress.

In 1854, according to Rev. Mr. Adams, above quoted, the three cabins of 1851 had expanded to "a little village of fifteen to twenty buildings, counting hotels, stores, stables, shops and buildings of all kinds." In the years 1854-5 the first Winneshiek House was erected by Wm. Day, on the original site selected by Mrs. Day. In A. D. 1877 this was enlarged, made really a second "Winneshiek," and at the time this is written the third Winneshiek is nearing its completion—a structure such as the pioneers never dreamed of, for railways, electric light and communication, steam heat, and all of the modern conveniences were then unknown qualities.

In 1855 Congress passed a law locating a land office at Decorah. This opened December 24, 1855, and brought hither a throng of land speculators, bankers and others, which gave the town such an impetus that when the census of 1860 was taken the population had grown to 1,219. It is said there were nine bankers and land offices doing business here while the land office was open and as long as any land remained for entry. One of these survived the panic of



1857, and all subsequent financial perils. The "Winnesheik County Bank, capital \$5,000," was opened by two Pennsylvanians—Horace S. Weiser and Thos. J. Filbert. The latter retired a few years later, and the bank was continued by the senior partner until his death twenty years later. "The Winnesheik County State Bank" is the legitimate successor of this pioneer bank, and has now reached its fiftieth year of successful life. Charles J. Weiser, son of the founder, is now the president, and the stock is largely held by him and his two sisters. The original \$5,000 of capital has grown to \$100,000, with a surplus fund of \$25,000, and a property value behind it a hundred times greater than the original fund.

The first newspaper started in 1855, and was known as the Decorah Chronicle. In the ensuing few years it had a new publisher almost every year until in 1860 it became the property of W. Bailey & Son. It is now conducted by A. K. Bailey & Son, the junior of that period being the senior of the present time.

The village grew continuously, and in 1857 had aspirations for municipal honors. This resulted in a decision reached by vote of electors on the first Monday in April of that year to incorporate as a town under the state law. Hon. E. E. Cooley was chosen mayor, with full corps of municipal officers.

In 1870 the census disclosed a population of 2,110. This being a sufficient population to make it "a city of the second class," steps were taken to enter that grade of municipalities, and that event was completed by an election in 1871 of Charles T. Allen as mayor, with a council of eight members representing four wards. The boundaries of the city have twice been enlarged, the last time by uniting to it the town of West Decorah, which had been incorporated in 1879, including all that part of the city lying on the west side of the Upper Iowa river. The city has never enjoyed a boom; its growth has been steady and normal, advancing only as fast as the necessities of the surrounding country demanded. In 1860 its population was 1,219; in 1870, 2,110; in 1880, 2,951; in 1900 with West Decorah added, 3,777; in 1910, 3,592.

Strenuous efforts were made for many years to build up manufacturing enterprises, but for various reasons most of these were unsuccessful, although large sums of money were expended in the effort. In the meanwhile, without especial endeavor, there grew up an unusual success along a line many communities have expended large sums only to meet failure in the end. The city became an educational center.

In 1862 Luther College came hither. It was founded in 1859-60, and passed its first year in Wisconsin. Then, as now, this county was a center of a numerous, intelligent and generous Norwegian population, and when a permanent location was desired by the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of North America for a high class educational institution Decorah was elected. A beautiful site was provided for it on the western border of the city. While the first college building was being erected the building now used by the St. Cloud Hotel, and one dormitory adjoining it, was ample for the students who first sought its benefits. In 1863 the college grew in numbers as well as enlarged its facilities for doing the work of preparing young men for lives of usefulness demanding culture, intelligence and consecration. A very high percentage of its graduates passed on into the theological seminary, and thence to the service of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In 1889 the first building was destroyed by fire, and for a time removal

was contemplated. The final decision of the synod was to rebuild, and out of the trial by fire grew stronger than ever for the great work to be done.

In 1874 John Breckenridge, who had been a successful teacher in the public schools of the city, decided to start an academic school, and in that manner the Decorah Institute was born. It has maintained a very successful career of more than a quarter century; and the young men and women it has helped to higher positions than they could otherwise have reached are counted by the thousands. Among its graduates are state and county superintendents of schools, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and others filling useful places in the work of the world.

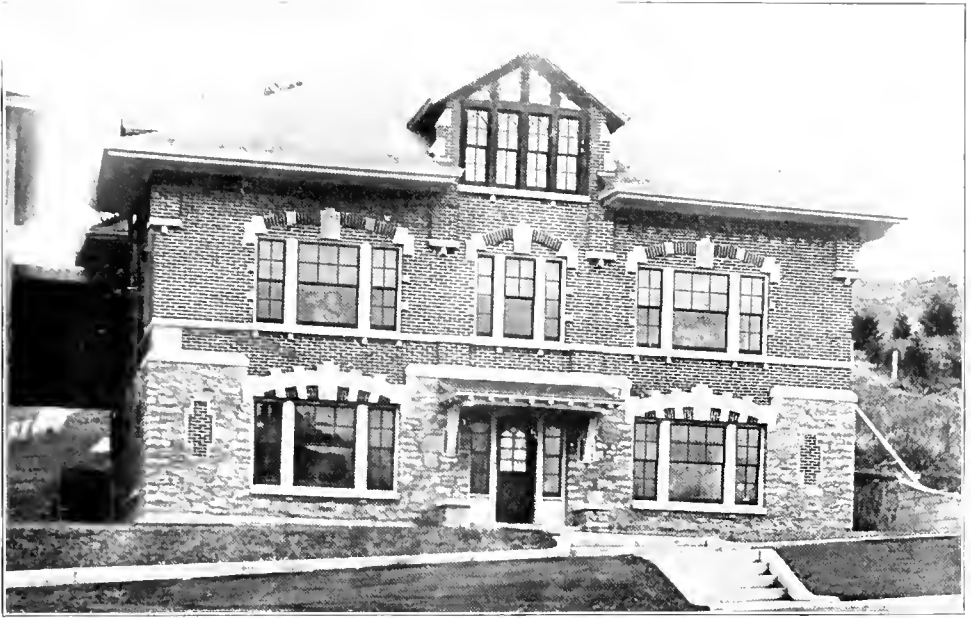
In 1888 Mr. C. H. Valder, another teacher, whose specialty was in penmanship and business training, conceived the idea of establishing a business college. To this was soon added a normal department, and it, too, has aided other thousands into positions of high rank in the business world. Year after year its enrollment has been upwards of 400; and its graduates are scattered all over the Northwest from Chicago to the Pacific coast. A lesser institution came also without solicitation—the Sisters' School, or Academy of the Immaculate Conception, and its work has been helpful to a large body of youth.

Meanwhile the public school has never been neglected. Step by step a school has been built up that carries its students to the doors of the colleges of the state and the universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The school property of the district—coequal with the city limits—exceeds in value \$50,000. These schools' privileges are so highly appreciated that in the winter season nearly a thousand students, not residents of the city, are attracted here for the advantages these institutions afford.

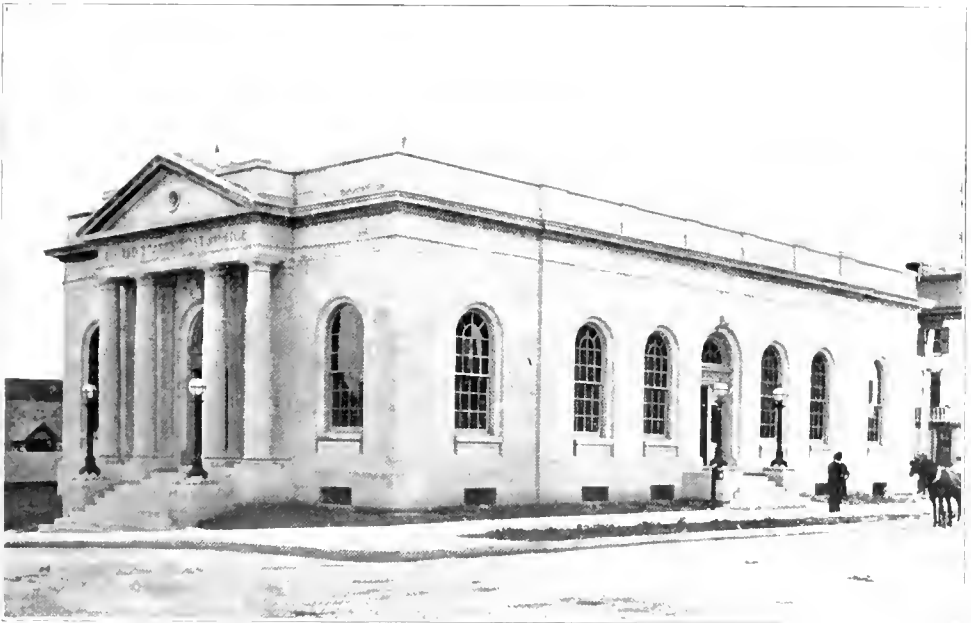
The printing industry is one not fostered by capital that has grown to such proportions that there is no other city of 4,000 people that can compare with it. The location of Luther College in Decorah made this the educational center of the Norwegian Lutherans of America. It also was the main factor in causing the establishment of the Synod Publishing House. This is what its name implies in its fullest extent. It is supplied with the best purchasable equipment in type-setting machines, printing presses, and binding implements, and its output, in addition to its church weekly, includes the making of Bibles, prayer and hymn books, theological works, etc. It is equipped for any work the big city offices can do.

The Decorah-Posten is also another great success in the printing art. After years of desperate struggles, Mr. B. Anundsen, its publisher, achieved the enviable position of securing the largest circulation of any Norwegian newspaper printed in this country. Twice a week the Posten sends to over 30,000 patrons the product of a corps of six editors, and an equipment that includes two perfecting presses, three linotypes, and other up-to-date facilities of the printer's art. The local newspapers are the Decorah Republican, the lineal descendant of the Chronicle, started in 1855; the Decorah Journal, published by Fred Biermann, and representing the democratic faith; and the Decorah Public Opinion, published by H. J. Green, republican in its faith. Each of these offices has excellent equipments.

The church accommodations of Decorah are large and fully ample for the needs of a city of 5,000 people. There are seven different organizations, all



ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECORAH



NEW POST OFFICE, DECORAH



represented in houses of worship. The pioneer church was of the Methodist faith, organized by Rev. Albert Bishop in September, 1851. Its first house of worship was built in 1856, and is now in use as the Boy Scout headquarters and as a gymnasium. The brick building now occupied was erected in 1874. The second church was of the Congregational order, established in June, 1854. Rev. E. Adams became its pastor in 1857, and remained in this relation for fourteen succeeding years. Its first house of worship was erected in 1860 and 1861, being dedicated November 17th of the latter year. This structure gave place to a new and more modern church in the years 1895-6. These were followed in due time by the Catholic, Episcopal, First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran, German Methodist, Baptist, and United Lutheran (Norwegian), all save one sustaining pastors and holding regular Sabbath services.

The banking facilities of the city are supplied by the Winneshiek County State Bank, heretofore referred to, the Citizens Savings Bank, organized under state laws, and the National Bank of Decorah, operating under the national banking law. Their business relations with the people of this city and surrounding territory are indicated by the following statistics taken from the last published statements made in compliance with legal requirements:

Winneshiek County State Bank.—Capital, surplus and undivided profits, \$206,111.49; aggregate resources, \$1,656,345.93. Officers—C. J. Weiser, president; R. Algier and E. W. D. Holway, vice presidents; A. Anfinson, cashier; and A. C. Whalen, assistant cashier.

Citizens Savings Bank.—Capital, surplus and profits, \$79,416.07; total resources, \$572,118.50. Officers—E. J. Curtin, president; Ogden Casterton, vice president; B. J. McKay, cashier; F. E. Cratsenberg and Richard E. Bucknell, assistant cashiers.

National Bank of Decorah.—Capital, surplus and profits, \$64,088.90; total resources, \$549,522.62. Officers—L. B. Whitney, president; O. C. Johnson, vice president; H. C. Hjerleid, cashier; W. F. Baker, assistant cashier.

Decorah State Bank.—Capital, surplus and profits, \$61,382.77; total resources, \$258,788.71. Officers—R. A. Engbretson, president; L. S. Reque, vice president; E. F. Berg, cashier; Arthur R. Johnson, assistant cashier.

Aggregate resources of all banks, \$1,485,997.53.

The railway history of Decorah began as early as 1856 by a local organization known as the Northwestern Railroad Company, but nothing like the whistle of a locomotive was heard inside the borders of the county until 1864. The McGregor Western Railway in time was merged into the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. In September, 1869, a branch line was built into Decorah, to the intense gratification of all its citizens. There were those, however, who seriously questioned whether it would prove a permanent line. They argued that a daily stage line was ample for all the passenger traffic, and the freight business gave employment to only a few teamsters. Why, they said, one combination coach, making a daily trip in and out, would suffice all the needs of the town. Today over that line there are five daily trains in and out, consisting of one or more passenger cars, a combined baggage and smoking car, a U. S. mail coach, and not infrequently trains of a half-dozen or more of freight cars. In 1883 an extension of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway from Postville was secured. This has since passed into the hands of the Rock Island

System, thereby affording to the city all the resources of two of the largest railway organizations operating in the West.

In 1881-2 the necessity of better fire protection than a chemical engine and a bucket brigade caused the citizens to vote the city authorities permission to bond the incorporation for \$16,000 and construct a waterworks system. The surrounding hills gave the best possible opportunity to make and use the gravity system. A reservoir ample for all present needs was built on the bluffs above the city (in the natural drainage of the land), that gives a force upon the mains in the business portion of the city exceeding a pressure of a hundred pounds per inch. The fire protection afforded is ample, and, as the popular saying goes, the system paid for itself several times over by the power and force of the direct pressure it affords. A fire department of three hose companies and one hook and ladder company has been all the city has needed. Additions to the original system have been made until, at this time, nearly every point inside the city limits is within reach of the fire department with 3,000 feet of hose.

The unity of purpose, public spirit and enterprise of the citizens is marked by two conspicuous examples. In 1891 it seemed necessary to secure a safe, comfortable and suitable public building in which to hold public gatherings, concerts, theatricals, and conventions. The original opera house had been out-grown; there was danger in filling it as such structures often are, and many of the older citizens could not endeavor to lift themselves up and down two long flight of steps. A canvass of the city was made, and nearly every one approached joined in a proposition to build a suitable opera house—one in fact as well as name. At that time a complete structure for \$25,000 was unknown. To build it was an experiment. It was a success. Hundreds have since been erected. This was the pioneer. There were over a hundred owners, and few owned any large portion. It was a new era in city history. It meant a higher class of entertainment, and the dropping out of the cheaper ones. We all took comfort in it. In the mid-summer of 1898 its interior was destroyed by fire. The owners and managers were not discouraged. They rose to the occasion. They rebuilt it and enlarged its capacity fully one-fourth, thereby making it more popular than ever.

In a somewhat similar manner when it became evident that the traveling public was shunning our city because the hotel equipments were crowded and did not meet their demands, plans were formed in 1904 to supply this deficiency. An organization was perfected and fifty stockholders united in like spirit. The result is a new Winneshiek, built during the ensuing fall and winter. It was informally opened April 1st, and formally opened on the 27th day of April. What the opera house was to its patrons, the Winneshiek is to the traveling public—new throughout, from foundation stone to cap-stone—a fifty-room hotel of city characteristics in every respect.

In 1902 a system of permanent paving was begun. Eight blocks of it—it being from the west end of Water street to Dry Run bridge, with two blocks on two side streets—were laid with Galesburg brick. In the following year four additional blocks on Washington street were similarly paved, and in 1903-4 another portion of the same street that had been troublesome and vexatious, was permanently improved and made a feature of the city which citizens take pleasure in showing to visiting friends.

Since the foregoing improvement was completed paving has been done about Courthouse square, on Main street from Winnebago to Washington street and from Water to Main on Court street, a total of six blocks.

The year 1913 has witnessed another noticeable improvement in the lighting of the business portion of the city. Handsome electroliers have taken the place of the old arc lights and the city presents a metropolitan appearance.

The city hospital that is to be is referred to under the head of Public Buildings. While this is in a measure a local enterprise, the city of Decorah expects that the people of the county generally will avail themselves of its beneficial features.

All public buildings and many of the residences are lighted by electricity or gas furnished by private corporations. The Standard Telephone Company (now owned by the "Bell" interests) maintains a local exchange that is well sustained, and through the toll lines and independent farm lines, every town in the county and hundreds of farm homes are in easy communication.

The city officials, chosen at last spring's election, are: H. J. Green, mayor; councilmen—1st ward, John O'Neil; 2d ward, W. F. Baker; 3d ward, R. Bucknell; 4th ward, L. L. Cadwell; 5th ward, W. T. Symonds; at large, Peter Jenson and C. E. McKinney. F. M. Hughes is city clerk, J. A. Nelson is city attorney, R. Algyar is city treasurer, and E. J. Gillett is assessor.





## CHAPTER XXI

### CALMAR TOWNSHIP AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES

From an article prepared by John B. Kaye for Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas of Winneshiek County, with additions of recent data.

Calmar township, although directly in the path of the Government Military Road between Fort Atkinson and other western and northern points, and Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (said from Bloody Run northward to be the best natural highway in the world), was not occupied by actual settlers as early as Frankville and several other townships in the county. In 1851 the county was organized, and the tax assessment list for that year (the first ever made in the county) of all persons whose property tax was over \$10, contains only one name for what afterward became Calmar township, and that was Joseph Spielman, who afterward became the founder of Spillville. His assessed tax was \$18.96, which showed him then to be the fourth richest man in the county; only John McKay, Frank Teabout and Benjamin Beard, all of Frankville township, exceeding him in assessable property.

Thor. P. Skotland, the richest Norwegian settler of the township, arrived in 1850, and with J. J. Haug of Spillville and others, organized the township in 1858, the Scandinavian influence contributing the name; that having been first applied to the village.

In the tax list for 1851, Mr. Skotland's name does not appear among those whose tax was more than \$10, so he evidently put all of his personal means into land, and had not yet gotten his title from the Government.

It is an unusual fact that Calmar township was settled in the first instance almost exclusively by foreigners. The western half of the township seems to have been settled about the same time as the eastern, and was occupied mostly by Germans, Swiss and Bohemians, while the latter portion attracted the Scandinavians, mostly Norwegians, but there was a sprinkling of Swedes and Danes. Most of these came directly from their fatherland but some came from other states, notably Wisconsin, and two at least from California, where they had been attracted by the gold fever of 1848-50 and stopped off on their return eastward from the gold fields.

Among the first of these Norsemen to settle in Calmar township or at least on ground now occupied by it, were Thor. P. Skotland, Torsen Land, Lars Land and Andre P. Sandager, all of whom arrived in 1850, and with the exception of Lars P. Land, who at last accounts was residing in the State of Washington, have now passed over into the "undiscovered country." In 1851, these were reinforced by Ole Shervin, Sr., Ole Shervin, Jr., Erick Stovern, Ole P. Haugen, Andrew L. Kittlesby, Thron H. Engen and Thora Bagaarson. Of these there now survive only Andrew L. Kittlesby, who resides in the town of Calmar, enjoying a competency laid up while on the farm which he still owns, a mile south of town. Mr. Kittlesby is hale and hearty at the age of seventy-five.

In the following year, 1852, Mr. Kittlesby was joined by his brother, Peter L. Kittlesby, and his father, Lars P. Kittlesby. The former is still living and also resides in Calmar.

In 1853 Ole A. Flaskerud (father of the Flaskerud brothers), Ole P. Bjornstad (father of Pete Olson and brothers), Erick Flaskerud and Even Fristad (father of H. E. Fristad) joined the settlement, but of that quartette not one now remains.

In 1854 Alf. Clark, Peter Clawson and John P. Landin arrived. They and Charles G. Halbeck, who arrived a year or two later, became the nucleus of the village of Calmar.

In 1855 George Yarwood and Henry Wheatman, both English, Ole P. Tenold, Ole H. Trickerud, Ole O. Ramberg, Sr., John P. Hove, Ole O. Styve, Jacob Stenseth and Lars Heried put in an appearance. Ole P. Tenold invested in land near the village, most of which land is still owned by the family. Mr. Tenold was a shoemaker by trade, and afterwards moved into Calmar and engaged in the boot and shoe business, which he continued for a number of years. Of the settlers of the year above named, all have passed away. Harold Ellingsen, one of the oldest settlers now remaining, did not arrive until 1857, when he engaged in the blacksmithing business in Calmar, and has followed it continuously ever since.

The earliest settlers of the western part of the township made Spillville a business center. These were Charles Kroek, who settled in 1849, Joseph Spielman in 1850, George Herzog and Conrad Riehle in 1851. Of these Kroek and Riehle were Germans, as also was Spielman, being a Bavarian, while Herzog was an Alsatian. All of these were married men, and all save Herzog brought their families with them.

Spielman built a log house directly after his arrival. It was the first building in Spillville. Soon afterwards he erected a sawmill on Spielman's creek near its confluence with the Turkey river. This was washed away by a flood in 1853, but in 1854 was rebuilt, and a grist mill was built also—a collection of buildings which was then called Spielville, afterwards spelled Spillville.

At this date Spielman's creek is said to have carried as much water as the Turkey river affords at the present time.

The first Bohemian settlers arrived in the spring of 1854; they were Martin Bouska, Frank Payer and Wenzil Mikesh, Andrew Kubesh and John Novak and families. Of these Mikesh still survives and is living in Spillville.

In 1854 also J. J. Haug, Jacob Stelzer, J. H. Hinterman, Felix Meyer and J. H. Meyer and John Leeb and family arrived and settled near the Sumner township line. These were all from Switzerland, and with the exception of Haug



STREET SCENES, CALMAR



and Stelzer had families. Of these J. J. Haug is the only one who survives. He is now living in his elegant home in Spillville, a town which he aided much in building up, and for many years was at the head of that community, and was general business factor for most of its people, whose confidence in him was, and still is, unbounded. Mr. Haug with Thor. P. Skotland and Lars Land, were the first trustees of the township and Charles G. Halbeck was the first township clerk.

On the 12th day of September, 1904, the remnant of the Bohemian first comers to the township joined their friends in Washington township and others of the surrounding country, in celebrating at Fort Atkinson the jubilee anniversary of their first settlement. It was a notable occasion, and a gathering of local historic significance.

The town was full of people who had come to greet these local patriarchs of a foreign race, as well as other early settlers who were attracted by the occasion. Nearly all of these were represented by children and grandchildren, who had come to fill their places, and carry on the work under easier conditions, that their ancestors had begun fifty years before. A banquet in the grove, music by marching bands at the head of civic societies, and many citizens, paraded the streets. The making of speeches, the recitation of early experiences by the old settlers, and a game of baseball were a part of the program of the day.

#### CONOVER

As running waters even in arid lands are marked by belts of vegetation, so railways have called into being villages, towns and cities. Conover was born of hope, and engendered, in the fall of 1864, by the approach of the track of what is now the I. & M. division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

The original plat of the village was filed October 6, 1865. Conley's addition followed October 21, 1865, and Peterson's addition October 24, 1865.

It would seem as though at that time the municipal fever was raging hot in the bosoms of the adjoining land-proprietors. For a couple of weeks there seems to have been a rush among them to get their fields laid off into town lots with bisecting streets and significant corner stones. It doubtless all looked very imposing when traced out on the paper plats with the accompanying field notes and explanations of the surveyor, and the statements of the proprietors dedicating the streets and alleys to the public, duly acknowledged, and certified by notary whose seal perhaps spoke officially over a red or blue wafer, and the whole marked "filed" by the registrar of deeds.

It was a dream for the community up the road—a dream of joint official and municipal splendor. After arriving at Conover, the building of the road ceased for a while, and this added zeal to the faith of the inhabitants in the future greatness of the town.

It was just after the close of the great Civil war, and ex-soldiers—officers as well as privates—swarmed the streets of the new town and dominated its business activities. The people were young, there were no grey heads or stooped shoulders in the community. Life was roseate, and fortune was on the way with gifts for all within the new metropolis.

The place was the produce market for forty miles around in every direction,

except to the east. There was a stage line established to and from Decorah with daily coaches.

Thirty-two saloons helped to keep the community from stagna on. Crops and prices were good, and the inhabitants were jubilant.

Just before the turn of the tide, a petition signed by sixty-three—a majority—of the resident electors of the village, was presented to County Judge G. R. Willett, by the Hon. David Noggle, agent and attorney for the petitioners, asking that the village be incorporated and constituted a town. Due notice was given and a day fixed for hearing and on the 17th day of October, 1866, by the order and finding of Judge Willett, the village became an incorporated town by the name of "CONOVER," as the order and finding has it spelled out in capitals. So was the thriving village born into municipal life, but the seeds of decay were germinating in its vitals even while the ink was yet undried on the judge's vitalizing order.

Of course the agent and attorney of the electors, who as we understand, was right-of-way agent for the railway company, and owner of a part of the plat, could not be supposed to have known that the railway company would push the construction of the railroad northward, to the demoralization of the trade of Conover, but this it immediately proceeded to do, and the rapid decline which then set in ended in death of the new town when the "Decorah branch" was built in 1869.

The town elected its first and only officers late in the fall of 1866 or in the spring of 1867, and before their terms were out they served as pallbearers to the defunct municipality.

Capt. C. V. Jacobs was the first mayor, and as he never had a successor, his title and office as sole mayor of a town was an unique distinction, and only falls to the lot of but few men.

Captain Jacobs afterwards removed to Cresco, and died there. Col. G. D. Rogers, Lieut. Charles Sydow, and I think Capt. Geo. Q. Gardner were among the councilmen, but as the town records were burned in a fire which occurred soon afterwards, the names of all the officers can not now be definitely ascertained. It seems that under the law as it then existed, the township clerk and trustees acted as the first election board for the new town. J. J. Haug, who was township clerk, informs me that after the election was over, there were not sufficient funds in the treasury of the new town to cash the claims of the election board for their services. Mr. Haug himself thereupon volunteered to cash the claims of his fellow judges, which he did, and took an assignment of their several accounts. But he never found anything in the city treasury afterwards, and he sorrowfully states that these election expenses are still unpaid.

Fire and the moving of buildings and abandonment, followed soon the loss of trade. Some of the farmers re-occupied and cropped their "additions" to the town, and in a couple of years the town had shrunk back into the little village that it now is, a mournful reminder of a municipality that failed.

Of the familiar names that appear on the petition for incorporation, E. Mather heads the list and Col. G. D. Rogers is second. Others are George Q. Gardner, Charles Sydow, Mat Graf, William Summers, J. H. Baker and F. E. Baker, H. Giesen and A. Wheeler.

## SPILLVILLE

The original plat of the village of Spillville was filed for record April 14, 1860. The place is very pleasantly situated on the right or south bank of the Turkey river, and is one of the prettiest towns in the county. One of its principal charms is the river, which in its entire course through the county has no more pleasing curves or graceful shadowy stretches than it exhibits in its course past and through Spillville.

In 1894 the village became an incorporated town and has given a good account of its municipal privileges, as is evidenced by its tidy streets and well kept walks. The election on the question of incorporation was held on the 9th day of November, 1894, and was carried by the close vote of 39 ballots for and 37 against incorporating. The first mayor, elected at a special election soon after the incorporation, was J. G. Mashek. His successors have been O. Kapler, J. J. Kovarik, G. F. Heuser and Stephen Krueck, the present incumbent. Mr. Kapler was again mayor from 1906 to 1908, being followed for one term by Charles E. Houser, who in turn was succeeded in 1910 by G. F. Heuser and re-elected in 1912. A. A. Novak is town clerk, and J. W. Hrushka, J. C. Cekal, W. C. Kovarik, A. Balik and A. G. Fisher are councilmen.

Spillville has a population of about four hundred, and has many handsome business buildings and fine residences. Most of its people are Catholic in their religious affiliations, and their place of worship is one of the finest and largest church edifices in the county. It stands upon a commanding eminence overlooking the town, and there is a fine parsonage and parochial school in connection.

A great majority of the early residents of Spillville were from Bohemia, as a majority of those who still comprise its citizens are the children of Bohemians. Even with this second generation in possession, there is enough of the foreign flavor and piquancy about the place to make it one of the most interesting municipalities in the northeastern corner of the state.

Quite a number of its early settlers had seen service in the Austrian army, and some of them had belonged to the musical bands in that organization, and had quite a thorough knowledge of music and its principles. This fact had its effect in making Spillville the musical center of the county for many years, and that town has given to the country several eminent musicians, one of them, Mr. Joseph Kovarik, having been for a number of years a leading instructor in music is one of the great eastern conservatories.

## CALMAR

The town of Calmar, in Calmar township, is the second largest municipality of the county, Decorah only exceeding it in population. In the United States census of 1900, the population is given as 1,003. The town is located on a picturesque stretch of upland—one of the highest points in the state. The original village plat which consisted of only sixteen blocks—four each way, had its North street, now Lewis street, on which the Railroad Hotel Annex and the Potter and Peter Meyer residences now face. This plat contained forty acres, and was surveyed and platted by one Victor Youngstadt, a surveyor from Dubuque. It includes land in the adjoining corners of sections 25, 26, 35 and 36.

The plat signed by said surveyor at Dubuque, September 15, 1854, was acknowledged by Alfred Clark on November 15, 1854, before Aaron Newbold, district clerk; ordered of record November 21, 1854, by David Reed, county judge, and filed for record by Nelson Burdick, recorder of deeds of Winneshiek county, November 21, 1854.

Thirty-two (32) blocks were added by a plat filed on the 22d day of November, 1856, the same surveyor as shown by the record having done the platting, and Alfred Clark and Charles G. Halbeck acknowledged the plat and dedication of this addition on June 20, A. D. 1856.

These two plattings constitute forty-eight (48) blocks which comprise what is now generally called the original plat. This addition of thirty-two blocks pushed North street and its name up to its present location. By some oversight of the surveyor in the first plat—probably not making allowance for the variation of the compass from the true pole—the streets vary slightly in their direction from the cardinal points. This peculiarity was afterwards carried out in the platting of Peterson's addition, filed for record May 9, 1857, and of the Western addition, filed for record July 8, 1857.

Both of these plats were acknowledged by John F. Peterson. Though this variation was originally a mistake, it fits well with the topography of the locality, and North street, for its greater part, traverses the ridge of a water-shed—the water to the north flowing northward and finding its way into the Oneota river, while that to the south of it flows in the opposite direction and finds its way into the Turkey river. Singularly enough, this same ridge marks at this place a well-defined boundary line, or rather a part of it, between the driftless and the drift regions in the northeast corner of the state—between the "Switzerland of Iowa" and the balance of Hawkeyedom.

The writer of this history being a lover of the old granite floaters, had a six-ton boulder hauled from south of the street and deposited on his grounds abutting on its north side, and so has the only glacial-drift specimen in town on that side.

Alfred Clark, one of the founders of the town, was a Swede, and came to this part of the country from California. Clark at first named the place Marysville, after the California town of that name, but afterward the name Calmar was chosen, after Calmar on Calmar Sound, Clark's old home on the southeast coast of Sweden, which was made famous by the so-styled "Union of Calmar" on July 20, 1397, by which, through delegates from the councils of state of each of the three countries, for a long time all of the Scandinavian kingdoms were united under one crown.

Alfred Clark and one Peter Clawson, a Dane, who came with him from California, put up the first building in the village. This was early in 1854. This building was only a temporary affair, but served the double purpose of a store building and residence. Clark and Clawson were the first merchants as well as the first residents of the village.

This was before the village was surveyed or platted. Later in the same year John P. Landin, also a Swede, came to the village. Landin happened along at Fort Atkinson about that time, and on making inquiry of 'Squire Cooney of that place as to the nearest point where he could find some of his countrymen, was directed by Mr. Cooney to Alfred Clark, whom he said kept a store at Whiskey



Grove. Landin then came up and so got acquainted with Clark and his partner. Whiskey Grove was the name given to a grove of small trees about a half mile east of the store, and so the name got mixed with the village. Various explanations are given as to the origin of this name, the most plausible being that a couple of early bootleggers were secretly selling whiskey to the Indians and to the soldiers quartered at the fort. A posse was accordingly sent out from the fort to search for and capture the liquor, but the bootleggers heard of it, and at night buried their stock, a barrel of whiskey, in this grove.

Landin, shortly after his arrival, as he a long time afterwards informed this writer, helped to survey the village plat by aiding to carry the chain, and when the plat was completed it was found that Clark & Clawson's store was squarely in Main street. Before the winter set in, Clark and Clawson had erected three other buildings each more substantial than the first. The first of these was "The Calmar House," a hotel which burned down in 1873. This stood on the corner now occupied by the Winneshiek County Bank. The second was another store building and the third a saloon building.

Clark & Company then moved their stock into the new building, and the store on Main street was torn down and moved off the street. Clark was the first postmaster of the village and after him came P. M. Stanberg, D. S. Lovejoy, John Scott, W. L. Bass, S. V. Potter, John T. Ahern and E. C. Walker, the present incumbent, in the order named.

In 1855 Landin had so thrived that he put up a frame building on a part of the ground now covered by the Anderson & Landin block, the old building being torn down to make room for the new block in 1873. In this old building Landin opened up a store, and sold groceries, both wet and dry, as was common in those days, and soon became well-to-do.

The year 1868 saw the beginning of the building of the I. & D. branch of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, with Calmar as its eastern terminus and junction with the main line, which latter had been built as far as Conover in 1865-6. The I. & D. division was built as far as New Hampton that year (1868), and added importance and brought business to Calmar as it was continued westward into the interior.

In 1869 the village of Calmar became an incorporated town by proper legal proceedings, and in organization as such was completed by the election of municipal officers in March, 1870. John Scott, who had settled here about the close of the Civil war, was chosen mayor and was re-elected in 1871. The mayors since then have been John W. Tower, 1872; S. V. Potter, 1873-4; A. E. Manchester, 1875; E. Pennington, Sr., 1876; John Scott, 1877; V. E. Strayer, 1878; Tim Ahern, 1879; V. E. Strayer, 1880; A. Dostal, 1881; C. W. Giesen, 1882; A. L. Kittlesby, 1883; T. Ahern, 1884; John B. Kaye, 1885-6; John Scott, 1887; A. McRobert, 1888, 1889 and 1890; J. S. Roome, 1891-2; H. Miller, Jr., 1893-4; E. M. Heflen, 1895-6; Geo. H. Belding, 1897-8-9; S. R. Yager, 1900-1; Jacob Meyer, 1902-3-4-5-6, resigned in 1907. Dr. J. F. Conover elected to fill vacancy and re-elected in 1908, serving until April 1, 1910. Jacob Meyer was again elected in 1910 and re-elected in 1912.

The years as here indicated, up to 1898, commenced on the second Monday in March. In 1898 they began one week after the third Monday in March.

Calmar has an excellent and efficient waterworks plant with several miles of mains reaching in their circuit every building in the original forty-eight blocks, besides every building but one on the north side of North street. The town has a water tank of 2,000 barrels capacity, with an elevation of 100 feet. It has its own well and pumping house and apparatus complete, has hose, hooks and ladders and truck, and a regular organized fire company. In 1911 the first steps toward a sewage system were taken and last year (1912) a municipal gas plant for street lighting was installed.

The public school building of the town, which was erected in 1898 at a cost of \$12,000, is a model for ventilation, heating and convenience. The high school department for many years past has annually turned out its class of graduates. These have been in constant demand as teachers, as well as in other lines where mental discipline and painstaking effort are the requirements needed.

The church organizations are the Norwegian Lutheran, the German Lutheran, the Catholic and the Methodist Episcopal, each of which, save the German Lutheran, owns its own edifice, while the latter, which has but few members, worships in the Methodist Episcopal church building.

All of these religious institutions are well attended and liberally patronized, and are exercising continued and successful efforts for good.

The fraternal spirit of the times is represented by the Free Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Royal Neighbors and Catholic Foresters.

The business interests of the town are well and fully represented, and the professions are by no means in the background among communities of the same size. The Calmar Manufacturing Company and the Henry Miller, Jr., Wagon and Plow Works are institutions whose product and reputation reach beyond the borders of the state.

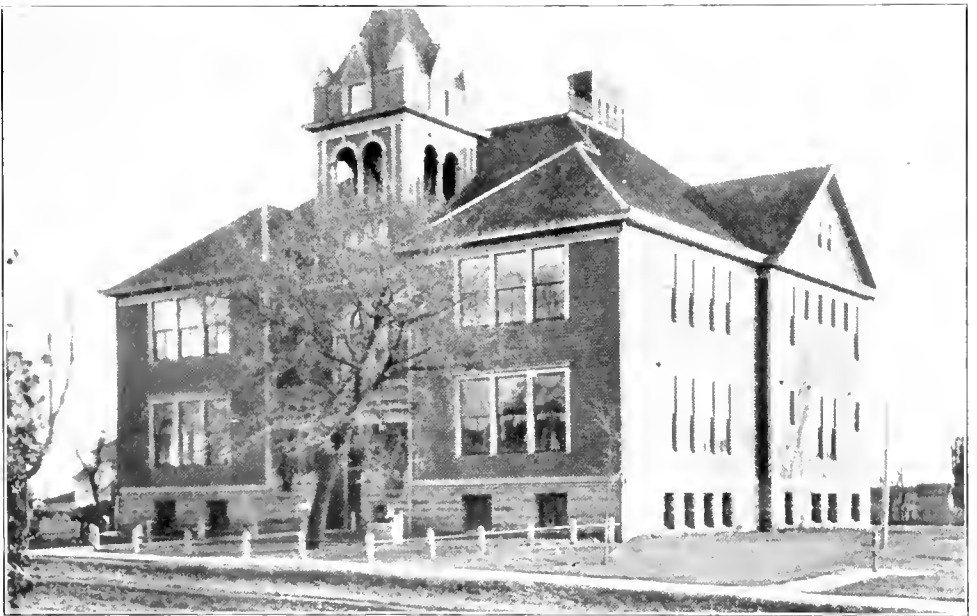
The object of this sketch, however, is not to advertise the things and institutions that to-day are, nor those who are in the active operation of them, but to preserve in outline and characteristics some of the things and people that are slipping away from present human contact and memory; and more especially of the men, and no less their life partners, who shared their names, their hardships and privations in the beginning of civilization in this one township and its towns—this little square plot of ground in the counterpane of a great state.

These are they who learned:

The virtues which take root in poverty—  
 Careful economy and seasoning toil,  
 Brave self-reliance, cheerful industry,  
 Hope, never vain when builded on the soil—  
 Patience to overcome, courage to meet  
 The border trials and forestall defeat.  
 These blessings had they, which by changeless laws  
 Grown into habits and becoming fixed,  
 Removed the only evil of their cause  
 And left the sure resultant, good, unmixed.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL, CALMAR



HIGH SCHOOL, CALMAR



Sleep soundly in sweet peace, dead pioneers!  
Your rugged worth in a wild, stranger land  
Endears you to its soil, and coming years  
Add strength and growth to all that you have planned;  
Your labor made the wilderness to laugh  
To-day's abundance—your best epitaph.  
The Town, the County, and the crowning State—  
A pyramid that Cheops may not peer  
Is your sure monument; and you who wait  
Will join the van without regret or fear  
But with tired satisfaction as doth one.  
Take to his couch when the day's toil is done.



CHAPTER XXII  
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER NORWEGIANS

By Hon. A. Jacobson\*

[Under the head of Settlements by Foreign Born Citizens the chapter written by Hon. A. Jacobson for Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas is referred to. We quote it entire.]

INTRODUCTION

Inasmuch as this township was settled by Norwegians, and furthermore from the fact that people of this nationality have from the earliest times formed an important part of the population of Winneshiek county, it will not be out of place here to give a brief history of Norwegian immigration to America and to Iowa.

The discovery of America by the Norwegian, Léif Ericksen, in the year 1,000 is a conceded fact acknowledged by all prominent historians of our day, but as it brought no immediate results to the world at large, only preparing the way for the later discovery of Christopher Columbus, no further notice of it will be taken in this connection.

What may be termed as the first beginning of Norwegian immigration to this country took place in 1825, when a sloop of forty-five tons from Stavanger brought fifty-three passengers who landed in New York. This vanguard settled in Kendall, Orleans county, New York, where they remained until the most of them later on moved out West and settled in Illinois.

From that time up to 1840 emigrant vessels from Norway were few and far between. From 1840 to 1850 they became more numerous, but from 1850 up to the present time a constant stream of immigration has steadily been bringing hundreds of thousands of emigrants from Norway into the United States.

The first Norwegian settlement in Iowa was evidently that formed at Sugar Creek in Lee county, not far above the mouth of the Des Moines river, a few miles west of Keokuk. About 1840 Story county and other central portions of the state were next settled by Norwegians and later on the northern and western borders.

The Norwegian that first visited Winneshiek county who afterwards also found a home on its soil, is undoubtedly Ole Halvorson Valle. At the age of twenty he came to America from his native land in 1841.

Stopping in Wisconsin one year he then, in 1842, came to Iowa, where he was engaged in the service of the government as teamster, hauling provisions from Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien to Fort Atkinson and the Old Mission. He was also employed in breaking up pieces of bottom land on the Upper Iowa river. One of the largest fields thus prepared for the Indians to plant their corn was situated just below the outlet of Trout Run, now best known as the Peter Roney farm.

Mr. Valle died at his home in Canoe township a few years ago. Some members of his family survive him.

This township is bounded on the north by Decorah township and in the government survey is designated as range 8 and township 97; hence it is situated seventeen miles south from the Minnesota line and a distance of thirty miles west of the Mississippi river. The town is diversified with prairie, timber, hill and dale, in picturesque variety. The various branches of Trout creek are nearly all within its limits, making the surface uneven, yet the greatest part consists of a rich and tillable soil. On account of its many springs and streams of clear water it is well adapted for raising stock as well as for general farming.

The first settlement of the township found place in 1850. There were two parties, one led by Erick Anderson and with him were Ole Tostenson (Haugen) and his brother Staale, Ole A. Lomen, A. O. Lomen, Ole Gullikson (Jevne), Knut Anderson (Bakken), Andres Hauge, John Johnson (Qvale), H. Halvorson (Groven) and Mikkel Omli. All of these made permanent homes in the township the latter part of June, 1850. Another party from Wisconsin, headed by Nels Johnson, arrived in the county July 2d, and of these the following selected claims in what is now Springfield township: Tollef Simonson (Aae), Knud G. Opdahl, Jacob Abrahamson and Iver Peterson (Qvale). The rest of the Nels Johnson party settled in Decorah and Glenwood townships.

The first list of landed assessments in Winneshiek county has among others these names: Jacob Abrahamson, Knud Guldbrandson (Opdahl), Ole Gullikson (Jevne), Egbert Guldbrandson (Solland), Erick Clement (Skaali), Halvor Halvorson (Groven), O. A. Lomen, Ole Larsen Bergan, Mikkel Omli, Tollef Simonson (Aae), T. Hulverson and Ole Tostenson.

This list must have been for 1852. The writer has a tax receipt from that date, showing that his father, Jacob Abrahamson, was among the first tax payers.

The heads of all these families above enumerated died many years ago, with the exception of the Hon. A. O. Lomen\* and ex-sheriff Erick Anderson, both residing in Decorah. In most cases the descendants of the old settlers are now occupying the farms where their ancestors lived and died. Some of them have moved to other parts of the country, mostly northwestward.

In the year 1851 quite a number of new settlers came in and in the next succeeding few years the influx was large, far beyond all expectations, so that all the public lands were taken in a very short time. This was quite contrary to what the first settlers had imagined possible. When they arrived in what was then a wilderness, they thought large portions of the country would never be settled,

\* Both Mr. Lomen and Mr. Anderson are now dead.



but would remain as a common, that could be used for pasture. The large strips of prairie without wood and water were supposed to belong to this class of land.

The first birth in the township was that of Ole A. Lomen, who now resides in the State of Oregon. He is the son of Hon. A. O. Lomen.

The first death that occurred in our midst was that of Mrs. Christine Aae, the wife of Tollef Simonson Aae. She died of consumption and would have been buried on her husband's farm (northeast quarter of section 1, Springfield township), if it had not been that the land on the opposite side of the township line was considered a better site for a burying ground. This was on the southeast quarter of section 36, Decorah township, and belonged to Tollef's brother, Aslak Simonson Aae.

The first public schoolhouse in the county was erected in the southwest corner of Glenwood township. These corners were at that time the central point of the settlement. An old settlers' monument was erected here in 1887, consisting of a marble shaft of large size, placed on a limestone base four feet high and six feet square. The inscriptions on the monument are these:

IN MEMORY OF

EARLY NORWEGIAN SETTLERS,

who to the number of fifty or more  
lie buried here.

ERECTED BY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES  
A. D. 1887.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. 6, 23.

On the monument are carved names of the following pioneers:

EAST SIDE

Kristine E. Aae. 1831—August, 1850.  
Marit O. Rue. April, 1850—March, 1852.  
Anne H. Anderson Rude. December, 1833—April, 1852.  
Aslak Simonson Aae. 1819—November, 1852.  
Thora P. Wik. 1826—August, 1853.  
Nels E. Ramsey. August, 1853—September, 1853.  
Nels H. Bakke. August, 1791—March, 1854.  
Anna Margarette Wigeland. June, 1853—June, 1854.  
Ole A. Aakre. 1813—July, 1854.

NORTH SIDE

Carl A. Aarnes. March, 1826—October, 1854.  
Anne J. Busnes. 1819—1854.  
Martin H. Hakloa. March, 1826—November, 1854.

- Halvor Olson Lien. October, 1854—March, 1855.  
 Peter E. Ramsey. October, 1854—June, 1855.  
 Berthe Helene Voldeng. August, 1852—August, 1855.  
 Gjermund G. Hoyme. 1805—October, 1855.  
 Thorgrim Bjortuft. May, 1853—November, 1855.  
 Sigrid E. Tostenson Haugen. September, 1834—October, 1856.  
 Marken Qualley. Born November 8, 1871. Entered into rest April 29, 187—. "I shall rise again."

## WEST SIDE

- Gurine T. Busnes. August, 1848—October, 1857.  
 Ingeborg E. Nefstad. 1813—1858.  
 Christine A. Estrem. June, 1856—March, 1858.  
 Ole N. Brakestad. January, 1858—April, 1858.  
 Anne O. Abrahamson. 1822—May, 1858.  
 Anders H. Estrem. February, 1825—December, 1858.  
 Helga G. Bakhus. 1854—March, 1861.  
 Nels Ostrem. March, 1862—March, 1862.  
 Ole Johannes T. Haugen. May, 1851—August, 1863.  
 Joseph T. Haugen. March, 1859—August, 1863.  
 John G. Johnson. December, 1834—April, 1864.

The names are placed in chronological order as to time of death. The first dates of course express the time of birth. It will be noticed that the death list numbers very few names among the early settlers.

The sifting process to which they had been subjected before reaching the western frontier left, as a rule, only a strong and sturdy set of people to found the new communities in the West.

The honor of having taught the first district school in Winneshiek county can in a way be divided between the two daughters of Nels Hanson Katterud. Mary, the younger, had attended a normal school at Platteville, Wisconsin, and after being examined by John McKay, who acted as county superintendent, she received a certificate and entered upon the work of teaching. Being only some fifteen years of age, inexperienced and timid, she prevailed on her elder sister Larine to help the first few days until the school was fairly started. She afterward taught many terms at various places.

The first Norwegian Lutheran congregation for this and adjoining townships was organized in the summer of 1852, and ever since 1853 it has been served by its present pastor, the Rev. Dr. V. Koren.\* This gentleman deserves more than a passing notice. He was born in 1826 and came to this country in the autumn of 1853. His field of labor for many years included not only the adjacent counties in Iowa, but likewise those of Minnesota. Of all Norwegian Lutheran clergymen now living he is the most widely known by his countrymen in America. For many years he has served as president of the Norwegian synod, the functions of which office about equal those of a bishop in all but in name. In 1903 he was created a doctor of divinity and, by the King of Norway and Sweden, Oscar II, he was

\* Rev. Koren died in 1911.

in the same year decorated with the cross of St. Olaf, as knight of that order in recognition of his long and faithful service in his calling. The second Lutheran church organized was that which now is connected with the United Lutheran church and is served by Rev. K. E. Bakken.†

The Norwegian Methodists organized a congregation in 1851 under the leadership of O. P. Peterson, then a missionary, later called the father of Methodism among the Norwegians. Their church is situated on section 12. The membership, however, is so depleted by deaths and removals in later years that they have no settled pastor.

The Americans, Germans and Bohemians in the southern and western portions of the township are members of Catholic or Protestant churches in Ossian and Calmar. It can be truthfully said that the people are all church members and law-abiding citizens.

#### REMINISCENCES BY A. JACOBSON

In the spring of 1850 my parents left Muskego, Racine county, Wisconsin, joining company with a number of other families, intending to move out west. The leader of the party was Nels Johnson, the father of M. N. Johnson, then an infant and later Congressman from North Dakota. He had a large military wagon drawn by six oxen. This had a big box on, filled with household goods and covered with white canvas. On the outside was placed, lengthwise of the wagon box, several joints of stovepipe, so the outfit with a little stretch of imagination looked like a man of war. No wonder these rigs received the name of "prairie schooners." The rest of the vehicles were of all sizes and shapes, from truck wagons, the wheels of which were made of solid sections of oak logs, down to our own cart on two wheels. Our progress west was slow and tedious. At Koshkonong, Dane county, Wisconsin, we received large additions to our company, so that it comprised in all more than a hundred souls, two hundred head of cattle, with a few hogs and sheep, one mare and a colt. Madison was only a small village; the "state house" was a two-story frame structure situated where the massive capitol building now stands.

Up to this time our point of destination had been Coon Prairie, Vernon county, Wisconsin, but near Wingville we met a man by the name of Wm. Painter, who had settled in Iowa, where Decorah afterwards was built. He was going to Mineral Point for machinery in order to put up a gristmill at his new home. He gave such a glowing description of the country west of the Mississippi in general and of the locality in which he was settled in particular, that our company when we came to the Wisconsin river resolved to send out a deputation of its wisest men to cross the river, explore the country and report. In consequence of this, the company, when arriving at Prairie du Chien, divided, one-half going to Vernon county, Wisconsin, near where Viroqua and Westby are situated, the other half crossing over into Iowa. The Wisconsin river had to be crossed on a small ferry boat, the propelling power being furnished by a horse placed on a tread-power which worked the paddle wheels. Only one wagon and a team at a time could be taken aboard. The herd of loose cattle had to swim over the

† Rev. Bakken now resides in Minnesota.  
Vol 1-12

river, all of which was accomplished without any accident worthy of note. The ferry boat at Prairie du Chien was larger and propelled by a four-mule power, but the water being high, the Mississippi river was nearly two miles wide and much time was taken to get all to the western bank. Thirteen miles northwest from McGregor at Poverty Point, since called Monona, another halt of a week was made. The scouting party before alluded to had visited several localities and opinions were divided as to which was the best point to settle down. The company was now divided into three divisions, we going with the original leader to the vicinity of Decorah, landing on our claims on the 3d of July. The journey had taken five weeks, counting from the time of starting. Those who had room enough slept under the wagon covers. The others slept on the bare ground under the wagons.

If time and subsistence are taken into account, then our journey was quite expensive. It was indeed a fine country where we settled. Rolling prairies with fertile soil, interspersed with groves of timber and springs of pure water. For miles there were no houses nor roads or other traces of civilization to be seen. Indian trails, well marked, crossed the country in various directions, and with little deviation continued to be the roads of the early settlers, until the fencing in of the fields pushed the roads into the worst places, where they now remain. It was high time to break up prairie so as to be able to plant and sow next year, also to put up hay for the cattle for the coming winter. This occupied the time at first so the building of log houses was put off until late in autumn. Many of us were not under roof from the middle of May until September or October, yet all were in good health.

The question of subsistence, that is, something to eat and to wear, was for many of us the most difficult to answer. The small stores brought could not last long. The nearest trading place on the Mississippi was fifty miles away, where a barrel of flour cost \$12 and a bushel of corn seventy-five cents, other things in proportion. My father worked what time he could spare from his own home for fifty cents a day, while all of my time was put in at driving a breaking team of eight oxen for twenty-five cents a day. At this rate it was hard to make ends meet. Hunting and fishing were resorted to, and gave some help. Men who could be away from their homes spent the first winters up in the Wisconsin pineries or down along the Mississippi cutting cordwood. My father took me along on an expedition of this last named description two weeks before Christmas, 1850. A heavy fall of snow knee deep set in just as we started from home. Walking some twenty-eight miles to where we stopped over night was no easy task. Upstairs in a log cabin covered by clapboards was the place given us to sleep. During the night a high wind made the snow fly through all the cracks and crevices, so in the morning our bed and the clothes we had laid off were covered with no less than eight inches of snow.

Arriving the next day to where we had heard employment was to be had, we found the terms so niggardly hard that we could not consent to take up work there. This was four miles up the river from McGregor. It was late in the day, but we thought a walk along the edge of the river to the last named place would not be dangerous, even after dark. Having proceeded half way to where North McGregor is now situated, we saw our mistake. A stream, the Bloody Run, enters into the river at this point and we could not cross this stream before trudging

ing up along its banks ever so far. Then by felling a tree that reached over it, we concluded to take a short cut over the bluffs to reach McGregor instead of following the water's edge. In this we made a terrible mistake. The steep hills covered with timber and brush, together with the deep snow, impeded our progress so that we did not reach our destination before long after midnight. Fortunately for us a dancing party at the little hotel was using the small hours in merry-making. This gave us access to a warm room for the rest of the night. When called to breakfast the next morning my appetite was keen enough, having had nothing to eat since the previous morning, but my stiff and sore limbs could hardly be made to carry me to the table. We took a job of cutting wood at 50 cents a cord, boarding ourselves. No cheap place for us to stay could be found, so we had to board at the hotel. The only high-toned part of the hotel was the bill.

In the matter of clothing, we were put to about the same straits as mentioned in the way of food. I remember distinctly that during the first two winters neither underclothing nor overcoats were worn, for the good reason that there were none to wear, and overshoes were a thing scarcely heard of, much less seen. Nevertheless good health was always enjoyed by young and old.

The land on which we settled did not come into market the first year, but the settlers agreed upon a plan by which they could defend each other in the possession of their homes against unwelcome intruders. "Club claim" expressed this method exactly, both because it indicated a joining or clubbing together, and at the same time reminded one of clubs and cudgels as the most ready weapons of defense, if need be. When the Government proclaimed the lands in market, \$200 in gold was the price of a quarter section. Land warrants given to soldiers of the Mexican war were used extensively for the entering of land, as they were sold and bought at a less price per acre than that demanded by the Government. To get the necessary funds with which to pay for the lands was, for many, a difficult thing to do. Those who had money would not lend it for less than three or four per cent per month on good security. Generally the owner of the money bought the land in his own name and gave the possessor a bond for the deed. Fortunately for the poor, land was not supposed to be worth much, there being so much of it and no reasonable prospect of its becoming settled for a long time to come. Hence there was at first no great rush at the land office in Dubuque, to which our district belonged. This state of things did not, however, last very long. People poured into the country much faster than anticipated. The consequence was that a scrambling for getting good land ensued which defies description. In our midst no bloody encounters found place, but some ludicrous scenes were enacted to the merriment of the lookers on, though serious enough to the actors.

There was at that time no limit. A person could purchase all the land he wanted if he had the money to pay for it. This afforded speculators an opportunity to buy large tracts, to the detriment of actual settlers, the evils of which are felt even to the present day.

The "Preemption Law," giving a year's time to pay for the land on which a person had settled and made improvements, was of much help in acquiring homes for those who were poor, but the "Homestead" law, enacted in the sixties, was more than all other things the cause of speedily peopling the great West. Just think of it! get a farm anywhere on the public domain for the trouble of taking it in possession!

The first political convention in Winneshiek county was held in the spring of 1851, right in our Norwegian settlement. The parties then existing, democratic, free soil and whig, were all represented, but not a word of party politics was uttered. The all absorbing question was county organization, county officers and county seat. Nominations that resulted in the election of men to offices of trust were based solely on their honest looks; handsome dress and silver-tongued oratory played no figure. Overhearing, as I did, some of the caucus talk which discriminated against a man because he wore a stovepipe hat, reminds me of the fact that trivial causes may have important consequences. For the public welfare it might have been better if some of the officers elected had been in possession of as much ability as honesty. All being strangers to each other, it truly was a wonderful example of how successfully popular government can be initiated where the prime principles of law and order are understood and respected.

The fact that the first district schoolhouse was erected among the Norwegians in our county shows that they had the prerequisites for becoming intelligent American citizens.





Norwegian Church and School  
Catholic Church

Methodist Episcopal Church

A GROUP OF CALMAR CHURCHES



## CHAPTER XXIII

### BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

(As recorded in Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas by M. P. Riggs.)

It is conceded by all that Hamilton Campbell, Sr., was the first settler in Bloomfield, having moved here June 10, 1848.

They settled on what subsequently proved to be the west half of section 23; also northwest quarter of 26, township 96, range 7, west of the 5th P. M., Winneshiek county, Iowa, said county not having been surveyed until the year 1849. Mr. Campbell's postoffice was Dubuque, Iowa, about sixty miles distant. His first milling was down at or near McGregor landing on Bloody Run. Millers would not grind his wheat but instead would buy the wheat at 25 cents per bushel and sell in return flour at \$10.00 per hundred.

Mr. David Reed was the next settler in Bloomfield township, settling on section 25. He was better known as Judge Reed.

Phineas Banning was the next to settle, in June 10, 1849. He with his wife and four children settled on sections 5 and 6. Mr. Banning traded a gun and only wagon for his claim. Thus for two years his only mode of conveyance in visiting his distant neighbors was a pair of oxen and sled.

From now on settlers began to gather in Bloomfield like bees to their hive; among those arriving were Mr. Townsden, John DeCou, Abner DeCou, Mose McSwain and Gideon Green. The latter brought boards from Milwaukee to make the only door in his log cabin.

The first born in Bloomfield was Miss Sarah Campbell in the year 1849, who still resides on the same section.

Winneshiek postoffice was established in 1851 on section 26. Castalia postoffice the same year and Moneek postoffice in 1852. Winneshiek and Moneek have been discontinued for many years.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1853. No. 3, or commonly known as the "red schoolhouse," was built in the fall of 1854. Castalia schoolhouse was built in the spring of 1855. No. 1, or "white schoolhouse," was built in 1855.

School taught, where and by whom: District No. 1 was a little log house on Jacob Hohenshiel's land on section 9, a structure 10x14 feet, where every scholar had to furnish his own seat. It was taught by Mrs. Abigail Meyers.

District No. 5 was taught by Miss Green in section 14 in 1853. Castalia school was taught in the summer of 1855 by Mrs. Abigail Meyers.

The first church was built in 1856 by the United Brethren in Christ, on section 16. Fine horse vehicles were not to be seen but instead ox teams and a class of people who always extended their hospitality to everyone.

The following weddings were recorded from 1848 to 1858:

George Cooper to Miss Emily Logan, March 14, 1854. Lathrop, J. P.

David Meyers to Miss Abigail Baird, November 14, 1854. Rev. John Brown officiating.

Sam Allen to Sarah Holcomb, May 3, 1855.

David Polly to Martha Windell, January 21, 1855. Lathrop, J. P.

Enos Lambert to Esther Ann Holcomb, April 19, 1855. Rev. John Brown officiating.

Edward Harvey to Lucy Polly, March 31, 1855. Rev. Fathergill, pastor.

Geo. Foster to Ellen Bates, August 21, 1855. L. W. Smith, J. P.

Milton P. Riggs to Mrs. Abigail Meyers, June 10, 1857. Rev. Geo. Larkins, pastor.

Wm. Oxley to Miss C. A. Townsden, December 19, 1857. Rev. W. W. Richardson, pastor.

Bloomfield township was first known as township No. 96. On April 2d a meeting was held at Moneek for the purpose of electing judges of election and voting upon a name other than No. 96.

The following judges were selected: Daniel B. Pierce, Gideon Green and Nelson Burdick. At a vote following the name Bloomfield received the largest number of votes, giving it its present name.

The following is the list of first voters at an election ever held in Bloomfield township:

Henry Walrath, Samuel B. Jones, A. C. Andrews, John Webster, L. W. Smith, T. A. Windell, Nathaniel Cornell, J. W. Larkins, D. Webster, N. M. Webster, A. P. Cornell, Joel Cailiff, C. B. Riggs, N. Banning, S. Sherman, N. E. Hubbell, M. S. Drury, C. W. Bucknam, S. B. Pierce, C. Dean, Alexander Stewart, Russell Dean, Wm. Taylor, Sam Brush, P. C. Huffman, Fred Larkins, Daniel D. Webster, Levi Grandy, Steven Allen, W. D. Pierce, G. W. Estey, Gideon Green, M. Townsden, J. Gibson, J. Doane, Andrew Shawns, I. Duff, A. DeCon, Harvey Knowles, I. Cailiff.

The following township officers were elected:

Justices—L. W. Smith, Lewis Boughner.

Trustees—Thomas Rathborne, Phineas Banning, Henry Walrath.

Town Clerk—P. C. Huffman.

Assessor—M. S. Drury.

Constables—T. A. Windell, J. Stewart.

The foregoing record by Mr. Riggs tells of the early days. The Bloomfield township of today presents a far different sight than greeted the eyes of the pioneers. Where then was an occasional log hut now there are modern homes and the farms are among the thriftiest in the county. The best methods in crop culture have many students among her citizens and they are keeping abreast of the times in all things.

## CASTALIA

This town is one of the oldest in this section of Iowa, and is also one of the youngest. It came into actual existence in the days when the Military road was the only thoroughfare into Northeastern Iowa, but it did not arrive at a state of real prosperity until 1902, when it incorporated. Since then many improvements have been brought about, and more are being steadily added.

It makes the boast of having more cement sidewalks for its size than any town in this portion of Iowa. In fact, it has nothing but cement sidewalks, which is a mark of enterprise on the part of its citizens. A town hall that was erected some years ago is owned by a stock company and affords a splendid place for entertainments and public gatherings. It is one of the best live stock markets; its business houses are all prosperous, and enjoy a good trade, largely because it is located in one of the most fertile agricultural districts in the state.

Its business houses are eleven in number and are as follows: Garage, Harvey Brothers; general stores, W. H. Haefner, W. H. Roe; hotel and grocery, N. Schoonmaker; drug store, W. K. Riggs; Castalia Savings Bank, D. C. Malloy, cashier; restaurants, Chas. Schara, Thos. Kane; blacksmith shop, Ed. Mann; butcher shop, J. P. Bachelder; hardware, Geo. R. Neuenswander.

A. C. Tatro is mayor; D. C. Malloy is clerk; W. K. Riggs is treasurer; and W. H. Haefner, H. H. Meyer, J. H. Kneeskern, Chas. Schara, and Geo. R. Neuenswander are councilmen.



## CHAPTER XXIV

### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

(Excerpts from a sketch written by Harrison Goddard for Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas.)

Washington is the southern township of next to the western tier of townships, is beautifully rolling and richly productive. The Turkey river, which runs southeasterly through the township, furnishes the power for the Evergreen Roller Mill.

The township has two villages, Fort Atkinson and Twin Springs. Fort Atkinson village, in the northwestern part of the township, near the western line, took its name from the fort of that name, which stood on a hill overlooking the site of the present village. The fort was named after the famous and successful fighter of the Indians, General Atkinson, the hero of the Black Hawk war.

Twin Springs village was platted and the plat recorded October 17, 1856, by Andrew Meyer and wife. It lies in a beautiful valley five miles south of Calmar. The German Catholic church here is a very large building, and has a school connected with it.

In the month of September, 1849, a number of families emigrated from Aldenberg, Indiana, and settled near the Turkey river to found homes. These pioneers were strict adherents to the Catholic faith, and after selecting homesteads centered their thoughts in the founding of a church. They were Jos. Huber, Anton Stadel, Andrew Meyer, Geo. Beckel, Jos. Spillman and Jacob Rausch. After purchasing land and Indian log huts, the best of these huts was assigned to the use of a chapel, which after being dedicated derived the name Old Mission, by which name it is known to this day. The priest sent to take charge of the humble church was G. H. Plathe.

In 1853 the little church was destroyed by fire. Instead of rebuilding on the old site it was deemed advisable to build two miles further north. This new site is now called Twin Springs, and is the same place where the present magnificent church was built. The present priest is Rev. August Sauter, who has presided since the 13th day of March, 1877.\*

\* Reverend Sauter has retired, and Rev. J. Rubly is the priest in charge.

A previous event worthy of mention was the erection of the chapel built on the site upon which stood the first church, dedicated June 15th, 1885, the expense being borne by John Gartner and the family of Joseph Huber.

In the spring of 1849 Josiah Goddard came to Washington township to look up a new home. He bought the old Indian trading post from a man by the name of Olmstead situated on section 18, township 96, range 9 (which was the only name the township had at that time), two miles southwest of the fort. He then went back to his old home in Green county, Wisconsin. In the fall of the same year he moved his family. His effects were loaded into two wagons, each drawn by a pair of horses. Besides this they brought with them six head of cattle. They arrived at Fort Atkinson on the 20th day of October, 1849. The writer was but nine years of age at that time.

We camped out most of the time on the journey, and I well remember that some of the nights were quite cold and frosty. The last night we camped about one and one-half miles east of where Calmar now stands, arriving at the fort the next day. We spent the winter of 1849 and 1850 in the old fort. Alexander Falconer had charge of it at that time. My father went back to Wisconsin some time in December, 1849, to get some hogs and wheat which he had left there. He butchered the hogs and salted the meat in barrels; the wheat he had ground into flour, then the pork and flour were loaded into the wagon and hauled to Fort Atkinson, a distance of nearly two hundred and fifty miles.

The nearest place to get groceries was McGregor, a distance of about fifty miles, a long distance to go to trade, but not so bad as the lack of money to do it with. In June, 1850, Josiah Goddard moved his family to the old trading post. Three or four acres of land had been broken up by the Indians. This was planted to corn and pumpkins, and in the fall we harvested a good crop. With this and what father brought from Wisconsin we had enough to carry us through until the next summer. The corn was ground into meal by rubbing the ears over tin graters, then made into corn bread or mush; the pumpkins were cut into strips, dried and used during the winter for pies and sauce, which made pretty good fodder. In the summer of 1850 a band of Indians came to our place. We had a small patch of early corn which was in roasting ears. They pointed to it and said they wanted some. One of them could talk English. I gathered a sackful and then asked them how much they wanted. They said they would take all I would give them. They would have carried off the whole patch if I had given it to them, which showed the nature of an Indian. They would eat you out of house and home, if you would give it to them.

The first school in the township was at the old Olmstead trading post, taught by my sister, Mary Goddard. There were six scholars.

The first postoffice in Washington township was established in 1851 or 1852 at Louisville, two and one-half miles southeast of Fort Atkinson, at the house of Francis Rogers. Josiah Goddard was postmaster.

In 1852 there was a postoffice at the Old Mission. Joseph Huber was postmaster. In these days it took from 10 to 25 cents postage to send a letter.

The first male white child born in the township since the first permanent settlement was Geo. A. Meyer, near the Old Mission, August 1, 1849. Mr. Meyer is now a resident of Oklahoma. The first female child born was Mary

Krumm at Fort Atkinson, August 5, 1849. Her father, Gottlob Krumm, came to Fort Atkinson in 1848.

In the spring of 1849 Joseph Huber, Andrew Meyer, George Beckel, Anthony Stadel, John Gartner and Gottlieb and Gottlob Krumm settled near the Old Mission. Mr. Falconer was a discharged soldier of the regular army. He held the rank of first sergeant.

#### FORT ATKINSON

Before any other town existed in Winneshiek county, Fort Atkinson was a definite and important center. We refer now to the fort itself, but only for the purpose of bringing out the fact that here was formed the nucleus of the civilizing forces that brought Winneshiek county to its present state of prosperity. Of the fort more is said in the first chapter of this book, in which its military importance is detailed.

Fort Atkinson town came into existence early in the fifties and, because of the previous occupation of the Government post, enjoyed not a little growth. "Sparks' History of Winneshiek County" contains the following account of the years that followed: "After the removal of the Indians in 1848 there was no further necessity for keeping up military appearances, consequently the fort, as a military rendezvous, was dispensed with; yet the Government did not entirely abandon it. Alexander Falconer was appointed to look after it. Soon after Falconer was relieved by Geo. Cooney, a well-known citizen of the county. In 1853, after the removal of the Indians, the fort became useless as Government property, and the administration then in power decided to dispose of it at public auction.

"On the reception of this news, in July, 1853, one of the Day boys visited Mr. Cooney at the fort and informed him that the fort would be sold at auction the next Wednesday. By previous agreement he had promised to inform certain parties of the sale when it should take place; and he immediately dispatched a messenger with the intelligence to H. D. Evans and S. A. Clark of Prairie du Chien, and another to the bishop at Dubuque. On the morning of the sale these parties were present, bringing with them \$4,000 in gold to purchase it with. John M. Flowers, Captain Frazier and a gentleman from White Pigeon were also on the ground in hopes of purchasing the fort.

"The Flowers were extraordinary characters, and played no little part in the history of Fort Atkinson. There were two brothers of them, and were classed, with Charley Clark, Coleman and Tavernier, as 'the Canadians.' These Canadians came to the fort with the intention of making a living easily. They had somehow got the impression that Fort Atkinson was destined to be a great city, and thought it afforded a rich field in which to exercise their wit and shrewdness to benefit themselves. In language not to be misunderstood, they were sharpers.

"Flowers wanted to get possession of the fort property, and induced a widowed English lady by the name of Newington to purchase it—he bidding the same off. As the bidding progressed and the price advanced in the fort, Flowers became fearful that he would not be able to make the purchase, and asked those bidding against him what they would take to stop where they were. Clark, Evans

and the others held a consultation, and as a result agreed to take \$25. Flowers said he would give it, and accordingly wrote his note for the amount. Said note read as follows:

"I owe you \$25 for value received.

"J. M. FLOWERS.

"Dated Fort Atkinson, 1853."

"Four years after this note was given, Mr. Evans placed it in Mr. Cooney's hands (who was a justice of peace at the time) for collection. Three years later Mr. Cooney got his pay out of Flowers in sawing.

"The fort was sold to Flowers for \$3,521.

"In 1857 a grist mill was commenced. Finkle & Clark were the builders, and they received a certain portion of the town-plat for building the mill, getting a warranty deed for the same. Mr. McMillan, a resident of Fort Atkinson, who resided, previous to 1857, in Canada, and an acquaintance of Finkle, was induced by Finkle to accompany him to the United States, and aid in the construction of the mill, with promises of a fair remuneration. The mill was completed in November, but, owing to some miscalculation of the architect in laying out the foundation, when the water was let through the flume it undermined the wall, and rent the mill in twain, precipitating a portion of it into Turkey river. The mill was reconstructed shortly afterward.

"It is estimated that in 1857, when the fort was at the summit of its grandeur, it had a population of 500 souls. A public school, of course, would be a necessary adjunct to so thriving a community. Consequently one was organized, and an estimable and capable teacher was found in the person of Dr. E. Hazen.

"To Doctor Hazen belongs the credit of teaching the first school at the fort.

The doctor had met Mr. McKinney and wife, at the commencement of Oberlin College, and was advised by them to emigrate west. He was then a young man and had graduated. Mr. J. P. McKinney, assisted by his wife, taught the second term of school at the fort. The school session was held in one of the fort buildings, and their enrollment of scholars numbered nearly one hundred.

"A Mr. Sharp, from Fayette county, kept the first hotel in the place. He dispensed his hospitality in one of the Fort buildings.

"The new town of Fort Atkinson was commenced in 1869. The same year the railroad entered the place, J. T. Clark's Addition was made to the town, August 28, 1869. This addition was formerly known as the Tavernier Farm, and was sold to J. T. Clark at sheriff's sale several years previous.

"About this period the first church building was erected. It was located north of the old fort, and built by the aid of subscriptions. The Methodist church was built soon after. It is located on the old town site, and was built by the aid of S. B. Dunlop, a wealthy farmer, and largely with his money."

Fort Atkinson was incorporated in 1895 and Wm. Becker was the first mayor. Aside from the historic interest that attaches to the town, it may be said that it has always enjoyed a good market, the shipments of live stock being for many years a leading industry. All lines of business are well represented by the following merchants and professional men: Home Savings Bank, F. J. Pouska, cashier; loans and real-estate, Frank A. Schreiber; general merchandise, Frank C. Smith, F. P. Chizek, Joe A. Huber; drug store, Horton Bros. Co.; jewelry store, A. J. Schreiber; butcher shop, Joe Wandes; furniture and undertaking,



Joseph Chekal; veterinary surgeon, S. H. Bush; barber, Amos Stribley; blacksmith shop, Louis Houdek; lumber dealers, Frudden Lumber Co.; hardware dealer, George A. Bieber; live stock dealers, Glass & Summers; farm produce, Farmers Co-operative Produce Co.; hotels, Adolph Hlubek, Theodore Smith; postmaster, Wm. Summers; Catholic pastor, Rev. Charles Dragoun; Shattler Auto Co.; Shissel Implement Co.

The town officers are as follows: Mayor, Wentzel Kohout; clerk, A. J. Schreiber; treasurer, Jacob Chekal; councilmen, Fred Houdek, A. B. Leibold, Wm. Rausch, Joseph Schreiber, and John Heine; marshal, George E. Cooney.







CATHOLIC SCHOOL, OSSIAN



PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, OSSIAN

## CHAPTER XXV

### MILITARY TOWNSHIP

When one essays to record the history of Military township and the town of Ossian, which is its only municipality, he is impressed with the lack of facts and figures necessary to convey adequately the progress of this unit of the county. H. P. Nicholson, who made a brief sketch for the Anderson & Goodwin Atlas, remarks upon his inability to find only meagre data, but writes in this manner:

The history of Military township is not dyed with any blood-curdling tales of Indian massacre; no dire calamity ever befell the aborigines that white man has record of; neither is it filled with tales of romance or sentiment, but simply the converting of a wilderness covered with tall prairie grass and scrub oak, interspersed with hazel brush and other wild bushes, into the beautiful fields and homes of the prosperous farmer and merchant of today.

Topographically speaking, Military township is a rolling prairie with an inclination to be bluffy along the creeks, for no river traverses within its borders. It abounds in fertile fields and clear spring water, and has a limited supply of timber mostly grown since the ravages of the prairie fires were controlled.

The first settlements were made along the creeks, whose steep sides abounded in good springs and were covered with a growth of timber sufficient unto the needs of the pioneer. Not being equipped with the tools for making deep wells or converting timber into a commercial state, he naturally accepted the gifts which nature had bestowed upon him and improved upon them to the best of his ability.

The first settler came in 1850, but who he was is not within the knowledge of this writer. The march of the pioneer was steady and continuous and no marked event recorded his advent into the newer fields. Neither was the birth of the first white child worthy of a page in history, for such events were the same then as today, of every-day occurrence. The occupation of the lands within its borders was very rapid, for as early as 1854 no unoccupied land was to be had. Settlers either entered it as school land or bought it outright at \$1.25 per acre. Prices advanced rapidly as improvements were made and values as high as \$4.50 and \$5.00 per acre were reached by 1854. In order to give the reader an insight into the methods used and the privations experienced by the

people of an early day, it will be necessary to relate some personal experiences.

This writer's father started from Northwestern Pennsylvania in December, 1854, with team, lumber wagon, and a board for a seat, to come to what was then the far West to seek a home in which to spend his future days. He was accompanied by a brother with similar conveyance, bent on a like mission. They were not seeking something they knew naught of, for others preceded them and delivered glowing accounts of the opportunities offered in the newer fields. The trip was not worthy of special mention but no doubt grew monotonous to the participants in the short winter days. The Mississippi river was reached at last, however, and was found to be clear of ice, but as the weather turned cold that day a crossing was effected the next morning by leading one horse across at a time and drawing the wagon by hand. The journey was continued on the day following, as far as Decorah, a party at McGregor wishing transportation to that place. The route traversed was via Moneek and Frankville, at that time two prosperous villages.

On January 8, 1855, the drive from Decorah to what proved to be a home for over half a century, was made. The road taken ran out through Madison township, to where Calmar now stands, and so on down the Military ridge from which this township takes its name.

At an early date land was selected and purchased of an earlier settler for \$4.50 per acre and preparations were made for settlement in the spring following. The horses were sold and the return trip was commenced on foot as far as Dubuque, where transportation was taken back to Pennsylvania. He with his family and some of the necessaries of life removed in April by rail as far as Galena, Illinois, thence by boat to McGregor and overland the rest of the way.

Wealth was not sought by these people. They were simply looking for a home in which they could secure a competence in their later years, and an opportunity for their offspring. Their surroundings were primitive, indeed. A log house twelve by thirteen feet, with no attic, was kitchen, dining room, bed room and pantry combined. A small lean-to and an attic were afterwards added and in these surroundings seven children, all robust and healthy, were reared until better accommodations could be afforded. Not alone the family, but visitors were entertained and strangers were often sheltered within its walls. And those were the days of hoop skirts, and who can imagine the neighborhood ladies gathered together for an afternoon visit with good old-fashioned families added. The roof was protected by oaken shingles which shed water well enough, but when a genuine blizzard raged much snow was sifted through the chinks and our urchin brothers and sisters upon arising in the morning would have to seek a place to plant their bare feet to miss the little snow banks scattered promiscuously upon the floor.

The spinning wheel and loom were also in evidence, for no home was complete without the wherewithal to be self-supporting. Long strings of oxen were hitched to large breaking plows and the natural sod was broken, crops were put in by hand and harvested with the cradle. The building of flour mills quickly followed the advent of the pioneer and a sustenance was achieved within the reach of all. The next thing was the market for the surplus. This was found at McGregor, a drive of forty miles, which took three days. While the man of

the house was gone on these necessary trips the wife and mother was governor-general and general roustabout combined.

In the spring of 1856 a small prairie fire started in the southern part of the township and extended nearly the whole length north and south, destroying fences and numerous buildings in its path. When we consider that fences were made from rails split from burr oak we can realize what loss they were to the farmer of those times.

Following this we have the terrible winter of 1856 and 1857, a winter never to be forgotten by the pioneer. Snow fell to a depth of four feet, followed by rain which formed a crust on the snow, encasing everything in its grasp. It became impossible to get a horse or ox off from the beaten path, and fire wood had to be procured by hand. This also marked the fall of the deer and elk. They became famished and were an easy prey to hunters on foot, the crust not being strong enough to sustain the deer's weight. The settlers here, as in nearly every other place, had their Indian scare. It was reported the Indians were coming slaughtering and burning all before them. Many people turned out their stock to shift for themselves, and loading their valuables and families into their wagons started for McGregor; others, whether from more thoughtful disposition or more stubborn, refused to leave and prepared to stand a siege if such there came, but it proved only a rumor enlarged by nervous people and everyone soon returned and resumed his place and pursuits.

In times of adversity when prices were low, many times a man would be compelled to go home without a much-needed article on account of the expense of the trip.

#### OSSIAN

Of the town of Ossian "Sparks' History" gives the following facts:

"The original town site of Ossian was laid out by its founder, John Ossian Porter, on the southeast corner of the section. It consisted of three blocks, in all fourteen lots. It was acknowledged by J. O. Porter and wife on the 13th of April, 1855, and was filed for record in the recorder's office of Winneshiek county on the 30th of April, the same year. Mr. Elijah Middlebrook did the surveying. Two years later, on the 8th of April, Capt. C. E. Brooks acknowledged the plat of the first addition to Ossian, which was accordingly placed on the proper record. It consisted of six blocks, containing sixty-three lots. On the 8th day of October, 1864, Capt. C. E. Brooks acknowledged the plat of his second addition to Ossian, which consisted of thirty blocks, divided into lots. This plat was properly recorded. On the 4th day of May, 1869, he laid out ten additional blocks, and called it Brooks' Western Addition to Ossian. This, so far as the records show, was the last addition to the place, and, minus the vacation of a few blocks by Mr. Brooks, is the Ossian of today.

"The year 1865 marked a new era in the history of Ossian. That which was the death-blow of Frankville—the railroad—gave fresh life to Ossian. During this year the railroad was built past its door. The year before, C. E. Brooks made a fresh addition to the place, which was far-sighted, for town lots were in demand immediately. The following year the construction of numerous dwellings was commenced, and business interests of various kinds multiplied.

"Ossian was nearly twenty-one years of age before a single church edifice had been erected. The Catholics erected a building for worship, which was the first, about the year 1869. About two years later the Methodists built a church."

In this connection it may be added that some years ago the Catholic congregation erected a magnificent new church, and this, with their priest's home and the parochial school, constitutes one of the most substantial church properties in the county.

Ossian has not in late years experienced a remarkable growth, yet at all times it has maintained its place in the progress of events, and it harbors within its borders business men of enterprise and sagacity who are ever on the alert for the best interests of their community. It has two banks—the Ossian State Bank and the Citizens Bank of Ossian—with ample capital and resources. A good representative in the newspaper field in the Ossian Bee; and ere this book is issued its streets will be lighted by electricity, as at a recently-held election a large majority was recorded in favor of granting a franchise to Ballard Brothers, to erect and operate a plant.

T. F. Schmitz, editor of the Bee, is serving his second term as mayor. The other city officials are: Councilmen—E. H. Anderson, O. L. Gunderson, S. C. Oxley, L. Bernatz, J. M. Cahill; town clerk, Charles Green.

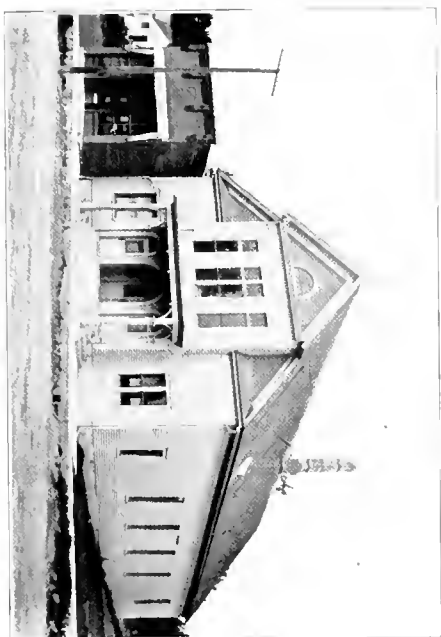




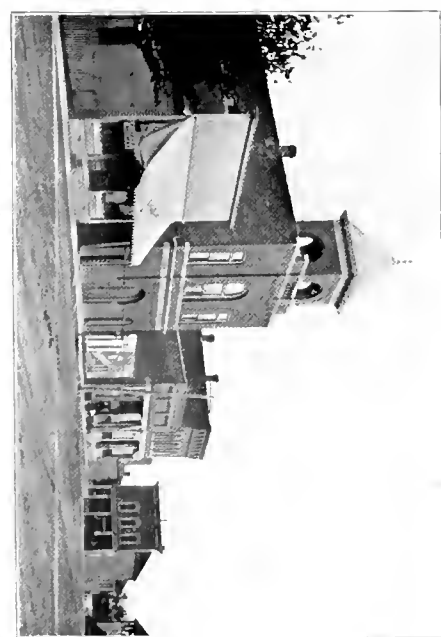
West Main Street



Main Street



Opera House



City Hall Block

SCENES IN OSSINI



## CHAPTER XXVI

### BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP

Bluffton, appropriately so named, embraces in its meaning the most prominent natural features, which undoubtedly inspired its application, says John F. Murtha, in a sketch in "Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas." It occupies the sixth place, being in the third tier from the east and the second from the north, among the sister townships in the county, and fourth in the third supervisor's district. The village of the same name is centrally located, from east to west, and one mile north of the center, on the north bank of the Upper Iowa river. In it there is one general store and postoffice, a refreshment or club room, blacksmith shop, hotel, schoolhouse and church. The village's most prosperous times were her earliest, continuing on through the wheat-growing period which ended with the blight or wheat failures of 1876 and 1878. Since that time it has been going the way of nearly all the smaller towns the country over, and in these recent years the institution of rural delivery of mail is the second serious blow to its prosperity.

The passing of the mill recently sold, now razed to the ground, marks the end of its usefulness. The founders were the Morse brothers. Henry built the sawmill in 1852; the following year they built the small, or baby, grist mill, around which Lyman D. built the large one in 1856, thus keeping pace with the rapidly increasing patronage and requirements of the new settlers far and wide. Even then, in the busiest season, patrons had to wait from two to four weeks for their turn at grinding. \* \* \* \* Settlers as far west as Albert Lea, Minnesota, used to come with ox teams to get milling done. The old mill had a good many ups and downs, Mr. Morse remaining owner until around the seventies, when he sold to Blackmarr & Meader.

In general, the land is owned by those who live here and whose well tilled fields—iron and steel bound—fine houses and barns, and herds of cattle, horses, sheep and swine; last but not least the numerous large and happy families born and reared here, in conjunction with natural advantages of native forest, good water and fertile soil, give evidence of what our fathers, the pioneers, have wrought.

The physical features of the township are strongly marked by the course of the Upper Iowa river. This enters just a half mile south from the northwest

corner. It almost laps upon itself in three great loops, the second of which enters Burr Oak, returning, resumes its flow, while making about ten miles in every direction of the compass, has only made two miles headway, continuing in a southeasterly direction passes into Canoe, making about twenty miles of river in this township.

Bluffton, as a whole, is generally broken and rolling; the rougher parts being covered with native forest, insuring abundance of timber. It is fairly well adapted to general farming and stock raising and the same is now carried on in a full measure.

The population is a composite of Irish, Norwegian, German and English. They are rugged, honest, industrious, economical and prosperous.

The opportunities for the youth to obtain a common school education are as good as in any rival community. Three of her young men have gone into the Catholic ministry—Michael Foley, Peter Gallagher and John Courtney.

The first wave of immigration, setting in with George Smith, Lyman Morse, G. R. Emery, Chas. McLaughlin, Michael Gilice, Barney Sutton and Terrence McConnell, in 1851, is considered to have existed up to the commencement of the Civil war. A great many of these came from Northern Illinois with covered wagons drawn by ox teams, and bringing a few head of cattle and other belongings necessary to begin life in the new country.

The civil township was organized in 1850 and on April 7th of that year, the first election was held at the house of Lyman D. Morse in the village, choosing the following officers: Justices, Abner Stevenson and Alfred Jones. Constable, L. H. Brink. Trustees, Franklin Fletcher and M. M. Ferguson. Road Supervisor, Wm. H. McIntosh. Assessor, Edwin Snell. Clerk, Joseph F. Nickerson. The enumeration then taken shows a population of 106.

The greatest event, the one by which we feel the most honored, was the patriotic response of our boys forty-five years ago, to their country's call. The enrollment for service was John Gallagher and son, John Thomas, Asberry Lanty, Warrick Brisco, Lewis Richmond, Dan Wash, Lut Barrett, Wm. Murdock, Dan and Ben Lewis, Moritz Lange, Patrick Nolan and son Denis, Owen Smith, Abner Stevenson, John Jones, Jonathan Reynolds, Frank Foley, Joseph F. Nickerson, Rube and Frank Palmer, Simon Gates, M. Perry, Harrison Stockdale, Albert Richmond, Will Powers and Hezekiah Brisco.

That the first settlers brought with them their religion and were soon followed by ministers and priests is a well-known traditional fact, for before any churches were erected divine services were held in many of the log houses in the settlement. In 1858 the little log church was built on Mr. Nolan's land. It was considered large enough to accommodate the attendance, but in a few years a frame addition in front, making it as large again, was required by the growing congregation. This sufficed until 1877 when the present fine brick edifice was built on a new site. The parish has always been attached to Decorah. It also, in an early day, included Plymouth Rock, and as far West as Granger, making an extensive field for the early pastors, who could not make the regular attendance of these days. Of Revs. Father Hoar, Kinsley and DeCailey little is known. Father Farrell being frail and in poor health did not remain long. Father Lowrey ministered quite a few years, and went away universally regretted by his people and all who knew him. Then came Father Lenihan, who

in late years became bishop of Cheyenne. Fathers Butler, McNulty, Garrahan and the present Father Hawe followed in succession. Religion in the village seems to have had a varied existence from the beginning. Although other points not far off had been frequently visited by ministers of the M. E. church much earlier, this place was not put on the list of speaking points until 1855. A Congregational society was organized by Rev. Chas. Wiley of Burr Oak in 1878. The Adventists started a society with Rev. John Ridley of Burr Oak as pastor in 1881. 1884 brought in the Friends society with Rev. Ezra Pierson pastor. To their efforts is due the erection of the fine frame church, dedicated at the close of the year 1889. The Baptists made an organization, an outgrowth of revivals by Rev. James of Decorah in 1895. All of the foregoing church circles have gone out of existence by removal of adherents or remote residence; even the Friends society has only a nominal existence, but the church is open to the service of other denominations or those not belonging who aided its erection.



## CHAPTER XXVII

### CANOE TOWNSHIP

Canoe township adjoins Bluffton on the east and is immediately north of Decorah. J. C. Fredenburgh describes the township as follows:

The west half of Canoe township is very fine farming land. The northwest quarter, known as Franklin Prairie, is gently rolling, and is productive of all kinds of crops. The southwest quarter is more hilly and quite bluffly along what is known as the Upper Iowa river. The uplands on the hills are a clay soil, while the bottom lands are sandy. There is an abundance of timber on the bluffs along the streams. Canoe creek which flows from near the northwest corner of the township in a southeasterly direction, heads about three miles north of the north line of Canoe, in Hesper township.

Continuing his sketch, which appeared in the "Winneshiek County Atlas," published in 1905, Mr. Fredenburgh gives some interesting reminiscences. We quote a portion of them.

"In the year 1850 when David Kinnison and John Fredenburgh came west to seek their fortunes, they came to northwest Canoe township. They found Canoe creek with its clear sparkling waters and fish in abundance. I have heard them tell about wading through the water and the fish would part ahead of them and close in behind them, they were so thick. In those days there were springs of pure water on nearly every farm and as many as three or four on some of them.

"With the exception of along the streams, timber was scattering, with openings here and there. They called them white oak openings. In these openings the blue grass grew to the height of many feet. There were a few Indians here, but they were friendly. They would steal a little sometimes, but that was all the harm they did. There were some deer, bear, quail, pheasant and prairie chicken. When these early settlers wanted lumber and provisions, they had to haul it from Prairie du Chien, their one conveyance being ox teams. It usually took about a week to make the trip. As the county grew older they went to McGregor and Lansing and later to Conover and Decorah.

"The first wheat I can remember my father marketing was hauled to Conover, and the first train of cars I ever saw was at that place.

"Canoe has never had a town of her name to boast of. She has had some country postoffices and two taverns. One, kept by a man by the name of Harmon and later by a Mr. Leach—The Leach Tavern. The frame is still doing service, as it has been re-sided and a new roof put on. It is owned and occupied by W. C. McLain.\* It was known by the name of the Half-way House, being about half way between Burr Oak and Decorah.

"In the early '60s we sowed our grain by hand, dragged it in with an A-shaped harrow, planted our corn with a hoe, and cultivated it with one horse and a two-shovel plow; planted our potatoes and dug them with a hoe. We cut hay with a scythe, spread it out with forks, let it dry and then raked it up with a hand-rake, and stacked it by hand. Our grain was cut with a cradle, raked and bound by hand and treaded out with horses and flail. I remember when a boy of dropping corn by hand for 25 cents per day, from half past six or seven in the morning until sundown at night.

"The first reaper I ever saw was about 1867. It took two men and a team to run it. One man drove the horses and the other, with a fork, raked the grain off in gavels. Two or three years later came the self-rake, next the harvester. Two men stood on the platform and bound the grain. The next labor-saving improvement in this line was the self-binder, which has been improved upon and is still in use at the present time. In looking back over years that have come and gone since I first saw Canoe township, we are led to exclaim, 'what a change!' Thus we acknowledge that we have a blessed heritage and should be thankful and happy."

Lars L. Iverson was the first white child born in Canoe township and still resides on the farm where he first saw the light of day on December 7, 1852. He tells the following circumstance concerning the first mill stones used in that township, his father, Lars Iverson, Sr., being the man who made them:

When Lars Iverson came to Winneshiek county in 1852 the mills were few and far between. When grists were brought to the mill they would be there so long before being ground that the mice and rats would eat the sacks and waste the grain and the grist would diminish, so that the farmers would look around for something that would remedy this inconvenience and loss.

Mr. Iverson had thought of this difficulty when he left Norway and as hand mills were in use there, more or less, and being familiar with their construction, he brought with him the irons for such a mill. The stone which he used was selected from rock found on his farm in Canoe township. With hammer and chisel they were trimmed into proper form. The mill was turned by hand by two men, and would grind corn fine enough so one could have corn meal mush. This was considered good enough in those days.

The mill was not only used by Mr. Iverson, but after a while the neighbors would come three or four miles to get their corn ground.

These mill stones measure two feet three inches in diameter, the lower one weighs 160 pounds and the upper one 250 pounds. They are kept as a relic of pioneer days on L. L. Iverson's farm, on section 2, Canoe township.

\* Mr. McLain has since passed away, and the farm is now conducted by one of his sons.



## IN MEMORY OF SPRINGWATER

THE TALE OF A PIONEER COMMUNITY OF WHICH ONLY TRADITION REMAINS

Not a Hint of It on the Latest County Map of Canoe Township

*By Edgar Odson*

During this Home Coming time and backward glance at auld lang syne in Winneshiek, a few glimpses of pioneer days and the people of Springwater may be of interest to some readers before memory of the beginnings of that settlement become quite extinct. In the intellectual realm, in educational matters in those days when the spelling school was a test of superiority, Springwater was a community to be reckoned with.

Its beginning was a saw and grist mill erected about 1850. This mill soon after passed into the possession of Ansel Rogers, a preacher and leader in the colony of Quakers that gathered about it in the early '50s. A number of families of Friends were attracted to the site by a description written by a member of that denomination while on a prospecting tour beyond the Mississippi and published in a Friends paper in the East. Delighted by the picturesque beauty of the locality the writer created the impression that here might be founded another Eden.

People in the older communities, especially in New England, were beginning to move uneasily in their cramped home conditions and to turn their eyes to the West. Beyond the Mississippi was then sufficiently distant to lend enchantment to the view and to seem what it proved to be.

Quakers in the older settlements reading about this spot which later became Springwater, with its glorious climate, its wooded hills swarming with deer—its magnificent springs—its crystal brook (the Canoe)—full of rainbow trout—decided that this was the spot they long had sought, and left their old homes to locate on it. They came in considerable numbers, without concerted action, from widely separated localities. The following names of members of the colony will be remembered by some of the older settlers in Winneshiek county: Ansel Rogers, Moses Gove, Lorenzo Blackmarr, Nathan Chase, Samuel King, Joseph Mott, Aaron Street, Ezra King, Amos and Henry Earle, Henry Chappell, the Gripmans, John Tavernier, David West, John Odson, etc. These were men with families more or less numerous and all but two were Quakers.

Younger, unattached members of the community were A. A. Benedict, Charles Gordon, Joseph Brownell, Nathan Rogers, Lindley, Josiah and John Chase, Lucretia Bean, Mary Gove, Rachel and Abbie Mott, Zilpah Gordon, Rhoda and Eunice Gripman, Lydia Grisell, Mary and Carrie Chase. Several of these young people did not long remain unattached. Somewhat later the colony was increased by the arrival of Harvey and Lovinia Benedict and their children Aiden and Eva; Washington Epley, with a family and two nephews, George and John Epley; Isaac Gidley and family; Joseph Cook and family.

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Michigan, England and Norway were represented among these early settlers.

Plain living (enforced) and high thinking was the order of the day in the settlement. The years immediately preceding had been a time of political unrest in the Old World and of intellectual ferment in the New, finding outlet in rebellions, Fourierism and transcendentalism. Springwater did not escape the contagion, and so the younger set at once organized a literary society which met at stated intervals to read papers and discuss weighty matters. The society also published a paper—in longhand—which probably was the first publication issued in the county, *The Atheneum Banner*. At any rate it antedated the *Decorah Republican* published by the present owners by several years. The writer never had the good fortune to see a copy of this journal and it is doubtful if one is now in existence.

THE COLONY BUILT A "MEETING HOUSE" OF BOARDS SAWED AT THE MILL

For a number of years this served as a house of worship and as a schoolhouse. In this building Joseph Brownell—one of the first if not the first young man to be married within its walls—taught several terms of private school, public schools not having yet come into existence. In the barn-like structure the Friends met every Sunday (First Day) for religious worship, which consisted chiefly of silence and meditation—of the right sort. The "elders" occupied the high places during the meeting—that is, the two or three benches elevated some feet above the floor of the main body of the church and facing the audience. These dignitaries sat with hats on or off, according to individual caprice. Sometimes hats were worn during the first half hour and then laid aside. The leader sat at the head on the rear bench—the benches were elevated one above the other in tiers—and when it was time to close the service he turned toward his neighbor and gravely shook his hand. This was the signal that meeting was over, eyes brightened, smiles appeared—especially among the younger members—a hum of voices replaced the silence and everybody became ordinary humans once more.

But these meetings were not always passed in silence. Members had the privilege of exhorting sinners and others whenever the spirit moved and as the years passed the spirit seemed to move more and more frequently. There was, of course, no ordained minister. Midweek services were held, generally on Wednesdays, and school was dismissed at 11 A. M.; pupils were expected to attend, but attendance was not compulsory.

The sexes sat separated on opposite sides of the main room, which could be divided into two distinct compartments by a movable upper partition which was lowered onto a stationary lower partition fixed to the floor. The latter was about four feet high. During religious meetings the upper section was raised—by means of ropes and pulleys—so that the whole congregation was in view. But when "monthly meetings" were held—meetings for the transaction of church business and for disciplining members who had been naughty—the sexes were rigidly separated by the partition and they could communicate with each other only by messenger. At times members were hauled over the coals for shortcomings, but not often. It was a pretty good community—and died young. The meeting house was hot in summer and cold in winter. During the latter season the feminine portion of the congregation often brought heated bricks to keep their feet warm and their minds in a proper state of meditation.

The Springwater school in those days must have been the most advanced of any in the county, and in the spelling contests it always gave a good account of itself. Independent of the regular school, a peculiar geography class flourished, conducted by Charles Gordon at so much per head for the term. A set of large wall maps was used containing all the geographical knowledge then extant and the pupils met on certain evenings in the week to chant in unison the lesson under consideration. The members of the class were mostly young men and women. It was a pretty good method of fixing geographical locations in the mind, and interesting because the world was new and the pupils were interested in each other. Some of the elders looked askance at this class on account of the singing—not by any means too hilarious—because they regarded music in any form as a snare devised by the adversary of man to entangle human souls. They thought it essential to salvation that all the aspects of life should be drab colored.

This view, however, was held by a minority of the congregation only, and was more or less a bone of contention. A school entertainment in the winter of 1857-8, perhaps, produced a rift within the lute, which, while it did not widen sufficiently to produce discord that could be discerned by outsiders, it still impaired the harmony of the life there more or less. One of the features of this disrupting entertainment was music from an accordian or concertina, or whatever the instrument was, and Miss Mary Gove was the performer. In the midst of one of her selections, one of the elders, sitting on the other side of the lower partition—the two rooms had been thrown into one—placed his hands upon it and vaulted over with the agility of a boy who has been robbing an orchard, and rushing up to Miss Gove, seized her hands exclaiming, "Does thee know that this is the house of God?" The entertainment ceased then and there and that elder did not enhance his popularity in the community by his zeal. He was one of the first to move away. David West, who was not a Quaker, in relating the incident, said: "Why, when the old man vaulted over the fence, his coat tails snapping in the breeze, I thought it was a part of the performance, d——d if I didn't!"

An interesting Sunday school was maintained for a number of years in which everybody, young and old, showed much interest and nearly every member of the community became an expert in bible knowledge. In connection with this school a circulating library was maintained by individual contributions. This literature, as a matter of course, was highly flavored with Quakerism, but books were scarce and it served. The autobiography of John Woolman was one of the books.

An intellectual-devotional diversion was a "reading circle" held on Sunday afternoon in summer and in the evening during winter. At these gatherings members took turns in reading aloud recent books of an instructive nature, biographies, travels, etc., alternating with purely religious matter.

At a somewhat later period a peripatetic writing master drifted into Springwater and taught some terms of writing school. He was a good penman but a bad citizen and subsequently married and deserted one of Decorah's fair daughters.

The sentiment in regard to music eventually changed to such an extent that a singing school was allowed in the schoolhouse, conducted by James W. Mott, who had previously qualified by taking singing lessons in Decorah. A musical wave rolled over the community and in almost every home some instrument was under-

going torture at the hands of would-be musicians. But there were children who were compelled to take to the woods to practice, out of sight and hearing of their dissenting parents.

The New York Tribune was about the only secular paper read in Springwater. It was everybody's friend, philosopher and guide in worldly matters, and Horace Greeley was a prophet in that locality. The abolition sentiment was strong and during the Lincoln-Douglas campaign everyone became a republican except David West, who was a democrat, and did not care who knew it.

The dress usually worn was the conventional Quaker drab—drab gown and bonnet for the women, severely plain habiliments with broad brimmed black hat for the men. The only color allowed the Quaker maidens was that which glowed in their cheeks, and bright eyes were their only ornaments—but these sufficed. At the time of the bloomer outbreak that costume was occasionally seen on the Springwater hills, but not for long.

One of the very first pioneers of the place—forgotten in the enumeration above—was a character known by the sobriquet of "Greasy Ole." He was a bachelor who lived by himself in a 6x4 shanty and wore a pair of leather breeches which were never changed or washed. He came to the locality so early that he shot a bear on what later became the Odson farm. One story about him was that being invited to dinner by one of his Quaker neighbors at one time, he showed that he was not devoid of table manners by wiping his knife on his breeches before inserting it into the communal butter.

The first white child born in Springwater was the present superintendent of the well known Minnesota school for feeble minded at Faribault, Dr. A. C. Rogers.

The first death was that of Eunice Gripman, a fine young woman of eighteen or twenty. Her grave was the first in the Springwater burial ground.

The first postoffice was called Aquila Grove, Nathan Chase, postmaster.

The first member of the old guard to desert the ranks was Ansel Rogers, who sought other and better pastures.

No one accumulated a swollen fortune there. No member of the colony disgraced himself by becoming a malefactor of great wealth. The best wheat in the United States was raised on those hills, but it was a slow and strenuous process to grub out the stunted oak shrubs and prepare the soil for the plow, and there was no home market for the grain. It had to be hauled to the Mississippi at McGregor or Lansing, and when the draft animals were oxen it required three or four days to make the trip.

So most of the settlers became tired of the hard work and the meager results and by the end of the first decade the community was rapidly disintegrating. Death claimed some but most were lured away by the greater opportunities elsewhere.

Only two of the oldest group lived there to the end of their days, John Odson and Joseph Mott, and only one still survives, Mrs. John Odson, who now lives in Decorah.

Of the younger group next in age, Charles Gordon became an inventor and made a fortune in New York and Brooklyn; A. A. Benedict became a rolling stone who gathered considerable moss; Lindley, Josiah and John Chase are somewhere in the West and doing well; Miss Lucretia Bean married one Thomas

Truman and lived and died in West Decorah; Nathan Rogers went to the Pacific coast. The whereabouts of others is to the writer unknown.

Those who were the children in the settlement are now gray-haired men and women, the radiant light of the world's morning long since faded from their faces. Some departed never to grow old. James Mott went west but returned and died in his prime. His widow is the well known Decorah business woman. Milton Gove, one of the champion spellers of Springwater in the days of spelling schools, lives in Decorah. Aiden Benedict became a theatrical manager and lived in New York during the last years of his life and died there; his sister, Mrs. Rathbone, is at Phoenix, Arizona. J. J. Tavernier is the West Decorah miller. Bailey Street is a citizen of Hesper. Lucy Mott, Maria Chase and Janie Chappell died when on the threshold of promising womanhood.

Mrs. Annis Mott Ellingson is the only descendant of the original settlers who now lives in Springwater.

Such are a few glimpses of a brief phase in the history of one settlement in old Winneshiek.

“ 'Tis all a checker-board of nights and days,  
Where Destiny with man for pieces plays:  
Hither and thither moves, and checks and slays,  
And one by one back in the closet lays.”



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### GLENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Of several sketches of Glenwood township, none are better than that prepared in 1905 by O. P. Rocksvold, one of the pioneers of the township. It was printed in the "Atlas of Winneshiek County," published that year by Anderson & Goodwin. Mr. Rocksvold says, in part:

"Gjermund Johnson was the first Norwegian settler in township 98 north, range 7 west, which was the way the township was known.

"He located in the southwest quarter of section 31, and built the first dwelling house in the township. Nels Thronson and Andrew Gulbrandson Haugen came later the same year, and settled on section 32. These were the only settlers in the southwest part of the township. In 1851 Knut Evenson and others settled in the same neighborhood. In the southeastern corner of the township, Hans O. Eggebraaten and family, Hans Blegen and wife, Ole and Hans Patterson, their three sisters and their old father were the first Norwegian settlers in the east part of the township.

"Claims were made by Philander Baker, L. Carmichael, John Brant, Jack Brant, George Coney, John Bush, Wm. and John Barthell and others, but they soon sold their claims to Norwegian settlers and disappeared. Samuel Drake came in 1850 to the northwest part of the township, and settled on section 7; his father and brother Nathan came in 1851. Other families settled in the neighborhood but moved away in a short time. In 1851 Timothy Fuller, Russell and Benjamin Goodwater, Wm. Smith and Levi Barnhouse settled in the township, but Russell soon sold out, the others remaining for a number of years.

"In 1852 the Norwegian emigrants began to come direct from Norway, and continued to come until the outbreak of the war, which checked the emigration for some time. A few years later they began to come in large numbers, so that soon every acre of available land in the township was taken up.

"William Smith built a sawmill on Trout river in 1853 and supplied the first settlers with lumber; before that time they had to split logs for the floors, doors and other purposes. Glenwood was well supplied with wood and water, the two main objects for which the settlers were looking. Iowa river running along the north border of the township, Trout river from the south through

its center, Coon creek from the southeast, all emptied into the Iowa river at the north part of the township on section 2.

"All of these streams were well stocked with fish, the two last mentioned with speckled trout. Even in the Iowa river a good many trout were caught. Wild game was plentiful, red deer could be seen every day, and I often saw them grazing among the cattle in the summer. Game birds were also numerous, such as prairie chicken, partridges, quail and wild pigeons. The latter were often so numerous in the spring of the year that a flock would almost shade the sun. In 1866 a flock came along and picked up the seed on a ten-acre field that had been sown by hand by the writer of this sketch, so it had to be sown over again.

"Glenwood contained very little prairie land; the most of it was timber with some open patches here and there, consequently was hard to clear for farm purposes. The soil is of the best kind black loam, underlaid with clay. After fifty years of cultivation it produces the best of crops. The timber varieties are burr oak, white oak, black oak, black walnut, butternut, elm, poplar, and many other varieties.

"I find from the census of 1880 that Glenwood had a population of 1,190. That year the Waukon and Decorah railroad branch was graded, so many of the professional railroad hands were enumerated as citizens of Glenwood, where they did belong at the time being. In 1890 the population was 1,034 and in 1900 just about the same.\* Hundreds of good citizens have emigrated to Minnesota and the Dakotas, where land was cheap.

"At the outbreak of the Civil war, Glenwood was not slow to send her sons to the front. Four companies of infantry and one of cavalry were organized in the county, going into the regiments as follows: First company in the Third, second in the Ninth, and the third into the Twelfth, the fourth into the Thirty-eighth and the fifth into the Sixth Cavalry. All of these companies were more or less soldiers from Glenwood township. A few soldiers also went into the Fifteenth Wisconsin as a Scandinavian regiment. It was soon found that all of these boys were of the right kind of material of which to make good soldiers.

"A certain family, Throned Steen and wife of Glenwood, sent six sons to the front, one to the First Minnesota, three in the Twelfth Iowa, one in the Thirty-eighth Iowa, and one in the Fifteenth Wisconsin, and the seventh and oldest brother was drafted in 1864, but when it became known that he had six brothers in the army before, they let him go home to take care of his old parents. Glenwood has more than furnished its quota of soldiers, but Decorah got the credit of a good many of them, as they did not think of demanding their enlistment as a credit to Glenwood township, so in 1864 when a draft was ordered, four men were drafted in the township.

"There are three Norwegian Lutheran churches in the township. The first was built in 1857 and remained until 1870, when the congregation had outgrown it, then a large stone church was built that year by the side of the old one at a cost of \$13,000. A few years later a part of the congregation seceded and built a church for themselves in 1880. Two years later others joined them, so they removed it to a better location and remodeled it at a cost of \$3,000.

\* Population in 1910, 871.



Another church was built in the southwest part of the township about the same style and cost as the one above mentioned.

“There have been two flour mills erected in Glenwood township. One was built in 1868, known as the stone mill on the Trout river, and had adequate water power for a number of years. Another was built in 1872 by B. B. Sander on the same stream further down, but after a few years the water gave out, so the machinery was sold as scrap iron and the building was converted into a creamery. The stone mill mentioned above was run for several years by steam, but finally was closed, as it did not pay expenses.”



## CHAPTER XXIX

### HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

Nels Larson, a pioneer of Highland township, is the author of this sketch.

Before Highland township was organized it was at first a part of Pleasant township and the west part of the township was commonly called "Pleasant prairie." In 1852 or 1853 (according to recollections) the first settlers began to come in and locate in the south part of the township. The first settlers were the Stoens, Brunsvold, Arnesons and Mikkel Solberg; and in the north and east part were located Peter Uldvikson, Paul Dagfinson, Bersie, Kjomme, Kroshus, Mikkel Walhus and some others. In the west part were Wennes, Halland, Luros, Svenung Bergan and Ole Johnson Svartebratten. The two latter soon sold out to Elihu Talbert and Thomas Painter. Shortly after that time the township was organized. It borders on the state line of Minnesota and contained only a little over thirty sections of land.

In those early days there was no mill nearer than Decorah and Freeport, about twenty miles distant. With ox teams it took one day to go and another to come back, besides waiting from one to three days at the mill to get the grist. Some time later a mill was built on the Canoe river, known as Springwater, about ten miles off; and still later a mill was built inside the township at what is now known as Highlandville. This mill was discontinued because the water power failed. The mill was owned by one Peter Olson, who died a short time ago. From the beginning and up in 1860, nearly all parts of the township were more or less settled. In the winter of 1857 there was a big snow on the ground from two to three feet deep. A rain on the top of that and cold weather made an ice crust about one inch thick, so that no teams could move without first crushing down the ice. Some people had their hay stacked out on the prairie where it was mowed, and the writer of these lines has seen men on snow shoes with a hand sled drawing their hay home, a distance of about two miles, on the top of that ice. Such were the pioneer days for the first settlers.

The first school in the township was taught by Addison Hoag in a private house belonging to N. N. Kjomme, but soon after a log schoolhouse was built on the four corners near the center of the township. The first teacher in that

schoolhouse was Samuel Aikins, a well known resident from over the line in Minnesota. Another schoolhouse was shortly after built in the west part of the township, on section 7, by private subscriptions, and that schoolhouse was afterwards moved one mile south.

At the present time the township is well provided with schools, having six on a territory of twenty-six and one-half sections of land. A small part of the township belongs to Pleasant township for school matters.

During the War of the Rebellion the township furnished several soldiers as volunteers and some substitutes who were paid a liberal bounty by the residents to save the township from drafting.

There is no record old enough to show who were the first township officers but among some of the oldest officers were K. Tobiason, John Anderson Kroskus, Nels N. Kjonme, Aad Nordheim, F. M. Gunning, Ammon Arneson and some others.

There is only one town inside the township, the platted village of Highlandville. It has a population of a little over one hundred. It is a town without any railroad, and yet it is doing a lively business as a country town. Besides a postoffice there are three general stores, one blacksmith shop, one creamery, one doctor, two or three establishments for the sale of farm machinery, besides mechanics, and last, but not least, a new modern schoolhouse, built lately at a cost of about twenty-five hundred dollars. The building looks well and is an improvement to the town.

There is one Lutheran church inside the township and two creameries doing good business. The farmers of the township have made good progress and as a rule are well to do. Highland township had 808 residents in 1890; 829 in 1900, and 785 in 1910.





Methodist Episcopal Church  
Catholic Church

First Norwegian Lutheran Church  
United Lutheran Church

Congregational Church

A GROUP OF DECORATIVE CHURCHES

## CHAPTER XXX

### HESPER TOWNSHIP

Sparks' History gives an extended account of the settlement of Hesper township, but because its important features are given in more condensed form, and others Sparks did not record, we prefer to use a sketch prepared by the late E. M. Carter. Mr. Carter says:

"E. E. Meader, with his wife and four sons, were the first permanent settlers of Hesper township. They came from Southern Indiana in the fall of 1850 and spent the winter on the Volga, in Fayette county. In the spring of 1851 they came to northern Winneshiek, and in the early days of April reached their destination. Mr. Meader immediately began the erection of a log house, and although the section lines were not established, the house stood on almost the same spot as where now stands the commodious residence which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Meader until his death February 13, 1896. Mrs. Meader, who is nearing her ninetieth year, still occupies the home as a summer residence.

"When the official survey of the line between Iowa and Minnesota was made the chief engineers of the surveying party boarded at the Meader home. Sometimes chiefs of a different kind would call at the door and demand something to eat, but 'poor Lo' soon found that Mrs. Meader was a woman who would much sooner respond to an appeal than to a demand.

"During the summer of 1851 a Mr. Wheeler built a log house on the slope in the north part of the present village, and near a big spring that was for many years the main water supply of the village. This was the first residence within the limits of the present village plat. Among others this humble cabin sheltered some of the 'first families' of Hesper but was finally abandoned, and torn down.

"In the spring of 1855 David C. Tabor and family came from Vermont and were for a time occupants of the Wheeler cabin. Uncle David and Aunt Harriet now live in the beautiful home on the southeast corner of Main and Center streets.

"Russell Tabor, an older brother of David Tabor, came from Vermont in the fall of 1855, built himself a house, and also built a combined saw and grist mill, the latter near the spring above mentioned.

"In those days most of the freight from the East came down the Ohio and up the Mississippi, stopping at McGregor or at Lansing. In the fall of

1855 David C. Tabor, with three young men as assistants and with a heavy wagon to which were attached four yoke of oxen, went to Lansing, about twenty-five miles east, to get the boiler for the mill. They were on the road eight days, and during two days of the home trip they made but eight miles. They came via Decorah and Burr Oak, coming into Hesper from the west, as by that route they could ford the Upper Iowa and other streams and avoid some of the worst roads and sloughs.

"Russell Tabor was the original proprietor of 'The Village of Hesper as platted by Ed. Pew,' in 1857. The deeds given by Mr. Tabor contained a clause forever prohibiting the manufacture or sale, as a beverage, of intoxicating liquor upon the premises conveyed. As Hesper has never harbored an open saloon, the validity of the deeds has never been tested in the courts.

"In the early summer of 1856, L. N. Wilson and family came from Jackson county, this state. Mr. Wilson immediately began the erection of a frame house on the southwest corner of Main and Center streets. Before the house was fairly enclosed they began entertaining the traveling public, and until old age compelled Mr. and Mrs. Wilson to retire from active service, the wayfaring man was sure of a warm welcome and a square meal.

"Of the early settlers of Hesper and of 'the village,' just across the line in Minnesota, including the Allens, Batteys, Blackmarrs, Cooks, Aldriches, Benedicts, Streets, Pikes, Haines, Painters, McMullens, Worths, Mitchells, Morrisons, Whaleys, Wickershams, Talberts, Johnsons and others, the majority were members of the Society of Friends, most of whom did not believe in vocal or instrumental music as part of their church service.

"However, in 1860 or thereabout, a part of the celebrated Hutchinson family, temperance abolition singers, who 'came from the mountains of the old granite state,' visited their relations, the family of Tristram Allen, a leading member of the church. On Sunday near the closing hour Randall Stuart felt it borne in upon him to remark to the effect that if any of the visiting friends had anything to offer in the way of 'psalms, hymns or spiritual songs,' he presumed their offering would be acceptable. The visiting Friends accepted the invitation and favored the congregation with several of their choice songs suited to the occasion. Mattie Gidley of the Springwater meeting, and Zeno Battey, son of Amos Battey, who was for many years 'head' of the Hesper meeting, occasionally gave their testimony in song, but not until quite recent years has singing become a part of the regular service.

"At the time of the Sioux uprising in 1863, several of the young men of Hesper organized under the command of Dr. Wm. C. Battey and went in search of the hostiles. They went beyond Austin, Minnesota, but encountered no Indians. Hesper and vicinity furnished its full quota of those who did loyal service in the army during the dark days of '61-'65, and the remains of twenty-two of the 'boys in blue' and of one enlisted nurse, Cynthia Cameron, are at rest in our cemeteries.

"The first meeting house in the township was built by one branch of the Friends church on the northwest corner of section 17, a mile west of the village. The other branch of the church met in Russell Tabor's house. A union of the two branches having been effected, the meeting house was moved into the village, and is now occupied as a dwelling by J. M. Camp. The Friends



meeting house, which burned October 22, 1904, was built in 1871. At about the same time the Norwegian Lutherans and the Methodists built comfortable and commodious places of worship.

"At an early day in its history Hesper township attracted many Scandinavians within its borders, among them Helgrim Larsen, Ole B. Anderson, Burre Olson and others, their descendants now being among our prominent citizens.

"Politically speaking Hesper has always been hopelessly republican, and has had assigned to it a fair share of the county officers. Among them William Johnson, George N. Holway and H. L. Coffeen, superintendents of schools; C. E. Meader and E. R. Haines, treasurers; and James L. Cameron, who was surveyor twenty-two years. H. B. Williams also represented the county in the state Legislature in the late sixties.

"In the spring of 1868 the Philomathian Library Association was organized and at this date it has about five hundred books in its library.

"During its nearly fifty years Hesper has had four postmasters. The first one, Dr. W. C. Battey, was succeeded in 1871 by Dr. Fordyce Worth, who held the office twenty-five years, less two months, with a break of one year, during which time Lewis Harkness was the incumbent. Dr. Worth was succeeded June 5, 1896, by Elling J. Vold."

The population of Hesper township was 849 in 1890; 882 in 1900, and 823 in 1910. Hesper township supports two general stores—Burre Bureson is the proprietor of one and E. J. Vold manages the other. Doctor Worth still conducts his drug store. R. J. White handles farm machinery; Robinson Reid is the village blacksmith; Roy Dart runs a restaurant; Dr. Gertrude G. Wellington, a former resident, has returned to practice medicine; the meat market is run by B. Franklin. John McMillan conducts a sawmill and feed mill at his farm a half mile from the village.



## CHAPTER XXXI

### FRANKVILLE TOWNSHIP

(By Geo. M. Anderson [Linnevold] in "Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas," 1905.)

Frankville is the eastern township of next to the southern tier. Of the early settlers of this township, there is now living one who came to the county as a soldier in 1846, and was stationed at Fort Atkinson until his discharge. He settled in Frankville township in 1851 on section 31, where he has resided ever since. I refer to James Daniels.\* His family consists of eight children—six boys and two girls—all born in this township, the oldest boy, George W., born December 5, 1851, was probably the first white child born in the township.

The first house built in the township was built by Wm. Day near where the McKay schoolhouse now stands. This was before the land was surveyed, so when the surveyor ran their lines he found himself in a school section, so he then moved to Decorah.

A. P. Rosa was one of the earliest comers into the township. He came to Iowa in 1847, and farmed it in Clayton county for three seasons. In March, 1850, he selected lands in section 31, hewed timber for a log house, which he built and moved into that year. He acquired a farm of 1,000 acres, which after his death was divided among his seven sons and one daughter. The first reapers and threshing machines were bought by him and used on this farm. At one time it was a notable sight to see his three reapers and a company of harvest hands following them in his wheat fields of over a section in one body.

Wm. Birdsell came to the township in 1851 and settled on the southwest quarter of section 28. He raised a family of nine boys. Four of the boys saw service in the War of the Rebellion. Wm. Beard located on section 14 in July, 1851, moved his family by team from LaPorte county, Indiana, in November, 1852, and spent the first winter in a cabin on section 23, in which Hammond, his third son, was born. In February of that year Beard rode on horseback, following an old Indian trail to Dubuque, to perfect his title to his

\* Since died.

eighty-acre farm. In May, 1853, the family moved into their new house on section 14, which became the family homestead for the next fourteen years. In 1878 Mr. Beard rented his farm and moved to Decorah and in 1879 he and his son started the first creamery in the county, which in the next ten years helped the farmers to pay off more mortgages than all previous wheat crops had done for them by raising the grade of their home-made butter worth 5 cents per pound to the best creamery worth 16 to 20 cents per pound. He was of a practical turn of mind, he invented and put into effective use a corn plow, corn planter and a grain harvester. He was a model farmer, a staunch republican, a Christian and a model father.

The first Norwegian to settle in the southwest part of the township was Knudt Tollefson. He settled on section 30 in 1850 and lived there until 1854, when he sold out to Isaac Allen. Knudt Godmundson settled in the same neighborhood. He built a mill and ground corn for his neighbors free of toll; previous to the Godmundson mill, the people a great many times had to depend on the women for their grinding, which they did with what they named "the Armstrong mill," said mill consisting of a piece of tin punched full of holes and nailed to a board, on which they grated the corn.

J. B. Schenck settled on section 5 in 1851. He raised a family of six boys and one girl, all born in Frankville township.

The north part of the township was mostly settled by Norwegians who came there in 1850, 1851 and 1852. Some settled across the township line in Glenwood. Most of them came from Wisconsin.

This township has one village, Frankville. It was founded by Frank Teabout in 1851-2. It is located in the southeast part of the township on what is known as the state road. As it is, Frankville is a pleasant village which at one time figured conspicuously in the history of the county.

#### FRANKVILLE VILLAGE

This village once promised to be one of the good towns of the county, and had it been fortunate in securing a railroad it would have been the metropolis of the east side residents. One may judge of its activity from the sketch appended hereto, taken from Sparks' History:

"In 1851-2-3 the county was deluged with a healthy immigration. They were men noted for their integrity, perseverance, and a determination to succeed. They came in their covered carts drawn by oxen, with the family support hitched on behind in the possession of a good milch cow. A great many of these men found their homes on Washington prairie. The earliest pioneers were the Hawkes, Moses Hostetter, J. Callendar, Christopher Anderson Estrem, Wm. Padden, the Rose family, Jacob Duff, Walter Rathbun, and others. These came in 1850 or early in 1851. Among the number who drifted into the county in the years 1851-2 were J. T. Atkins, the Beards and Cutlers, John and James D. McKay, Joel Pagin, Wm. Birdsell, Philip Husted, Isaac Birdsell, Erick Olson Bakke, James B. Schenck, and others too numerous to mention. This immigration had the effect to change the wild prairie of a year or two previous into the garden of Winneshiek county. The construction of houses was carried on until they dotted the prairie from every conceivable point of the

compass. Deer were numerous, prairie chickens plenty, the small streams abounded with speckled trout, while larger fish were to be obtained from the Iowa river. With these, and what they were able to raise, it would seem these hardy pioneers fared sumptuously.

"Along with the tide that rolled over the country in 1851 was a man noted for his wealth, energy and perseverance. He came to stay, bringing with him a herd of cattle. Among others who preceded him was one Timothy Fuller, whose claim he purchased and settled on. This man is known all over the country as Frank Teabout, the founder of Frankville.

"In 1852, Frankville was little more than a trading point, at which lived the only inhabitant and proprietor, Mr. Frank Teabout; but about this time an event transpired which gave to it life and brighter prospects for the future. A commission had been appointed to locate the state road for the benefit of immigrants seeking homes in Northwestern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. Frankville secured the road.

"The location of the road is the greatest event in the history of Frankville, for without it, in all likelihood, the place would never have been anything more than the residence of Mr. Frank Teabout. As it is, Frankville is a pleasant village, and at one time figured conspicuously in the history of the county.

"It was near night when the commission arrived at Mr. Teabout's residence, and they of course accepted his hospitality until the next morning. On the next day Mr. Teabout lead the commissioners to Decorah, they declaring their line of march to be the location of the new road. There were other parties besides Mr. Teabout who studied self-interest in the location of the state road. Among the number was John McKay. He secured the passage of this desired highway through his farm. Mr. McKay had the same ambition for a town that actuated his neighbor. His first work in that direction was the establishment of a postoffice, which was effected on the discontinuance of the Jamestown office. He also secured the location of a store at this place. This town bore the name of Trout River, and at one time was a strong competitor of Frankville. The postoffice was continued at this place for nearly two years, whence it was moved to Frankville. It is claimed that this move was effected through a compromise entered into between the respective founders of the two towns.

"Immediately on the location of the road, as if by magic, a town grew up about the nucleus that had previously been built, and was given the name of Frankville. Frankville very soon became the great center of attraction. Monceek became discouraged, and moved the greater part of its worldly effect up to the new town.

"The Lathrop House, an impressive three-story frame building, was built by Philip Lathrop in the year 1854. This hotel was well provided for, and did a good business. The building was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1857-8. Mr. Lathrop was absent at the time of the burning of his house, at Des Moines, lobbying through a bill asking the location of the deaf and dumb asylum at Frankville, the people of that place pledging land and material in aid of its construction. Mr. Teabout replaced the building destroyed, by another, which long afforded hospitality to the traveler.

"Much of the early success and prosperity of Frankville is justly accredited to its founder, Mr. Frank Teabout. He possessed wealth, and lavished it on the various enterprises that benefited his town. In 1852 he built the Presbyterian church, and gave it to that denomination—the first house of worship built in the village. This church edifice was early occupied by Rev. D. W. Lyon, a preacher who divided his time between McGregor, Monona, Frankville and other points.

"In 1854 Mr. Teabout built a sawmill at a cost of \$1,500. This mill did a good business, its owner finding a ready sale for all the timber it could saw. The mill was sold to Mr. Cutler. No trace of it remains today. In 1856 Mr. Teabout built a large steam grist mill, of two run of stone, at a cost of \$10,000. The mill, during the first few years of its existence, was a financial success. It was finally sold by the proprietors to Messrs. Beard and Cutler, who transferred the machinery to the Springwater Mill, on the Canoe. Parties used to come from Southern Minnesota to get their grist ground at this mill.

"The Methodist church was built in 1873. This denomination had held services previously in other buildings. To the Reverend Mr. Webb is said to belong the honor of being the first minister of this denomination to officiate in the place. Frankville continued to prosper until the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad cut it off; then came its decline."

Frankville today is what it always has been, a pleasant little village. Its residents are among the best people of the county, industrious and progressive. Some day a railroad may find its way across the prairie and, tarrying at its door, invite it to keep its promise of pioneer days.

Frankville township is credited with 874 people in 1910.

## CHAPTER XXXI

### LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

The best historical sketch of Lincoln township that is available at the present time, so far as it covers the early days, is found in Sparks' History. It consists of notes taken from the writings of S. Pike, a Ridgeway pioneer, and is as follows:

"The first settlement was made in Lincoln township in the spring of 1852; Knud Alfson built a small house and broke up a few acres on section 27, while Lars Thompson commenced about the same time on section 34. In the fall of the same year, Jacob Knudson and Kittle Sanderson established themselves on section 22. The next year Gunder Kittleson, Albert Kittleson, Gullick Thompson, Tove Thompson and Thomas Thompson settled in the immediate neighborhood, while John Selcir, Michael Farrel, Charles Straun, John Holehan, Nels Olson, Charles Junck, H. W. Klemme, Andrew Michael, Philip Kratz and Wm. Blackburn came in during the two or three years following. The township of Lincoln was formerly reckoned as an integral part of Decorah, an arrangement that did not last very long, as a reconstruction of the map was soon effected, by which the present township was apportioned to Sumner, and upon the authorized survey and platting of townships, was given its present name."

Of Ridgeway, the trading center of the township, Mr. Pike made this record: "In 1866 Ridgeway existed only in name. About this time, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway having reached there, the railroad company built a house for their accommodation, and Mr. S. Pike soon after took charge of it. The building was 16x32 feet base, one and a half stories high, divided into several compartments, and ceiled throughout with good matched flooring. Mr. Pike with his wife moved into the house December 4, 1866, a day ever to be remembered in their experiences of housekeeping. Though the ground had been frozen for some time previous, the heavy rains that had fallen the preceding week had thawed the earth again, and the different gangs who were grading the prospective grounds, and also a gang of track layers who were putting in a switch and laying a spur of track for present accommodation, had made the house a place of resort for shelter during the heaviest of the rains, and when they reached there about dark of that rainy December night, the prospect was dreary enough. Fred

Gashorn and James Kinney antedate Mr. Pike's claim to the title, 'oldest inhabitant,' by about two or three weeks. They did not live within the limits of the present village, however, but were about a hundred rods below. The winter was unusually severe and protracted, the last passage of the snow plow being on March 28, 1876, and that after a three days' effort from McGregor."

Alexander's History says: "No effort was made in the way of improvements until about a year after the road was completed to Cresco. In July, 1867, J. L. Flowers built a grain warehouse, and Gilchrist & Co. another soon afterward. A drug store by A. M. Blakeman, and a general merchandise store were built the same year, and a postoffice established. A small depot building was also erected in 1867. The next year there were many other improvements, and business greatly increased."

Continuing Mr. Pike's narrative, he says:

"In the spring of 1874 (May 9), Ridgeway was swept by a fire that threatened to wipe out the entire village. The fire started in a small untenanted wooden structure. A continuous blast from the south swept across the square, taking everything in the line of the wind. The weather had been very dry for some time previous, and the densely packed wooden row fronting the railroad was simply a line of tinder boxes through which the fire swept without let or hinderance, and one hour from the time the alarm was given, four-fifths of the business interest of the town were in ashes. The fire originated with two little boys, four years old, lighting a cigar."

The record shows that Ridgeway at that time contained eighty-nine buildings and thirty-four of them were burned. The loss was stated at \$48,730, insurance \$11,850.

The Independent School District of Ridgeway was organized in 1875. The town was incorporated in the early '90s and its limits extended in 1900. It is surrounded by a rich territory and enjoys a good trade. The Methodists some years ago built a very comfortable, cosy little church, which is also used for such entertainments as would be permitted in a church. All lines of business are well represented by the following:

General merchandise—Baker-Johnson Company, the leading store, Rollin G. Baker, G. R. Baker and S. G. Johnson, owners; Hopperstad & Brekke; L. H. G. Larson; Mrs. E. A. Bakken & Co.

Restaurants—E. H. Albertson; H. H. Fjelstul.

Hotel—S. C. Helms, proprietor.

Barber shop—Arthur Johnson.

Telephone office—Arthur Johnson, operator.

Meat market—Mr. Armstrong.

Plumbing and heating—W. James Paley.

Drug store—Dr. G. W. Hoffman

Winnebiek County Bank—S. R. Ringeon, cashier.

Hardware store—Henry Butz.

Harness shop—Jno. Wonderly.

Blacksmith shops—Otto Kecker; Alfred Orum.

Lumber yard—W. H. Klemme.

Poultry house—L. T. Fosse.

Creamery—L. T. Fosse—Lincoln Creamery Company.



Livery barn—Chas. Beucher.

Feed mill—R. A. Griswold.

Garage—R. A. Griswold.



## CHAPTER XXXIII

### FREMONT TOWNSHIP

At the June session of the county court in 1856 a petition was presented by a large number of the voters of town 100, north of range 10, praying for the establishment of an electoral township to be known as Fremont township. The name is said to have been suggested by Elijah Middlebrook in honor of John C. Fremont, who was a presidential candidate at that time, says Ellison F. Chase in his sketch of Fremont township in the "Atlas of Winneshiek County" (1905).

The court ordered that an election be held at the house of Richard Barnes in said township on the first Monday in August, 1856, for the purpose of electing three township trustees, one township clerk, two justices of the peace, and two constables, and also to vote for the county and state officers to be elected at that time. Thus was the township organized. This election came off as ordered. Mr. Barnes' house in which this first election was held was a log cabin with one principal room fourteen feet square with an annex twelve feet square at the back, into which Mrs. Barnes and their three-months-old baby, E. M. Barnes, who is now the present owner of the old homestead, were hustled to make room for the voters, who numbered forty-nine.

Joseph H. Eddy, Datus E. Shelmidine and J. P. Johnson were appointed judges of the election, and Joseph F. White and Richard Barnes, clerks.

The following were elected to fill the township offices: DeWitt Brady, D. E. Shelmidine and J. P. Johnson for trustees; W. F. Daskam for town clerk; Joseph H. Eddy and Wm. Fifield for justices of the peace; C. Parmalee and Wm. Gager for constables.

There were six elections held at this same house during years of 1856 and 1857. Some of these, however, were special elections. Afterwards there were four elections held at the house of Elijah Clark, one at Plymouth Rock, and six-teen at the red schoolhouse, district No. 6, after which they were held at the Grange hall in Kendallville.

Mr. Richard Barnes is the sole survivor from among the eleven officers who conducted the first election in the township.

When the Civil war broke out Fremont township responded to the call for volunteers to offer their services in defense of the flag with her full quota of brave men. Leaving their families and friends, perhaps never again to see their faces, these resolute flag defenders took their places at the front. One man left his wheat stacks standing unthreshed on his claim.

The business upon which the early settlers of Fremont township depended for a livelihood was raising wheat for the market. They sowed the seed, harvested the crop and threshed it, then plowed the ground for another year's crop or as much of it as possible before the ground froze. Then the business of the day was to take their crop to market, which for a long time was at McGregor, Iowa, a long, tedious trip in cold, stormy weather, with neither overcoat nor overshoes. But these sturdy pioneers prospered and thrived upon what would make the present generation look like a pumpkin vine the next day after a good hard frost had struck it for the first time.

The boys as well as the girls were taught all kinds of housework, including sewing and knitting. A man who at the present time is a very prominent citizen of Chicago and a most skillful physician, as a boy living on a farm in Fremont township for many years made all his own clothing as well as helping his mother make garments for other members of the family.

Fremont township is situated in the northwest corner of Winneshiek county. It occupies the congressional township No. 100 north, range 10, west of the 5th principal meridian, with the exception of the northern tier of sections, which is within the boundary line of Minnesota. The surface is undulating, and in central part, bluffy. The Upper Iowa river runs southeasterly through the township, entering near the northwest corner of section 7, and pursuing a winding course to the southeast, leaving the township on the south line of section 35 and returning at near the southeast corner of section 36. The river is clear, rapid, and in its winding descent affords numerous favorable mill sites. The banks are skirted by forests of a great variety of deciduous trees, except here and there where the land has been cleared for farming purposes. Here and there upon the bluffs on the eastern and northern side of the stream are clusters and large groves of pine, spruce and cedar, some of it having been utilized in the early days of settlement for building purposes. The siding for the old Winneshiek House in Decorah was sawed from pine logs, which grew in Fremont township and was sawed at the Carter sawmill at Plymouth Rock in 1853-54.

It is difficult to discriminate exactly as to whom belongs the honor of being the first permanent white settler in Fremont township. It probably belongs to Wm. Fifield and wife, who settled upon section 23 in 1854 and put up a "shanty" and began a struggle for a home in what was then a lonely wilderness. The farm has remained in the family name to the present time, and is now owned by their son, W. C. Fifield. Mr. and Mrs. Fifield, in common with others living out on the frontier, endured many hardships and great privations. At one time, for a space of two weeks, they saw nothing in the way of food except white beans. Others had been reduced to middlings and salt as the only means of sustenance for their families. Being located a long distance from market or mill it was often the case that winter's snows shut them out from the rest of the world for weeks at a time. The life of the early settler was not all hardship and privation. The spelling schools and singing schools afforded much pleasure and en-

joyment for all, as these gatherings were attended and participated in by old and young.

The first postoffice in the township was at the house of Billings, on section 23. It was called Willamantic, and was supplied from Decorah once a week. This office was discontinued after about one year, and one established at Twin Springs, which was afterwards changed to Kendallville. Twin Springs postoffice was kept by Miss Caroline Ladd, who came to be known in the community as "Nasby." At one time Twin Springs postoffice was supplied by a stage line running from Decorah, Iowa, to Austin, Minnesota, which made the round trip once per week. The last proprietor of this stage line was A. M. Perry, and when the route was discontinued Plymouth Rock and Kendallville offices were supplied from Decorah, the mail being carried to Burr Oak and then brought across by a boy on horseback.

Plymouth Rock, situated in the southeast corner of the township, had its beginning probably as early as in 1852, when it is said a dam was built across the river at that place, and the following year Selden Carter built a sawmill on the site. The land had not yet been surveyed. Later the sawmill was discontinued and a flouring mill built by Mattock & Kelly and others. Mattock & Kelly sold their interests in the property afterwards to Bean Bros. For a time this mill made money for its owners, but when wheat failed the milling business failed too. The property subsequently came into Mr. G. V. Puntney's hands, who later sold to Geo. Sears. In 1902 floods so damaged the dam that it was not considered worth while repairing. Mr. Sears moved the machinery and lumber of which the building was constructed to Ridgeway, Iowa.

S. G. Kendall came to this county in 1860 from Mississippi. He had some capital invested in Plymouth Rock mills with Bean Bros. He afterwards built the mill at Kendallville which was known as Twin Springs. He had his mill in operation in 1862. From that time on the place was called Kendallville, and the name of the postoffice was changed from that of Twin Springs to Kendallville.

The first store was kept by David Bennett. While the flouring business failed with the wheat failure, the mill at Kendallville now owned by W. E. Reuter was doing a large feed grinding business, at times having a steady run night and day.\*

At the present time Kendallville has two stores, a blacksmith shop and a creamery. Betsy Peterson keeps a general stock and is postmistress; J. C. Young carries a stock of cigars, candies, etc., and does a restaurant business; Peter Ellingson is the village smith, and A. J. Hoiness is the creamery man.

Plymouth Rock is no more. Its name clings to the spot where once the mill did a good business, but the town is only a memory.

\* Charles Smith now runs the mill, renting from Mr. Reuter.







THE NEW WINNESHIK HOTEL, DECORAH



WATER STREET, DECORAH



## CHAPTER XXXIV

### BURR OAK TOWNSHIP

W. H. Reed in "Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas," 1905

In 1851 Samuel Belding and his half-brother Wheeler erected the first log hotel, which they soon sold to John Wagoner, and also put up the first blacksmith shop with Mr. Belding as our first blacksmith.

This hotel, located just north of the present Central Hotel, was purchased by E. Blackmarr and H. O. Benedict in March, 1856, during which year they built on the south side what is now the office to the Central Hotel, Benjamin Ward and Warner Matteson doing the carpenter work. John Wagoner again came into possession in 1857 and continued the hotel business for a number of years.

Hiram Manning, Sr., built the log house north of the village, later known as the Relihan House, in 1853.

Hiram Willsie and his nephew, John Bigelow, opened the first store, across the street from this hotel, in 1851. Mr. Tinkham soon after opened another, and William Henry Willsie later bought out Willsie & Bigelow and built the store just south of the Burr Oak Hotel.

The postoffice was established September 6, 1853, with Marshal B. Sherwin postmaster, and Cal. Ferguson the first mail carrier.

In this year we find the names of the families John Stead, George Walker, William Crissie, Clark Wicks, Robert Thompson, Charles Barker, James Fosberg, James Sharp and probably others added to our settlers' list.

It became necessary during this year to select that place in our young village which has become a sacred spot to so many of us, and this site for our beautiful cemetery was furnished by William H. Willsie. Here was first placed at rest the wife of Warren Hardin, who died October 25, 1853, followed a few days later by Suzana Jane, daughter of John and Mary Stead.

In June, 1852, John Cassel, I. Allan Dufield and Harrison Turner came with their families. G. V. Puntney, now living in Cresco at the age of eighty-five, came to this county in 1851. He built the sawmill for Cutler & Beard on the Canoe four miles north of Decorah in what is now Canoe township, completing same in July, 1852. In April of this year he made a claim on what proved to be sections

31 and 32 in Burr Oak township, when it was surveyed. The state line between Iowa and Minnesota was surveyed and the township run off into sections during this year and the land came into market in 1853. In 1854 Mr. Putney built his sawmill on the southeast quarter of 31, securing water power by damming Coldwater creek, which gushes from beneath a high cliff a half mile above the mill, the largest and most picturesque spring in the county.

The first schoolhouse in the western half of the township was built in 1856 (Mike Gaul now lives in the building), and although better known as the Coldwater school, was District No. 53 under the old Iowa school laws.

Looking backward we often wonder why these early settlers first chose this rough land while the more level prairie was taken later. The reason is that locations near water were very desirable before well drilling machinery and windmills were introduced, and an acre of timber land was then considered worth at least five acres of prairie land, for all buildings were then hewed or sawed from local timber, and each field as prepared for crop must be protected with a "stake and rider" fence of rails gotten out in winter à la Lincoln. Even the shingles were of oak, rived out and shaved to shape, and many a young person today would take down the dictionary on hearing the words "froc" or "slathers."

In the spring of 1854 Joseph Metcalf located on the southwest quarter of 18, being the first settler in the northwest quarter of the township. In September of this year he was followed by three more families, viz., E. Webster on the northeast quarter of 19, where his son C. A. Webster still resides, Charles Hitchcock, wife and three sons (all of whom have crossed the silent river), located on the northwest quarter of 18, and John H. Pierce on the northeast quarter of 18.

The early blacksmiths in the village were Neri Taylor, John Miller and J. H. Hardin, with John Heckle and Joe Lavalley to take their places. Ira Johnson was our first wagonmaker and John Feyler our first shoemaker.

In 1854 came Charles Ward and family, whose sons, Benjamin and John, have built more than their share of the buildings in this and adjoining townships.

Other prominent settlers of the early '50s were David Jewel, James Ervin, Richard Smith, Albert Sage, William Peacock, Levi Moore, Jared Ferguson, and John Ackerson, followed by Thomas Willis in 1854, Alpha Manning in 1857, and Asa Wingate in 1858, while Nicholas Snyder, who settled on the southeast quarter of 18 in 1855 was the pioneer of the numerous Snyder and Gossman families who followed him from Ohio a few years later. And we can read many interesting things between the lines in the story told of how Joseph Metcalf went on foot all the way to Dubuque to file on this piece of land, to find on reaching the land office that Snyder had made entry for the land a day or two before.

The American Hotel was built during the summer of 1856 and the old stone schoolhouse in the burr oak grove in the north part of the village, long known as the Relihan grove, and for which the village was named, was also erected that summer and the first school in the village was taught that winter by Moses Brace. There had been a term or two taught in a log building down the creek southwest of town, previous to this time.

During the summer of 1856 William Beard and Lewis Ferguson ran a steam sawmill near the creek, where Hanson Bridge later manufactured brick.

During 1853 and 1854 the township filled up rapidly and many others soon became residents whose names I have missed or have no accurate account of.

Burr Oak today is a prosperous village. It is one of the smallest towns in Iowa possessing a bank. Einar Kippe is its cashier. It has two general stores—The Burr Oak Mercantile Company and Thompson & Kippe's. E. M. Reed sells farm implements; C. A. Reed conducts a general repair shop; Dr. W. H. Emmons handles drugs in connection with his medical practice; John Bergsrud runs the butcher shop and feed mill; Ward & Son conduct a novelty store; Herbert Ward is the village barber and postmaster; Fred Koenig and Fred Pahl are the blacksmiths; Madding's Hotel cares for the travelers; Johnson's pool hall furnishes amusement for those who enjoy table games, and Silver Creek Creamery makes butter that sells at good prices on the eastern market.



## CHAPTER XXXV

### ORLEANS TOWNSHIP

This record of Orleans township is the composite work of C. C. Brown, H. F. McBride and the late Elmer Gager, published in 1905 in "Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas of Winneshiek County."

So far as can now be learned the first settler in Orleans township was Nelson Gager, who arrived here from Upper Canada in the fall of 1853. After making a short stay on several different pieces of land, and selling his "squatter's rights" to them, finally located in 1854 on the northeast quarter of section 9. The next year, 1855, he built a log house, where he kept bachelor's hall until 1859, when he married Mary Gager. Here Mr. Gager still lives with one of his children, his wife having passed away to that better land September, 1904.

During the year 1854 a number of families came, among them Wm. Rowlee. This family with Norris Humphrey left Johnstown Center, Ohio, with teams September 14, 1854, and crossed the Mississippi river at Bellevue, Illinois, October 6th. Leaving the women and children at Bellevue the men proceeded on a voyage of discovery. Traveling by way of Dubuque, Elkader, Postville and Burr Oak Springs, they finally settled on the northwest quarter of section 28, Orleans township, the place where they wished to build their home. This decision made, they returned to Bellevue for the family, and again reached their claim October 30th, and lived in their covered wagons while the house was being built. Mr. Rowlee's picture appears in the atlas, but both himself and wife have passed away. The old home, however, is still owned and occupied by his son, John Q. Rowlee.

Coming in 1854 Charles McCartney settled on section 10. The following year twin girls were born to them, who are supposed to be the first children born in this township. One of them died in infancy, the other is still living. Shortly afterward, January 24, 1856, a boy, Wm. Lewis, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lewis, whose home had been just across the line in Howard county, but who built a log house in this township in the fall of 1855 and lived there during the winters of 1855 and 1856 for the purpose of holding a claim, and moved back into Howard county in the spring. Thomas Farrel came that year, bought land, built a log house on section 14, which is still standing, and is the oldest house in the township. Here a large family was reached, some of whom are still living among us. Mr. and Mrs. Farrel died years ago. Other arrivals in 1854 were

Amasa Owen, Mr. Stanton, Seth Murray, Mr. Robbins, and a man by the name of Morgan Howard, from whom Morgan school district received its name. The house built by Mr. Howard, on the farm now owned by J. P. Helmer, was probably the first house built in the township. At this time the postoffice, where the settlers received their mail, was at Decorah, soon afterward at New Oregon. Still later a postoffice was established at Seth Murray's house, also one at Morgan Howard's called Morgan postoffice.

In 1855 came Hugh McBride and James Murtha. They located on adjoining pieces of land.

There also came in 1855 D. W. C. Towne, Amos Rugg, Mr. Johnson, Ezra Bourne, and others whose names we are unable to give. In 1856 came the great rush of settlers, the Government land remaining unsold being nearly or quite all taken that year.

It seems to have been about the first impulse of the American pioneer wherever located to provide a place where his children could attend school, and the settlers of Orleans were no exception to the rule. While the public schools were not organized until 1858, some five years after the first settlement, the children were taught in private schools two years earlier. During the summer of 1856 a school was taught in the abandoned log house before mentioned as built by Thomas Lewis. The teacher was Miss Maria M. Murray, now Mrs. Fenton of Lime Springs. A school was also held during the same summer at the house of O. E. Green in the southeastern part of the township, Mrs. Green (afterward Mrs. Enoch Robinson) being the teacher. The next winter a school was held in the Quaker meeting house near the center of the township, Thomas Johnson teacher. The only record we have of the early history of the public school interests is found in the proceedings of the school board kept by Ebenezer Rice, the first secretary. The first school meeting was held at the house of Gates M. Forbes on the third day of May, 1858. At this meeting Enos George was elected president, Wm. Stephenson vice-president, Ebenezer Rice secretary and W. B. Chamberlain treasurer. The first board of directors was elected at a meeting held at what was called the Quaker schoolhouse, April 7, 1860, and consisted of the following persons: Sub-district No. 1, Ezra Bourne; No. 2, Parley K. Foote; No. 3, James Brown; No. 4, Joshua Brooks; No. 5, Robert Metcalf; No. 6, W. B. Chamberlain.

The first school in No. 1 was held in Ezra Bourne's house and taught by Miss Emily Miller in the summer of 1860. Miss A. Libbey taught the school in No. 6 the same summer in part of W. B. Chamberlain's house, and Miss Minerva Hill taught in No. 2, but in what house we cannot determine.

J. S. Neff taught the first school we have any record of in No. 4, though there was undoubtedly a school taught the winter before by Philo Thatcher. The school taught by Neff was held in a part of the house owned by a Mr. Hansel Becker in the winter of 1860 and 1861. The schoolhouse in sub-district No. 4 was built in the summer of 1861. Gilbert T. Watros taught the first school the following winter.

In 1856 came some ten or twelve families of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, and to them must be given the credit of organizing the first religious society and building the first church in the township. The founders of this church were the families of Enos George, Levi Middleton, Ellis George, Isaac Jay, John

Hanson, L. Easterling, Mary Carson, Jeremiah Barker, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Lamb. The church was a small, one-story building about twenty by thirty feet, and was located on the southeast quarter of section 20, on what was known as the Eli Carson farm, now owned by C. J. Watros. The building was destroyed by fire in 1864 and never rebuilt. Shortly after the organizers moved away and there are probably none of them left in the township at the present time. A large per cent of the present population of the township are of Norwegian descent, and these citizens were organized as the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Orleans township, and in 1874 built a church which was dedicated June 6, 1875, by Rev. J. Moses, pastor, assisted by Rev. V. Koren, Prof. L. Larson, Reverend Reque and Reverend Larson.\* This church is still a good building and a large congregation regularly worship there. In our history, as in that of a great part of the West, the itinerant Methodist preacher closely followed the pioneer and held services in the schoolhouses at an early day.

Several societies have been organized in what is known as Ridgeway circuit, but only two exist in the township at the present time. The one known as the Morgan class, under the leadership of Rev. Thos. Oliver (preacher in charge), built a church in 1885, and the one known as the Morton class in 1890, Rev. John Gammons preacher in charge. These are both good buildings and are regularly used for religious purposes.

Early in 1855 a township meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a civil township and choosing a name for the same. There were proposed as names Pilot Grove, Orleans and Pleasant Prairie. The township was called Pilot Grove for two or three years, but in 1858 had become Orleans, by what means or at exactly what date there seems to be no record to show.

The grove was located in the extreme southern part of the township on the main road to McGregor, which was traveled by settlers and teamsters living a long distance west, and was a prominent landmark. Seth Murray's house was also on this road, about a mile northwest of the grove, and it was his custom to keep lighted candles in the windows at night as a guide for travelers. The grove was a pilot by day and the candles by night. Thus the name Pilot Grove.

The first election was held in November, 1855, at the house of Wm. Rowlee, but no record of this election remains. It is said, however, by the old settlers, that there were not enough available voters to fill all the offices.

The first record we have of legal proceedings in Pilot Grove township (now Orleans) is from the justice docket of Edwin M. Farnsworth, first justice of the peace in Orleans, at that time Pilot Grove. On June 12, 1856, one Nancy Sharp brought suit against Thomas Wanless to collect pay for some pine logs.

Some of the settlers in the eastern half of Pilot Grove township in 1856 were Chas. Curtis, Smith Broadway, James Stitt, Dan Gates, James Murtha, Hugh McBride, Calvin Farnsworth and his son Edwin M., mentioned as justice. Ebenezer and Almon Rice came in 1856, secured land and moved their families here in 1857.

Alexander's History refers to the fact that Orleans township was in the early '80s the home of several herds of full blooded cattle, the notable ones being

\* This church was torn down and a new one built during the year 1913.

the Shorthorns of L. R. Brown and W. B. Goocher and the Holsteins of Charles Crapser. The latter, one year, captured all of the best premiums at the Minnesota State Fair. Today Orleans township is one of the most prosperous in the county. Its population in 1910 was 550.



## CHAPTER XXXVI

### PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

From Sparks' History, revised by Edwin Hover

Pleasant township took its name and place in 1856. It is the eastern one of the second tier. Locust postoffice is near the extreme northwestern corner. In the year 1850 two Germans from Pennsylvania, John Klontz and William Vale, pitched their tents in the northwest corner of the township. Vale chose for his homestead what has since been known as the Locust Lane farm, deriving its name from the locust trees that were planted on each side of the road immediately after the land was fenced in. John Klontz took up his ranch on the south of Vale, and both went to work. They made money, as everything they had to sell brought them good prices. Mr. Vale at one time enjoyed the privilege of holding all the township offices, except constable, at one and the same time. He was the first justice of the peace, the first assessor, and the first clerk the township ever had. He also built the first brick dwelling in Winneshiek county. Klontz and Vale have both since sold their farms and moved to Missouri. In the following year the first influx of Norwegians commenced. They were Hover Evenson, Ole Magnuson and Erick Erickson, who came here from Cambridge, Dane county, Wisconsin. Hover Evenson was the first blacksmith in the northern part of the county. He took up his ranch on the east of Vale and ran a blacksmith shop in connection with farming.

Peter K. Langland, Lewis Peterson, Knudt K. Liquen and K. Erickson came from Illinois. Ole Magnuson and E. Erickson settled in the northeastern part of the township. Erickson built a house which has become somewhat noted from the fact that it was entirely built from one pine tree. The walls are a solid plank six inches thick, and only three such planks from the floor to the ceiling in the first story, and two above. The floors, roof-boards, windows and door casings are from the same tree. It was all sawed up with a handsaw, as the logs could not be moved from the place where the tree grew on Pine creek. Ole Magnuson introduced the first reaper into the neighborhood, and was also the owner of the first threshing machine in the township.

In the year 1853 there was another influx from Dane county, Wisconsin, prominent among whom were Bottolf Olson, Magne Langland, H. Hendrickson, Sven Olson, Ole Thorson, and others. In 1858 Ole B. Olson was one of the first settlers of Dakota territory, and was elected the first judge of the territory, which position he occupied until his death in 1875. Erick B. Olson, the younger brother, was one of the first four men who climbed the mountains of Colorado in search of gold in 1859.

The first schoolhouse was built at Locust Lane in 1854, and it served also as a church for every denomination. The second schoolhouse that was built was known as the Ellingson schoolhouse. This was built of logs quite large, and intended to serve as a church for the Lutheran congregation that was then organized in connection with Highland and Spring Grove. It was built mostly by private funds; every farmer would bring so many logs and work so many days. This district consisted of portions of four townships, viz.: Pleasant and Highland, in Winnesheik county, and Waterloo and Hanover, in Allamakee. The first school was taught by James Lennon, of Frankville township.

In 1855 and 1856, almost all the land had been taken up, and what was not was bought up by speculators while the land office was in Decorah.

Our present county supervisor in District No. 4, Edwin Hoyer, is a son of Hoyer Evenson, was born in Norway February 5, 1845, came with his parents to America in 1848, and in 1852 came to Iowa and settled on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 5, township 99, north range 7, west of the 5th principal meridian, where he still resides.

#### REMINISCENCES OF 1852-54, BY SAM WISE

(Anderson & Goodwin's Atlas)

Pleasant township being a wooded township, especially along the Canoe creek, made it necessary in the early days for the settlers to build sawmills to transform their huge logs into building material. The first one of these mills in the township was built on the Canoe creek in 1852 by John Brandt, who later sold out to David Womeldorf. Conrad Brandt and his nephews Eli and Joe Brandt, Robert Lyons and Wm. Basset, also built mills on the Canoe.

Among the first settlers were Wilson and George Daubney, Jacob Fie, James Morehead, Wm. French, Henry Hendrickson, Butler Oleson, Peter Langland, H. and Ole Halstenson.

The schools (of which the township is proud) have grown from the little schoolhouse in the northwest corner, and the old log schoolhouse in the northeast corner, to eight fine buildings, four of which are brick, one frame, and three of blue limestone, of which stone the township has several fine quarries in abundance to build great cities. All of these schools have slate blackboards and modern improvements.

Our churches have grown from the old schoolhouse to three fine churches, one being of brick and two of frame. The brick is the Norwegian Lutheran, while those of frame are German Lutheran and Norwegian Methodist.\*

\* Since the foregoing was written another Norwegian Lutheran church has been built in the southern part of the township in the D. H. Musser neighborhood, and is supplied by Rev. S. A. Searvie of Glenwood township.

Some of the settlers of 1855 and 1856 were Nels Thompson, Andrew and Nels Nelson, Lars Gjetlev, Christian Christianson, S. Wise, Sr., Philip Pfister, Simon Broghammer, Adam Kern, Diebold Mikel, Diebold Stoskopf, Valentine Barth, Sr., and many others.

Pleasant township has furnished her share of county officers and school teachers. One good feature of the township is its law-abiding citizens. A justice of the peace or constable cannot make his salt out of the fees.

To the foregoing should be added the fact that since an early date the town of Locust has been the mail distributing point for a considerable territory. In these days when the rural free delivery has and continues to cut off many post-offices, Locust holds her own and is the starting point of Locust Route 1.



## CHAPTER XXXVII

### JACKSON TOWNSHIP

The early history of Jackson may be said to have been so closely linked to that of Washington township as to be one and the same. Whatever impetus it received at that time as a place of abode arose through the visits of early travelers, bound for Fort Atkinson. Located in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, it was not until the railroad was pushed west from Calmar that it began to be largely settled. Up to 1862 it was a portion of Washington township. Who the first settlers were we have no means of knowing, as no record seems to have been made. For as long as this writer can recall the names of the Jack family, Joseph Holmes and the Lawrence family were associated with the township. Lee Jack, one of the sons, remains. Like Sumner township, the Bohemians have acquired large holdings of lands and have won prosperity from the soil. When the Calmar and Davenport branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad was built, Jackson Junction came into existence. Nothing has ever happened to cause it to grow beyond hamlet size. Some years ago the town was incorporated. At the time enough territory was included within the corporate limits to permit the building of a town of 1,000 souls. Its population in 1910 was 160.



## CHAPTER XXXVIII

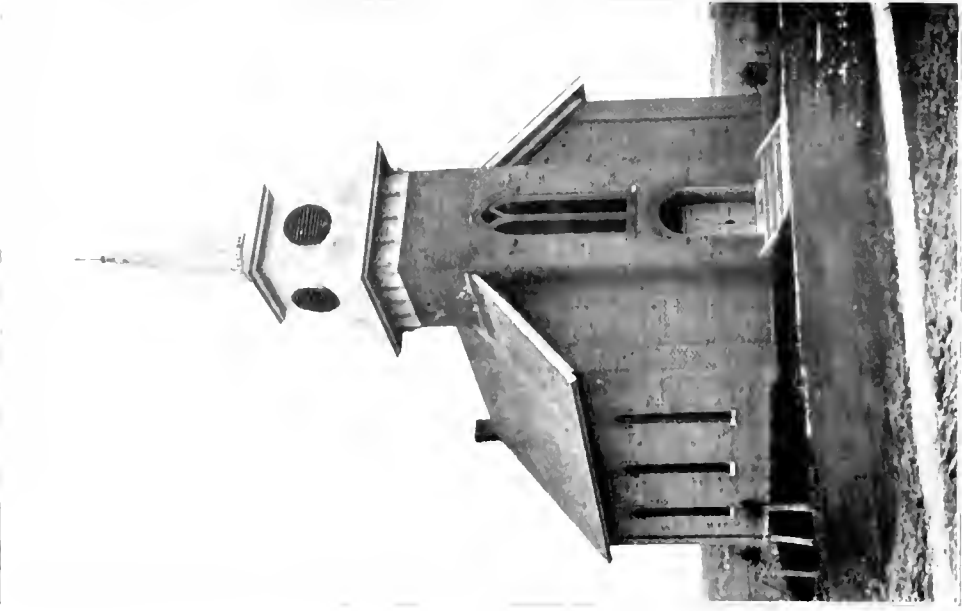
### SUMNER TOWNSHIP

Up to 1802 Sumner and Lincoln townships were linked together as a voting precinct. In that year they were separated and given the names by which they have since been known. Early in Sumner's existence a settlement of Norwegians was established on the Turkey river in the northeastern part of the township. The Germans occupied the eastern section. The Bohemians were the third of the foreign born residents to occupy land in this township and they have remained to gradually acquire a large portion of the township. Alva Tracy, who was a resident of Decorah for many years prior to his death, was the first man to settle on the open prairie. This was in 1858. The Turkey river flows southeast through the northeastern part of the township, its banks being wooded with heavy timber. The land in this section is rolling, but as a whole the township is rich in the fertility of its soil. Its population in 1910 was 748, a loss of sixty-two in twenty years.

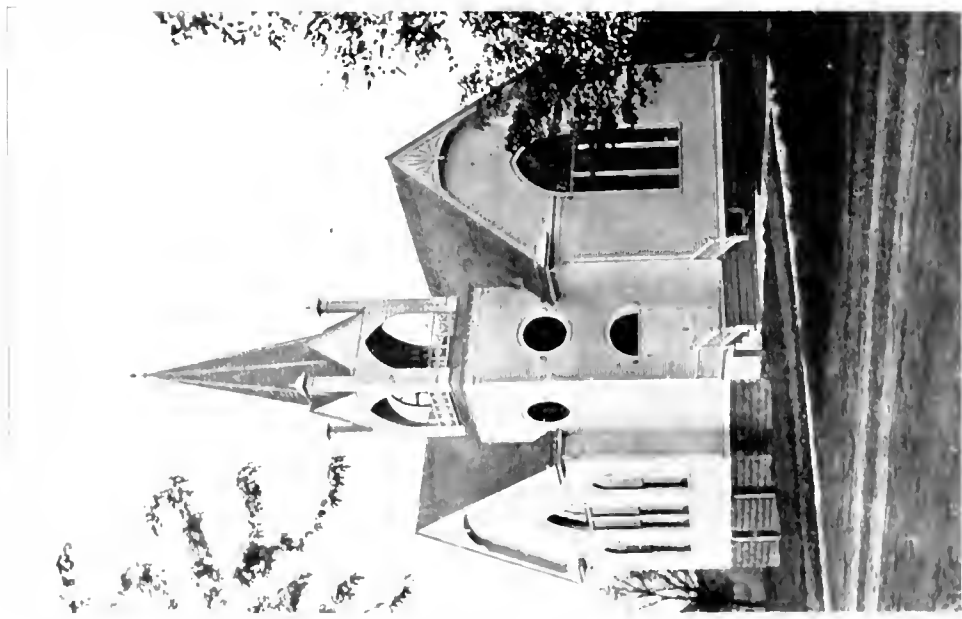








METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Ocala



NORWEGIAN CHURCH, Ocala

## CHAPTER XXXIX

### MADISON TOWNSHIP

Madison township enjoys the prestige of the second marriage in the county. Johannes Evenson settled there in 1850, and early in October of that year Catherine Helen Anderson became his bride, Rev. N. Brandt performing the ceremony. The late Benjamin T. Barfoot, a pioneer in Decorah and a landowner in 1855 in Madison township, credits one Brisco as the first permanent resident of Madison and gives the year 1849 as the date of his coming. In Mr. Barfoot's article, which was published in the "Atlas of Winneshiek County," 1905, he gives the following account of other settlers:

"James McIntosh and his sons left Wellsville, Ohio, on election day, in 1854, to look up a new home. After traveling over Wisconsin for two days they failed to find a suitable location. They crossed the Mississippi river at DeSoto, came to Winneshiek county and located on a large tract of land in what is now known as Madison township. In the spring of 1855 he moved his family to Decorah and about ten days later to his new home in Madison township. Previous to the arrival of Mr. McIntosh several families had already located in the township. These were B. and Tosten Haugen, two families of Nestes, John Evenson, Iver Rigstad, Erick Egge and Matthew Bentley. In 1855 William Vreeland located on what is now known as 'the Stone House Farm.' He kept what was called the Four-mile House as a hotel.

"Mr. Ole Fulsaa came from Wisconsin to Iowa and located in Madison township in 1852. He bought forty acres of land, which was all he was able to buy at that time. Mr. Fulsaa had three sons, Herbrand, Peter and Harvey, who located and bought land in the same neighborhood. Herbrand bought 120 acres, Peter and Harvey 120 together. Mr. F. and his sons have all passed over the river and at the time of their death were considered very wealthy. Among other early settlers worthy of mention were the Gilbertson family—Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson, four sons and one daughter. They were very successful as farmers, but there are only two of the family living at this time. Another old settler was Herbrand Ansten, who settled here in 1857; also big Ole Gulbranson. 'Big Ole' was a land speculator. He owned several farms at different times in this township, and finally sold all out and moved to Kansas, where he died.

"Ole Bakken came to Winneshiek county and settled in Frankville township in 1854 (his wife coming in 1851), where they resided for four years. Then they moved to Madison township and located on sections 11 and 12, where they have resided ever since. Mr. Bakken started farming on a 100-acre farm and added on to this until he owned 1,200 acres, which he has divided among his children. Mr. Bakken lives in a large, comfortable house, enjoying his old age in a good, quiet way.

"E. R. Scott settled on section 16 in 1858, and has lived on the same farm ever since. Mr. Scott was the only American in the northwest quarter of the township for over twenty years.

"Mr. Brisco was the first permanent settler in Madison township. He settled in the timber in 1849. When the writer came to Madison township, there was plenty of game, such as deer, partridge and prairie chicken, and the streams were full of all kinds of fish. Farming was not very extensive until about 1860, when it took quite a boom and things went along at a good rate until the war broke out, then there were a few years in which it was hard to get help. Since then farming has been a good business.

"Nels Gilbertson and I cut the first load of hay in the township; it was cut on section 10, the old farm they purchased from the Government.

"Helge Gunderson, the father of John Gunderson Helgeson, came to Iowa and settled in Madison township in 1854. He bought 160 acres of land from the Government.

"Ox teams were used in breaking the prairie and many of the settlers would join teams, hitching four yoke of oxen to a breaking plow. There was but very little corn, so the oxen were turned out on grass during the noon hour and at night. The harvesting was done with the old-fashioned cradle and what little wheat we had to sell we hauled to McGregor and sold it for 40 or 50 cents per bushel."

#### SOME RECOLLECTIONS IN 1855

"On the sixth day of April, 1855, I went through Madison township in search of Government land, with Doctor Shamon for my guide. We passed Stener O. Hellerud's place; here we found two men sawing out boards for a floor. They used a whip saw, one man standing on top of a log and the other on the ground.

"I located on 160 acres in section 30; then we drove southeast through the township and passed I. Ringstad's, J. Evenson's and Mr. Egge's. In 1855 and 1856 nearly all the Government land had been taken by speculators, and that practically put a stop to the settlement for two or three years. In 1858 and 1859 business began to improve, and the settlements began to grow. I went out through the township several times but could not find any landmarks to show me where my land was. In 1859 I went out again and met Mr. John Crawford, building fence about three-quarters of a mile from my land, and he then showed me where my farm was.

"There was quite a settlement at what was known as Burr Oak Springs. The parties who owned the land laid out a small town, and it grew for four or five years; but as soon as the railroad was graded to Decorah the town dried up and blew

away. It was a pretty rough place for several years, and, to my knowledge, was the only place in the township where liquor was sold in any quantity.

"I did not move into Madison township until 1868, so cannot give a very good description of the earliest settlement. It was organized in about 1850. Squire Miller of Decorah was the organizing officer. The first schoolhouse was built near the brick church in 1858. At that time the township was organized into four school district, nine sections in each district. General elections were held in the first schoolhouse for several years, or until about 1863. Since then it has been held in districts by turns."

To Mr. Barfoot's record may be added the fact that during the past two years Madison township has become possessed of six new schoolhouses. For many years differences of opinion on schoolhouse matters prevented much needed buildings, but the matter was finally adjusted in a way that bids fair to be satisfactory. Three of the schoolhouses are now in process of erection and will be completed soon.



# Chronology

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October 4, 1840—The first death occurred; a Government teamster named Howard was found frozen near the present site of Castalia.

January 16, 1841—Mary Jane Tapper, first white child born in county.

1842—Rev. D. Lawery appointed Indian agent.

1843—Colonel Thomas, under instruction from the Government, built the first grist mill in Winneshiek county.

June 7, 1848—Hamilton Campbell and wife settled on sections 23 and 26, Bloomfield township. Twenty days later the Krumm families arrived from Indiana and settled in Washington township.

1848—Indians were removed from their reservation in this county.

February 11, 1849—Aron Young and Mary Jane Rogers married. First wedding in the county.

February, 1849—Fort Atkinson abandoned.

June, 1849—Day family settled in Decorah.

Wm. Painter commenced running a small grist mill at the present site of the Spring mill, or Dunning's mill, Decorah.

First settlers at Moneck in July, 1849.

The same year quite a number of other families settled in the county, as will be seen by records in first chapter.

## 1850

Settlements were made in what are now Decorah, Bloomfield, Springfield, Glenwood, Canoe, Pleasant, Madison, Frankville and Military townships.

Burr Oak was probably settled at about the same time; for in the fall of 1851, Judge M. V. Burdick visited the place and found where the village of Burr Oak is now located, a hotel, a store and a blacksmith shop.

Judge Burdick also found in 1850, at the present site of Spillville, Mr. Spillman to be the only settler; while at what is now Twin Springs or Festina, then, there was a saloon.

The same year, 1850, the Federal census was taken, showing a population of 570.

First immigration of Norwegians took place this year.

1851

An act of the Legislature, organizing Winneshiek county, was approved January 15, 1851. It appointed John L. Carson, organizing sheriff, to assume duties March 1st.

April 7, Decorah was elected to be the county seat. [Interesting details of the fight with Moneek are given elsewhere.]

In 1851, the first postoffice in the county, excepting those at Fort Atkinson and Old Mission, was established at Jamestown, in what is now Frankville township. James B. Cutler postmaster. His commission was dated September 15, 1851.

On October 5, 1851, occurred the first marriage in the county—Johannes Evenson to Catharine Helen Anderson.\*

August 4, 1851, David Reed, who had come to this county in 1848, was chosen county judge, and held the position till 1855.

Geo. Bachel, first county sheriff, and other county officers elected, as recorded elsewhere.

Hesper and Highland townships were settled this year.

In September, 1851, the first county court was opened at the log house of Wm. Day, Decorah. There being no business, it adjourned to the first Monday in October, when the first marriage license was granted.

The Heivly water power was improved by Mr. Painter and "Uncle Philip" Morse, who arrived here in 1851, and built the sawmill, some of the ruins and the race which are to be seen between the present Arlington House and the old stone grist mill.

In July the first lawyer came to Decorah.

This year also saw the first mercantile firm in Decorah, Aaron Newell and his partner, named Derriek. They opened their goods in the smoke house on the premises of the Winneshiek House, afterwards removed to a slab shanty, and soon built the first frame building in town—a store known as the Pioneer Store, which has since burned. It stood on the present site of the store of Mott & Co., on the southwest corner of Washington and Water streets.

This same year, 1851, came to Decorah the first minister of the Gospel, Elder Bishop, preaching here monthly on a circuit described elsewhere. A few weeks afterwards a Congregational minister, A. M. Eastman, came and established monthly meetings at the log tavern. From these spring the Methodist and Congregational churches of Decorah.

The first mails came to Decorah in June, 1851. C. Day, postmaster, and Lewis Harkins, mail carrier.

1852

Lincoln township was settled during this year.

At the April election 180 votes were cast in the county; at the August election 150.

\* This marriage must refer to the first marriage after the county was organized. Aaron Young and Mary J. Rogers were married at Fort Atkinson late in the winter of 1849.



March 8, 1852, the county court ordered elections to be held at three precincts. First, at the house of Wm. Day, Decorah; second, at the house of Francis Rogers, Lewiston, in the southwest part of the county; third, at the house of John DeCow, Moneek. For further and later divisions of the county, see a preceding chapter.

Moneek was surveyed and platted in January, but the plat was not recorded till November.

The Pioneer Store building in Decorah commenced in 1851, was completed in 1852, a public hall, known as Newell's Hall, being in the second story.

In August and September, there was built by Philip Morse, the first frame dwelling in Decorah.

The first term of district court for this county was held in Decorah on Friday, July 9, 1852, Thos. S. Wilson, judge. The first indictment found by the grand jury was against Francis Teabout, for gambling; the second against Philander S. Baker, for selling intoxicating liquors; the third was against James T. Moore, for gambling. Each were held to bail to the next term of court in the sum of \$100.00.

### 1853

The number of votes cast in the county in April, 1853, was 224; and the number steadily increased in successive years, as will be seen by the record elsewhere.

The present city of Decorah was surveyed and platted in August of this year.

The village of Frankville was surveyed and platted in October.

This year Ammon & Co. came to Decorah and were the first to add steam power to our water power, finally resulting in their foundry, machine shop, and wagon manufactory.

The Government property at Fort Atkinson was this year sold at auction and Mr. Cooney, who was in 1852 appointed to take charge of the old fort and Government buildings, found his "occupation gone."

In the winter of 1853-4 the first Bohemian settlers came in and settled not far from Fort Atkinson. To those settlers the present village of Spillyville largely owes its existence.

### 1854

The village of Freeport was platted in May.

The first building in Calmar was erected this year; and the village of Calmar was platted in November.

The Decorah House was built this year, and also the Tremont House, which was burnt in 1857, and which stood on the site of the Lutheran Publishing House, Decorah.

The famous Decorah hotel, the Winneshiek House, was built in 1854-5.

### 1855

Early this year Ossian was platted as a village, and the plat recorded April 30th.

Decorah, which had become quite a village, received an additional impetus by the land office being established here, the office being opened the day before Christmas, 1855. It was removed the following year, but much of the business which it brought remained.

In the winter of 1855-6, there were nine banking houses in Decorah.

The year 1855 also gave the county its first newspaper, the Decorah Chronicle. It was edited and published by a man named Tracy, but very soon Judge M. V. Burdick became the editorial writer. It had its ups and downs, and the Decorah Republican of today may be considered as its successor, Wesley Bailey and son buying out the establishment, and issuing it as the Decorah Republic, in 1860, and afterwards changing the name to Decorah Republican.

### 1856

This year witnessed the famous but unsuccessful fight of the then flourishing and enterprising village of Freeport to take the county seat from Decorah; this contest is told in detail elsewhere.

A county loan of \$6,000 was also voted this year to build a courthouse at Decorah, the tax to be levied in the years 1857 and 1858.

A special election was also held October 10th, and the county voted \$100,000 in bonds to aid in the building of the Northwestern Railroad; there being 926 votes cast for the tax, and 505 against it. As the road was not built the county was not burdened with the tax.

### 1857

The courthouse was commenced this year and finished the following year.

This year witnessed the burning of the Tremont House, Decorah, then a well known hotel.

This year, also, Decorah became an organized town. A meeting for incorporation was held on the first Monday in April, and at the election of officers on the 30th of June, E. E. Cooley was chosen president.

The Legislative act of incorporation was not passed till 1871.

### 1858

The plat of the village of Hesper—the township having been first settled in 1851—was recorded on the 25th of February, 1858, the plat having been drawn December 27th of the preceding year. The township of Hesper was also organized in 1858.

The county had grown so that the number of votes cast in October of this year was 1,288.

On the 18th of April, 1858, the first county superintendent was elected, Dr. H. C. Bulis was chosen.

### 1859

The close of this year brings us up to the commencement of a decade which opened with some changes in the manner of county government, made neces-

sary, or at least desirable, by the increase of population and the prospective growth and importance of the county. By the census of 1850, the population was 540, while it was now by the census taken in 1860—13,942. We will not, however, anticipate, but briefly note the important events as they occur.

1860

During this year a change was made in the management of county affairs, up to this time administered by the county judge. A board of supervisors, consisting of one from each township, was elected, the change taking effect on the 1st of January, 1861.

In April, 1860, the firm of Bailey & Son, consisting of Wesley Bailey and his son, Ansel K. Bailey, purchased the Decorah Republic, succeeding B. F. Jones, as publishers of that paper. The first number under their management appeared April 14th.

In the first issue are notices of Decorah's institutions as follows: "Population of Decorah, estimated, from 1,600 to 2,000. It has a brass band, 17 stores, 3 harness shops, 6 blacksmiths, 5 cabinet-makers, 3 wagon makers, 2 plow and horticultural implement manufactories, 2 jewelers, 2 milliners, 2 tanneries, 1 lumber yard, 2 bakeries, 1 daguerreotype artist, 2 meat markets, 1 distillery, 1 brewery, 1 gunsmith, a dozen lawyers, 3 doctors, 1 dentist, 2 barbers, a Methodist church in their own building, and a Congregational church, holding services in the courthouse, their church not yet being completed."

Hesper has a literary society that meets once a week.

May 3d, five prisoners escape from the county jail, one in for horse stealing, one for counterfeiting, and the others for minor offenses.

April 29th, the house of Postmaster Stanberg, of Calmar, was burned.

May 17th, a Norwegian celebration of their national anniversary occurred at Peterson's trading post, B. O. Dahly delivering the address.

In June, the Landers residence on Broadway was commenced, also the Francis residence on Broadway, now owned by A. Bradish.

Fourth of July was celebrated in Decorah, the orator being Douglas Leffingwell.

By the census then being taken the population of Decorah township and city was given as follows:

Population of Decorah .....	904
Population of West Decorah.....	315
Rest of township .....	706

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Total .....1,925

August 7th, Wm. Day died at the Winneshiek House, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He built the first house, for some years the only hotel, and afterwards built the Winneshiek House.

August 30th, Fitz Henry Warren (republican) spoke at Decorah, Judge Clark, of Dubuque, opposing him.

The Congregational church of Decorah was in process of erection this season.

September 21st, county fair was held in Decorah.

October 5th, a daily mail was established between McGregor and Decorah.

### 1861

At the opening of the year, the board of supervisors, one from each township, in order that the terms of office might not expire at the same time, they cast lots to see which should hold office for one year, and which for two years. The result was as follows:

For one year—Levi Bullis in place of Dan Lawrence, who was elected and resigned, for Decorah; J. Pagin, Frankville; J. T. Galby, Sumner; I. West, Canoe; G. N. Holloway, Hesper; J. G. Ackerson, Burr Oak; S. Christen, Madison; Lars T. Land, Calmar; Levan Wanless, Bluffton.

For two years—W. H. Baker, Bloomfield; F. S. Northup, Glenwood; Ole Nelson, Pleasant; W. B. Chamberlain, Orleans; Ammon Ammundson, Highland; D. E. Shelmadine, Fremont; M. J. Woolsey, Military; A. O. Lommen, Springfield; Orville Jennison, Washington.

G. N. Holloway was elected president of the board.

March 3d, the remains of a Norwegian, named Iver Knudsen Jouen, were found near the foot of the bluff at the head of Trout Run. He started home from Decorah on Christmas evening. Going over the road past the cemetery, it is thought that he lost his way, rolled down the bluff and froze to death.

The Decorah cemetery grounds were laid out this year.

April 8th, a public meeting was held and the Decorah Guards organized, being the first company to enter the service in the War of the Rebellion. The record of this and other companies from the county will be found in a preceding chapter.

June 14th, E. E. Cooley received the appointment as postmaster of Decorah and took possession July 1st.

June 11th, the county supervisors voted \$3.00 per week to each of the families of the Decorah Guards.

June 17th, L. Standring turned the first scraper full of dirt into the Decorah branch of the Northern Iowa Railroad. Gangs of men were set at work at Decorah, Calmar, Ossian and Monona but the work was discontinued.

In July the plastering and mason work of the Congregational church was completed.

The Norwegian Lutheran Synod decided to build a college on the site selected in West Decorah.

August 22d, Winneshiek Normal Institute incorporated, S. Page, principal.

September 27th and 28th, county fair.

November 17th, Congregational church, Decorah, dedicated, E. Adams, pastor.

The Livengood-Telva murder trial commenced near the close of this year and continued into 1862.

### 1862

Fourth of July celebration in Decorah, Hon. M. V. Burdick delivering the oration.

August 30th, saloon of Wm. Olson, Decorah, burned and George Gulbranson burned to death and others badly injured.

September 6th, Aaron Newell, an old resident, died.

In September the Luther College opened in Decorah.

## 1863

June 4th, work on the Norwegian Lutheran College commenced. The building to be 150x20 feet on the ground and three stories high above the basement.

Population of county by assessor's returns in 1863, 15,035. Population of Decorah, 2,165.

Fourth of July celebrated in Decorah; addresses by home talent.

November 3d, Elisha Hurlbut, postmaster of Decorah, died. Joseph Hutchinson, assistant, continued in office until a successor was appointed.

## 1864

February 9th, J. R. Slack was appointed postmaster of Decorah and took possession February 28th. George W. Adams was appointed his assistant.

June 20th, the \$40,000 necessary secured and engineers commenced locating a railroad to Decorah.

A grist mill was built by D. Addicken and commenced running that year.

June 30th, corner stone of the Norwegian College laid.

October 3d, Capt. J. R. Moore, Decorah, died suddenly in his bed.

October 12th, celebration of the arrival of the railroad at Castalia.

October 22d, the Catholics of Decorah occupied their new church.

December 22d, Decorah gets a through mail from Chicago.

## 1865

March 20th, flood in Dry Run did considerable damage. High waters in the river carried away the West Decorah bridge and also the Freeport bridge.

April 8th, a rousing celebration in Decorah of the taking of Richmond, in which enthusiasm extravagantly boiled over in wild and peculiar freaks.

April 27th, funeral services in Decorah, Castalia and other places on the death of Lincoln.

June 15th, railroad completed to near Calmar.

July 4th, Fourth of July celebration at Decorah, Col. D. B. Henderson orator.

July 20th, railroad completed to Conover.

In September, Methodist parsonage at Decorah completed.

October 15th, dedication of the Norwegian Lutheran College, one wing four stories high, with basement being completed. Prominent Norwegians from all parts of the country were present.

## 1866

The Decorah public school building was built this year.

April 1st, Decorah postoffice removed to first floor of new brick building on Winnebago street.

April 5th, greatest flood since 1859, carrying off numerous bridges and doing considerable damage in the county.

July 4th, celebrated in Decorah, M. V. Burdick and R. Swearingen orators.

November 1st, great fire in Decorah, loss from \$30,000 to \$40,000, burning out Dennis & Hulverson, P. S. Smout, Green & Morss and others, also the office of the Winneshiek Register, established in 1860, Haislet Bros., proprietors.

November 11th, county supervisors bought the present poor farm of C. E. Dickerman.

This year the railroad reached the site of Ridgeway and gave it its first start.

### 1867

The new Masonic hall, Decorah, dedicated. It was pronounced the best in Iowa.

January 30th, Fremont House and barn burned.

February 12th, meeting to organize a fire company in Decorah.

May 17th, Norwegian celebration. Addresses by B. O. Dahly, K. E. Bergh, O. M. Lucken and John Steen.

May 27th, Decorah graded school established.

October 3d and 4th, county fair held at Decorah.

During this year the residences of E. E. Cooley, D. B. Ellsworth, Mrs. Hughes and J. Hunter and the Dickerman building were erected or commenced.

The telegraph line to Decorah was completed this year.

November 28th, Rev. E. Adams preached his Thanksgiving sermon, entitled "The first things of Decorah."

Near the close of the year 1867, B. Anundson established a Norwegian printing office in Decorah, printing several publications for the college. A few years later he commenced the publication of the Decorah Posten.

### 1868

February 1st, Decorah secures two mails a day.

This winter Decorah secures a course of lectures by Fred Douglas, Theodore Tilton, Henry Vincent and E. P. Whipple.

February 2d, Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church on Washington Prairie dedicated.

April, Decorah Democrat established, Bob Shurley, editor.

May 17th, Norwegian celebration; oration by Professor Larsen.

July 4th, celebration at Decorah; Rev. Henderson, of Dubuque, orator.

October 7th, 8th and 9th, county fair at Decorah.

In 1868, by the creation of the circuit court as previously described, the county court ceased to exist. The county judge became ex officio county auditor, the new state of things taking effect June 1, 1869.

### 1869

On New Year's day Charles Magoffin fell over the bluff overhanging the dug-way. He was getting some cedar branches and stepping on ice, slipped and fell down the bluff and was killed.

January 12th, Odd Fellows occupied their new hall in the Dickerman building, Decorah, now the Marsh Music House.

March 15th, paper mill company at Freeport organized.

May 12th, work commenced in earnest on the Decorah branch of the railroad.

May 9th, depot and six grain warehouses at Ossian burned.

June 7th, A. K. Bailey appointed postmaster at Decorah.

June 13th, Kramer's store burned and depot and Lambert's store at Castalia robbed.

July 4th, celebrated at Ossian and Hesper.

July 12th, Calmar is incorporated as a village of the second class.

August 24th, David Self was killed by his wagon tipping over into river, on the dugway, Decorah. He was thrown under the wagon; his wife and children escaped.

September 15th, first regular train ran into Decorah. It was a day of celebration and rejoicing.

September 22d, 23d and 24th, county fair at Decorah.

October 28th, Edgar Harden, son of H. J. Harden, was fatally stabbed at Burr Oak by Jasper Jewell, who became irritated by the badinage of a party of threshers with whom he was working.

December 2d, Beauseant Commandery of Knights Templar fully organized and officers installed at Decorah with a grand parade, display, etc.

The Decorah Ventilator established this year.

This year the railroad reached Fort Atkinson and the building of the new town commenced.

## 1870

In 1870 the old supervisor system of one from each township gave place to the present system except that at first there were but three supervisors, but this was changed, in 1872, to five, the present number.

In February, S. S. Haislet bought E. C. Huntington's interest in the State Press newspaper, recently established at Decorah.

In March woman's suffrage lectures were delivered in Decorah by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

A 4th of July accident occurs at Spillville by the premature explosion of an anvil, by which four men were badly hurt.

August 17th, the publication of the Winneshiek Representative was commenced at Calmar by Bent Wood.

Steyer's hall, Decorah, was completed this year.

## 1871

February 2d, a fire in Decorah destroyed Goddard & Henry's store, the Howell and Heivly building occupied by P. S. Smout and Mrs. G. W. Adams' millinery store.

February 24th, by legislative enactment, Decorah was incorporated a city of the second class. Its first election was held March 6, 1871. The first mayor was Charles F. Allen.

The number of county supervisors was increased from three to five, as at present.

June 23d, the Winneshiek Representative at Calmar suspended publication.

Decorah celebrated the 4th of July, Mahlon Willet, orator. Mr. Willet is now pastor of the Congregational church.

September 6th, a homicide occurred in the evening in Frankville township. Wm. McClintock was scolding his nephew about some piece of mischief when a man, named Seeley, rode up and said: "Take one of your size." And in a quarrel that followed Seeley knocked McClintock down with a club. McClintock died three hours afterward. Seeley was held to bail in the sum of \$1,000 and afterwards sent to the penitentiary.

The county fair was held at Decorah in September.

The Decorah Democrat was discontinued, and the material taken to McGregor for a paper there.

1872

January 17th, old settlers of the county organized.

March 27th, Ole Bull comes to Decorah, gives two concerts and a matinee, and is given a grand public reception by the people.

July 4th, Fort Atkinson celebrates with W. H. Bennett as orator.

Decorah celebrates with Rev. Casebeer as orator and Mrs. H. Bottsford as reader.

County fair at Decorah, September 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th.

1873

The great storm and snow blockade commenced January 7th, continuing about a week. It was in this storm that conductor Bob Jamieson organized a rescue party and went from Calmar carrying provisions to passengers in a blockaded train a little south of Ridgeway. They made their way through the blinding storm by starting from one telegraph pole to another, the one who found the pole first shouting to the others. It was nearly two weeks before the blockade was finally lifted.

January 20th, the new schoolhouse at Fort Atkinson was burned.

February 28th, Andrew Johnson of Pleasant township, starting to go home from Decorah, froze to death on his way.

March 12th, W. N. Burdick, of Cresco, purchased half the interest in the Decorah Ventilator.

May 17th, Norwegian celebration at Decorah. Addresses by Rev. Larsen and L. S. Reque.

June 7th, Ole Bull again visited Decorah and gave a concert.

September 18th, the district fair was held at Hesper.

County fair was held at Decorah, September 23d, 24th and 26th.

1874

March 31st, death of C. J. Henry, of the firm of Goddard & Henry, Decorah.

April 5th, death of F. E. Ruth, of the firm of Ruth Bros., Decorah.



May 24th, about this date the business part of Ridgeway burned. Twenty-five buildings were destroyed and \$50,000 worth of property.

Fourth of July celebrated in Decorah. Rev. H. B. Woodworth, pastor of Congregational church, orator.

July 31st, new bridge over Iowa river at Decorah was finished.

August 11th, Decorah Independent started by Ed. Wood and S. S. Haislett.

August 13th, corner stone of the Methodist Episcopal church laid.

September 11th and 12th, state line fair at Hesper.

September 15th, 16th and 17th, county fair at Decorah.

October 3d, H. H. Buck, of Decorah, committed suicide.

November 3d, A. A. Aiken's Trot Run woolen factory burned.

Greer & Hunter's mill was completed this month.

December 2d, completion and dedication of one wing of the Norwegian College.

December 20th, new Methodist Episcopal church of Decorah dedicated, Bishop Andrews of Des Moines, presiding.

In November, 1874, Aiken & Woodruff purchased the Winneshiek Register, published at Decorah (which was the successor of the Decorah Ventilator), of Geo. W. Haislett. In February, 1875, the Saturday Bee was published from the Register office and during the snow blockade about that time and afterwards, at times when occasion demanded, it was issued daily. The present Decorah Journal, F. E. Biermann, editor and publisher, is the successor to the Register, having absorbed the Independent; the Bee also becoming a part of the Journal establishment.

## 1875

February 4th, a snow blockade continued several days.

March 3d, Ole Anderson, who lived north of Hesper, going home from Decorah froze his hands and feet. A suit against H. D. Solberge followed in which \$6,000 damage was awarded Anderson's wife.

March 31st, it was decided to erect a new Episcopal church in Decorah this year.

May 9th, Rev. Father McNulty, pastor of the Catholic church, Decorah, died.

June 23d, this night occurred the great flood of Dry Run, supposed to have been caused by a water spout. Three small dwellings were carried away and five bridges over Dry Run; Washington Street bridge being the only one saved. All the bridges and much of the railroad track between Decorah and Conover were washed away.

July 2d, presiding elder Wm. Smith of the Methodist Episcopal church, died.

July 7th, county supervisors provided for new iron bridges in various parts of the county.

July 17th, death of D. Addicken of Decorah.

July 19th, death of Horace S. Weiser of Decorah.

September 21st, 22d and 23d, State Line Fair at Hesper.

1876

January 4th, John B. Stickles died; it was supposed that he was poisoned. The famous murder trials resulting from his death are recorded in previous chapters.

January 9th, Charles Meyers, supervisor from second district, died.

January 31st, J. Ellen Foster lectured at the courthouse on temperance.

March 3d, first accident on the Decorah branch of the railroad. Train was ditched three miles from the city. Eleven persons were hurt but none was killed.

March 14th, the new Episcopal church at Decorah was dedicated.

April 7th, Peter Duffin, an old settler, died.

June 18th, Luther church, Decorah, was dedicated.

July 4th, centennial celebration at Decorah with oration by H. B. Woodworth and meeting of the old settlers in the afternoon.

October 10, 1876, Geo. W. Haislet, who had been engaged in various newspaper enterprises in Decorah, Cresco, Lansing, McGregor and lately for about a year at Dubuque, came back to Decorah and established the Decorah Radical, which he published till the time of his death in the spring of 1881 as recorded under that date.

July 9th, in Frankville township Simeon Oleson shot and killed Anderson Theonson, who came to a party uninvited. After two trials Oleson was acquitted.

September 6th, Capt. T. W. Burdick was nominated for Congress, being the first Representative from Winneshiek county, and was elected.

September 10th, 20th and 21st, fair at Hesper.

At the November election a \$12,000 tax, divided between two years, was voted to build a new jail.

December 21, 1876, near Locust Lane, while several teams were on the way home from Decorah, a quarrel arose and Helge Nelson struck Ed. Torfin a fatal blow on the head with a club. Nelson escaped with six months in the penitentiary.

1877

February 1st, a new hotel, the Arlington House, was opened at Decorah.

May 30th, first observance of Decoration Day in Decorah. H. S. Henderson, orator, and C. Wellington, reader.

June 8th, death of Joseph Grinsell, station agent at Decorah, his body being found in an unoccupied house at Prairie du Chien.

June 14th, in the district court Helge Nelson was convicted of manslaughter in killing Edwin Torfin, December 21, 1876.

July 4th, celebrated by old settlers, reunion at Weiser's grove.

July, James Relf, a pioneer, died.

July 4, Howard's livery stable, Decorah, burned and other property greatly endangered.

This same month it was concluded to have an artesian well in Decorah.

July 31st, Recorder Charles A. Steen, who was wounded at Gettysburg, died in Decorah, aged 40 years, 11 months and 1 day. Cyrus McKay was appointed to fill the vacancy until the next election.

October, fair held at Hesper.

October 18th, a fire at Calmar burned four business houses, including McMullen's drug store, a shoe store, restaurant and saloon.

November 3d, Charles Hartsing, of Castalia, one of the first settlers of Winneshiek county, died, aged sixty-five years.

November 29th, Adams' Block, Decorah, burned, burning out Ben Bears' clothing store, Coleman & Toye's drug store, J. C. Meuser's jewelry store, Newton's grocery and some other tenants.

Decorah had a lecture course the following winter with General Kilpatrick, Henry Watterson, Mrs. Livermore and Will Carleton.

## 1878

January 28th, work on the artesian well, Decorah, stopped, it having reached a depth of 1,200 feet, and the water being thirty feet from the top.

April 4th, the board of supervisors having this spring provided for the construction of a new jail contracted for Pauley's steel cells.

April 11th, plans for the new jail adopted, the site of which is located on the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds.

July 1st, contract awarded for building a new county jail which was erected the same year.

September 17th, 18th, 19th, fair at Hesper.

October 10th, Harvey Benedict fell from the house of his brother, A. A. Benedict, and was killed.

November 21st, the body of H. A. Hegg of Decorah was found in the creek at the railroad bridge near Standring's cut. The coroner's jury found that his death was caused by strychnine and that it occurred before he fell into the water. The mystery of his death was never solved.

## 1879

February 15th, Blue Ribbon movement organized by John W. Drew in Decorah and reform club established.

May 17th, Norwegian celebration; orations by Professors Sander, Veblen and others.

May 30th, Decoration Day in Decorah; oration by H. B. Woodworth.

June 22d, twenty-fifth anniversary of the Congregational church of Decorah observed.

July 4th, celebration in Decorah, John T. Stoneman, orator. Celebrated at Ossian, Rev. Sherin, orator.

August 7th, Decorah township voted a 4 per cent tax to induce the Waukon narrow gauge railroad, which was then leased to the Northwestern, to come to Decorah. The roadbed was graded, but the Milwaukee company bought it up—it did not come—and Decorah saved its tax.

September, fair at Hesper this year.

November 12th, Janauschek, the actress, appeared at Decorah.

December 1st, Judge E. E. Cooley appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Reuben Noble.

June 13th, the railroad depot at Conover burned.

July 4th, celebration at Hesper, Rev. H. B. Woodworth, orator. Ossian also celebrated.

July 23d, at the Peter Coogan schoolhouse, three miles north of Decorah, Willard Van Pelt shot George Rastetler through the side, the latter having been abusing and threatening Van Pelt. Both were young men. Van Pelt was arrested and held for trial, when he was finally fined \$20 and costs. Rastetler's wound was at first thought to be dangerous, but he recovered.

August 19th, Thomas Updegraff was unanimously renominated for Congress by the republican convention at McGregor, and was re-elected.

September 12th, Henry Diers was stabbed by Mike Holehan, whom he had ordered away from Adlicken's brewery on Sunday. Diers' wound was thought to be fatal, but he recovered. Holehan was held in \$5,000 bail, and on trial was sentenced to one year and six months in the penitentiary.

September 15th, 16th and 17th, fair at Hesper.

### 1881.

February 13th, Remenyi, the great violinist, gave a concert in Decorah.

February 18th, meetings held in Decorah to organize Citizens' Association, which organization was afterwards effected.

March 6th, George W. Haislet, an old newspaper man and editor of the Decorah Radical, died. The publication of the Radical was continued for about one year by Mrs. Haislet, and in the spring of 1882 was purchased by C. H. Craig, who changed its name to the Decorah Pantagraph.

March 11th, Wm. Telford, an old settler of Decorah, fifty-one years of age, fell dead at a fire at the foot of Pleasant Hill.

March 28th, James McConnell, an old resident of Bluffton, was killed by being thrown from his wagon on his way home from Decorah.

March 29th, Chicago, Decorah & Minnesota Railroad Company incorporated.

April 1st, Professor Jacobson, of Luther College, died.

May 11th, the city council of Decorah voted to build waterworks, which were completed that year.

May 30th, Decoration Day, Decorah; F. B. Daniels, of Dubuque, delivering the oration. F. E. Brush, pastor of the M. E. church, Decorah, delivered the address at the cemetery.

June 10th, observance at Frankville of the one hundredth anniversary of Father Cutler's birthday.

August, contract let for waterworks in Decorah.

August 12th, Decorah postoffice moved into its new building.

September 20th, 21st and 22d, county fair at Decorah.

November 9th, Decorah township voted a 5 per cent tax to the Upper Iowa & Mississippi Railroad Company, conditioned on its building a railroad to the Mississippi, at or about Lansing. The road was not built and the tax was forfeited. It is now stated that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, who are widening the gauge to Waukon, will continue the work to Decorah, thus giving them another outlet via Calmar from the west, rather than to build a double track from Calmar to McGregor.

Hesper, Burr Oak and Bluffton townships also voted taxes to a road running through them to be built from La Crosse to the southwest through Charles City, and the right of way for the road is being secured.

1882.

February 22d, Decorah waterworks trial, parade and celebration.

April 14th, Decorah township voted a 5 per cent tax to a railroad to connect with the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, to be completed before September, 1883.

June 4th, murder in Glenwood township. Peter Peterson Krogsund was shot and killed by Hans Hanson Skjerdahl.

June 22d, Decorah Drum Corps wins first prize at the State Military Encampment at Waterloo. The Decorah Light Guards also took a prize.

June 27th, prohibitory amendment adopted in Iowa. Vote of Winneshiek county was 1,411 for, 1,696 against the amendment.

July 4th, celebrated in Decorah, with oration by F. E. Brush, of Davenport. At Ossian, oration by T. J. Sullivan. It was also observed at Fort Atkinson.

July 8th, Turner Callender, an old resident of Frankville, died. He came to the county in 1849.

August 29th, the Decorah Drum Corps wins a victory at the Inter-State Military Encampment at Dubuque, being victors over the Chicago Drum Corps, and winning the first prize of \$500.

October 19th, C., M. & St. P. Ry. secures right of way from depot site on Railroad avenue to the Ice Cave Mill, Decorah, for purpose of extending tracks and securing passenger depot location on Water street. Work began October 23d.

November 5th, new Methodist church at Freeport dedicated.

November 23d, Masonic bodies of Decorah complete fitting up of new lodge rooms in Barthell building.

November 20th, John Elliott of Bluffton sells forty-eight hogs weighing 16,815 pounds for \$1,011.65—a big sum in those days.

November 27th, electric lights first shown in Decorah. Stock company was formed to build plant, on December 6th.

November 31st, Jacob Hegg of Calmar township is accidentally killed while on his way home from town.

December 3d, William Beard, pioneer of Frankville and father of creamery movement in this city, passed away.

December 19th, Congregational church of Decorah calls Rev. John Willard of Newtonville, Massachusetts. James Henry Baker, well-known grain buyer, and Wm. H. Fannon die.

During this year the marriage of the following well-known people occurred: (October 18th), Ex-Sheriff D. C. Moore and Ella Heivly; Minnie Webber and J. Fairbanks of Clarion; (October 25th), James W. Hogan and Grace Finn; (November 1st), Julius J. Hopperstad and Emma Wilson; (December 17th), Louis B. Whitney and Ella L. Cratsenberg, both of Burr Oak; (December 20th), Rev. J. W. Magelson of Rushford, Minnesota, and Thora Larsen, eldest daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Laur Larsen of Luther College.

1883

January 1st, Sheriff H. M. Langland and Ella Sloan married. While the wedding was in progress, Mrs. Garvey, held on a murder charge, escaped from county jail but was captured the next day at the home of Thomas Dugan in Glenwood township. She was subsequently tried at Waukon, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

January 18th to 23d, give six days of continuous cold weather. On the 18th the mercury at 8 A. M. showed 17° below zero. It moderated to 14° above at 8 P. M. and stood at zero the morning of the 19th. At noon that day it was 6° below and from then on until the morning of the 24th the mercury did not rise above zero, the coldest reading being 28° below on the morning of the 21st. At Hesper 36° below was recorded, and Calmar reported 37° below. On January 31st it was again 28° below in Decorah.

February 5th, Calmar school is closed on account of diphtheria.

February 22d, the sale of land in Hesper township at \$20.00 per acre is recorded as an indication that real estate is moving at fair price.

March 25th, M. E. church at Calmar dedicated by Chaplain McCabe.

April 12th, contracts let for building new poorhouse at Freeport.

May 8th, Colonel Hughes Post, G. A. R., organized, with Major C. H. Hitchcock as commander.

May 14th, Decorah Drum Corps depart for the National Encampment at Nashville, Tennessee, where they captured the honors and a pair of gold mounted drum sticks for the best martial music.

May 28th, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Williams, pioneers of Washington Prairie, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

June 1st, the Iowa district meeting of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod is held at Calmar.

June 14th, Winneshiek county is free from debt with a \$20,000 net surplus in the treasury. N. H. Adams resigns as county treasurer and C. E. Meader, his deputy, succeeds him, with C. F. Barfoot of Madison township as his assistant.

June 17th, severe storm sweeps over county. In Summer township buildings were blown down and unroofed. At the Crawford farm at Burr Oak Springs nearly all the outbuildings were destroyed. In Decorah shade trees were blown down and uprooted, buildings were moved, and water from the river was carried ten feet up its bank by the wind.

July 20th to 23d was a storm period during which 9.29 inches of rain fell, causing large property losses in Decorah along Dry Run. A number of bridges were washed out, county roads were rendered impassable, and lightning caused the destruction of considerable farm property.

July 24th, Daubersmith's mill near Ridgeway burns.

August 3d, eight horses and colts killed and two others badly injured by the Calmar train in Madison township. They belonged to Ole N. Bergen and had escaped from their pasture. Loss \$1,500.

August 6th, Sarah King, an imbecile, attacked and ravished by Arthur McIntyre, Charles Wedgewood, Vincent and Jerome Bartlett. McIntyre and Jerome Bartlett were sent to the penitentiary for the crime.

September 6th, three cases of leprosy reported in the county.

September 11th, Winneshiek County Fair opens with the cattle and horse show equalling that of the State Fair. Upwards of 7,000 people attended on the 13th.

October 29th, the Decorah Manufacturing Company organized with \$25,000 capital. Its life was short, owing to mismanagement and lack of business.

November 9th, Dick Arthur, a notorious offender, arrested at Spillville by federal officers for washing and selling used U. S. stamps.

November 17th, four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther celebrated by churches of Decorah.

November 29th, the old safe in the county treasurer's office, used since 1855, is sold to Huber Brothers, of Fort Atkinson, for \$35.00.

December 10th, Frank Jessmer, incendiary and horse thief, wanted for burning David Perry's barn in Bloomfield township in October, 1879, is arrested in Minneapolis.

December 19th, B., C. R. & N. Ry. promises to build to Decorah if tax is voted. Township trustees meet and order election. President Tracy states the road will be built "and shall not remain there." Unfortunately Mr. Tracy died, else Decorah would now be on a through railroad line, because he always kept his word.

During the year many prominent old people and pioneers were called to their last rest. On January 16th Father Cutler of Frankville died at the age of 101 years, 7 months and 6 days. Mrs. Elizabeth Day, "the mother of Decorah," died February 12th. James Hutchinson of Hesper (1854) died March 12th. Mrs. J. W. Holm, a Canoe pioneer of 1854, on March 25th, and Mrs. Anna Johnson, wife of Nelson Johnson of the Norwegian pioneers in Decorah, on March 27th, were the next to be claimed by death. They were followed on April 1st by Mrs. Anna Maria Siegel of Military, aged ninety-two. Josiah Goddard, Sr., who located near Fort Atkinson in 1849, died on April 20th, and his namesake, Josiah, Jr., who came with him, died October 6th. The record shows others as follows: Henry Giesen of Fort Atkinson, April 26; James Hunter, of the old Greer & Hunter milling firm, April 28, at Mitchell, S. D.; Catherine Sherry, of Washington Prairie, the same day.

There were eight tragic and accidental deaths recorded also.

#### 1884

January 10th, A. Bernatz & Bro take charge of Ice Cave Mills.

February 20th, Citizens Savings Bank of Decorah commences business.

February 14th, the old log cabin built in Decorah by "Uncle Billy" Day in 1849 is discovered on the farm of John S. Nelson in Glenwood township. It was in use as the home of Mr. Nelson and his family.

February 10th, Military township gives the B., C. R. & N. Ry. tax proposition a majority of fifty-nine, in the second election. The first election was void because of defects in the notice of election.

March 3d, W. H. Valleau elected mayor of Decorah. W. G. W. Sawyer mayor of West Decorah.

March 9th, Ridgeway creamery burned. Loss \$3,000.

March 17th, district court opens with a calendar which includes trials for murder, rape, assault with intent to commit rape, assault with intent to commit great bodily injury, larceny, theft, arson, and illegal sales of liquor.

May 15th, the first dividend of the coming of the B., C. R. & N. Ry. is a cut of about 16 per cent in freight rates.

June, mortgage for \$6,000,000 covering the B., C. R. & N. Ry. is recorded in Winneshiek county.

June 12th, design and bid for soldiers' monument approved and accepted.

July 14th, firm of S. W. Landers & Son make assignment. Indebtedness \$25,762.

August 22d, fire at the home of James Kitchen results in severe injury to Mrs. Kitchen and two children, the daughter Arvilla dying from her burns.

September 1st, M. W. Harden, county clerk, resigns to engage in banking business at Grafton, N. D.

October 9th, John G. Carlisle, Speaker of House of Representatives, is main speaker at Democratic rally in Decorah.

October 16th, John Curtin, Decorah pioneer, liveryman, sells out and becomes capitalist.

October 22d, Twenty-fifth anniversary of Prof. Larsen's connection with Luther College celebrated.

October 23d, last rail of B., C. R. & N. extension is laid. Dr. H. C. Bullis and T. W. Burdick drive the last spike.

November 20th, celebration of completion of B., C. R. & N. Ry. to Decorah. Train service began November 10th.

December 2d, Trout Run mill destroyed by fire.

During 1884 the following old residents and pioneers died:

February 22d, Mrs. Iver G. Ringstad (1851); February 29th, Austin Matison and John Blackinton; Mrs. Groe Eggerud Abrahamson (Springfield, 1850);

July 24th, Prof. Cornelius Narveson of Luther College; October 24th, Michael Bernatz, of Fort Atkinson.

Six tragic deaths occurred during the year.

#### 1885

January 1st, Wm. Beard & Son's Ice Cave Creamery ships 34,000 pounds of butter to New Orleans, part of it for exhibition at the fair.

January 19th to 22d was a cold spell, the thermometer registering from 32° to 42° below zero.

January 19th, Judge and Mrs. J. G. Morss celebrate golden wedding.

January 29th, word received that the Northeastern Iowa Creamery Association captured first premium in Class D for largest display of butter, quality considered, and the Beard creamery captured first for individual exhibits and second in the pro rata premium at the New Orleans Exposition.

March 10th, Lutherans of Calmar prepare to build a new church.

April 2d, Robert Simpson returns from Scotland where he purchased three head of Aberdeen Angus cattle which are added to his herd at Burr Oak; fire destroys store at Plymouth Rock.



April 5th, John Lane and family of West Decorah narrowly escapes asphyxiation from coal gas escaping from a stove in their home.

June 12th, schoolhouse in sub-district No. 6 Bluffton township, struck by lightning; teacher and pupils are stunned, but otherwise no serious damage was done.

June 18th, A. K. Bailey, postmaster of Decorah, received notice that he had been removed for "offensive partisanship," and John Finn would be his successor. Mr. Bailey's removal was the first in Iowa after Grover Cleveland became president. Mr. Bailey retired on July 4th, having served sixteen years without opposition or asking for the appointment. Rev. H. B. Woodworth, former pastor of the Congregational church of Decorah, appointed as professor of Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy in the University of North Dakota. Reverend Woodworth subsequently became president of the university, retaining his position until his death.

July 28th, hard wind storm does great damage to business section of Decorah, tearing up tin roofs, leveling smoke stacks, signs, etc., and in some instances tearing out parts of buildings. At the Henry R. Thomas farm West of Decorah a granary and a barn were moved from their foundations and his hired man lifted into a tree. The storm hit Decorah at four o'clock and Dubuque at 5:20, traveling at the rate of a mile a minute.

August 26th, Mrs. Joshua Hartwell of Bluffton died. No one knew her age, but as near as could be ascertained she was in the neighborhood of 110 years.

September 10th, Day Brothers, sons in Decorah's first family, sell their lumber yard and moved to Wausau, Wisconsin.

August 26th, John Scott is relieved as postmaster at Calmar after serving fifteen years. W. L. Bass was his successor.

November 12th, W. T. Symonds purchases Decorah greenhouses and removes them to West Decorah. This was the beginning of a very successful enterprise.

November 19th, one Decorah bank pays out over \$7,000 during the week for swine purchased by one firm.

November 28th, Leonard's book store burned in Decorah. Loss \$10,000; insurance, \$7,300.

November 29th, new Lutheran church at Calmar dedicated.

December 23d, the marriage of Nettie Casterton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Casterton, to Granville Fawcett, was a social event in Highland township. Deaths during the year: January 17th, John T. Clark, pioneer lawyer, at Postville; January 21st, Mrs. N. Brandt, for years the "mother" at Luther College, at Cleveland, Ohio; March 22d, Archa Dennis (1854); April 16th, Samuel Aiken, well-known breeder of Holstein cattle; May 18th, Tiedman Aldrich (Hesper, 1859); July 1st, Nelson Burdick (Freeport, 1853), treasurer of county from 1854 to 1860, and charter member of Decorah Congregational church; David P. West of Canoe; also four tragedies.

1886

January 13th, a church, eight residences, an office, several store houses and a score of other buildings comprise the building activities at Calmar in 1885.

January 12th, E. Webster, a well-known buyer, ships eight cars of stock, aggregating \$8,000 in value, the result of one week's purchases.

January 21st, A. W. Kramer at Castalia, H. Towner at Fort Atkinson, and A. J. Cratsenberg at Burr Oak are relieved of their duties as postmasters to make room for three democrats who want the jobs.

January 28th, the Winneshiek County Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company reports no losses for the year 1885, and the expenses of doing business only \$19.00.

January 28th, Hon. T. W. Burdick, Senator for Winneshiek county, introduces bill in Legislature providing for the erection of a Soldier's Home. It was passed and Marshalltown secured the location. C. W. Burdick was named one of the commissioners, and George Draper superintended its construction.

Fourteen days in January show temperature of zero or lower, the coldest being 28° below. February 1st to 4th show successively 12°, 23°, 25° and 29° below.

February 13th, Peter Olson, Calmar's leading merchant, fails, his liabilities aggregating between \$30,000 and \$40,000 with assets scheduled at \$32,700.

February 15th, the postoffice at Woodside is discontinued.

March 18th, John Finn, new democratic postmaster of Decorah, indicted for illegal voting. When the Australian ballot law came into effect Mr. Finn could not produce his naturalization papers and he went before the court at Waukon and took out new papers. He claimed his old ones were lost and on trial was acquitted.

May 6th, Iowa and Minnesota Telephone Company are building lines through Winneshiek county. Calmar Telephone Company is building line to Decorah.

May 30th, the German Methodist church in Decorah is dedicated.

May 27th, the George Phelps monument arrives and is being erected in Decorah cemetery. It was cut from two blocks of granite weighing sixty tons and was considered to be unequalled in Iowa. Dr. F. S. Northrup, murdered in Hancock county, was the first township clerk of Glenwood township where he resided from the early '50s to 1869. Winneshiek soldiers' monument completed.

June 10th, camps of Modern Woodmen of America are being organized.

June 27th, terrific hail storm passes over northern part of county. In Hesper township between 500 and 750 acres of corn and grain were destroyed and great damage was done to windows. In places hail stones drifted to a depth of four feet.

July 29th, new Methodist Episcopal church to be built in Orleans township.

August 1st, Rev. F. J. Mynard closed his pastorate at Grace Episcopal church in Decorah. He moved to California and subsequently became bishop of Montana.

September 7th, soldiers' monument dedicated by Col. W. P. Hepburn. 5,000 estimated attendance.

September 8th, Barnum & Bailey's circus visits Decorah for first time and is attended by crowds aggregating 24,000 at two performances.

September 10th, Winneshiek county fair closed with a total of 906 entries in the stock department. Rain and the Barnum circus make it a financial failure.

October 14th, Luther College celebrates twenty-fifth anniversary.

October 6th, Home of Dr. P. M. Jewell of Ossian is burned. A hot fight is

waged between Levi Bullis of Decorah and John B. Kaye of Calmar for the county attorneyship. Kaye was elected by seventy-seven majority.

November 11th, more or less diphtheria is reported throughout the county. Five children of A. R. Anderson of Springfield township died from the disease.

November 16th, winter sets in early with snow storm that delays trains.

November 25th, Winneshiek school census is 8,365, with 6,057 enrolled in schools, daily attendance 3,050. Cost of operation \$44,548.82, cost of buildings, etc., \$3,849.84, total \$48,398.66. This represents about 42% of all taxes collected in the county.

December 4th, a half ton of butter disappears from the Ridgeway Creamery and was never recovered.

Deaths of the year: January 22d, Ingebor Asgrimson Sorbor (Springfield, 1850); April 21st, Dr. W. F. Coleman, veteran of Seventeenth Iowa Infantry; April 25th, Abigail Hall Dickerman-Smith (Decorah, 1856); April 30th, Mrs. H. H. Hinterman (Spillville, 1855); May 8th Judge M. V. Burdick, pioneer lawyer and editor; May 23d, D. B. Dennis (Decorah, 1858), well known grocer; June 20th, Ex-recorder Anton P. Rocksvold, Glenwood township; September 25th, Robert Griffin (Pleasant, 1855); October 5th, James W. Mott, miller at Trout Run. Also five tragic deaths.

December 23d, Mrs. Zeuriah Post, widow of Joel Post, first settler on the prairie just east of Castalia, passed away. She and her husband conducted the Half-way House on the old Military road, from 1840 on.

### 1887

January 14th, Decorah Institute closed for two weeks on account of outbreak of diphtheria.

January 26th, fire destroyed stock of P. H. Whalen, Decorah; loss \$6,000, insurance \$3,100.

February 10th, violators of the prohibitory law to the number of twenty-one in Decorah, five in Ossian, eight each in Calmar and Spillville, three each in Conover and Fort Atkinson, two in Jackson Junction and one each in Ridgeway and Festina are served with notice of suit. When they found they were "on the rocks," all agreed to "arbitrate" and after submitting to an injunction paid the costs and agreed to sin no more.

March 5th, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Blodgett sits down in pail of boiling water and dies from scalding.

March 24th, D. P. Hawes is one of the successful participants in the Louisiana state lottery, drawing \$15,000, one-tenth of the capital prize. Dexter W. Nickerson, a former Bluffton boy, nominated by republicans for city treasurer of Chicago.

April 7th, Farrell, a Bluffton saloon-keeper, fined \$500 for violating a liquor injunction, as was also a Mrs. Dahl.

May 31st, Decorah Wind Mill Company in process of organization.

July 17th, Gusta Otteson, domestic in the family of A. Herman, died from heat.

July 22d, Lieutenant and Mrs. Ole A. Anderson celebrate silver wedding.

July 26th, Daniel Hawley, Freeport pioneer of 1855, and builder of first Winnebiek county courthouse, passed away at his home in Decorah.

July 30th, the Lutheran and Methodist churches at Calmar are struck by lightning and the former burned.

September 10th, body of C. E. Meader, county treasurer, found in Updegraff grove with bullet hole in his head and revolver lying by his side. Subsequent investigation disclosed shortage of over \$5,000 in his accounts.

October 5th and 6th, Thirty-eighth Iowa Regiment holds reunion in Decorah with attendance of one hundred and twenty.

October 14th, Decorah Drum Corps returns from Chicago with first prize of ten rosewood shell drums and eight ivory headed piccolos, offered by the Daily News at the National encampment.

December 20th, Addicken Brewery closed by supreme court of Iowa.

During the year 1887 occurred the death of a number of pioneers. Among them were the following: January 1st, Johanna Stortz, Canoe, 1859. Patrick Nolan, Bluffton. February 17th, Mrs. Abigail M. Cleveland, Hesper, 1853. March 28th, Erick G. Egge, Madison, 1853. March 29th, Wm. Mitchell, Hesper. April 21st, Lars Haakenson, Decorah, 1855. May 2d, Nathaniel Cornell, Bloomfield, 1854. May 12th, A. Howell, Decorah, 1854. Lars Iverson, Canoe, 1850. F. B. Landers, Decorah, 1856. Rachael Hitchcock, Burr Oak, 1855. S. M. Leach, Canoe, 1851. Mrs. S. B. Dunlap, Washington, 1853. F. C. Lennon, Frankville, 1855. Mrs. G. T. Lomen, Decorah. John O. Miles, Orleans, 1855. Frank B. Snell, Bluffton, 1855. Mrs. William Baker, Bloomfield, 1857. Andrew Sheetz, Decorah, 1852.

#### 1888

January 15th, fire at Ridgeway destroys Allen & Prann's drug store, Tuck's hardware, and G. R. Baker's general store. Loss \$25,000; insurance \$8,000.

January 13th, 14th and 15th, blizzard with thermometer registering from 15° to 27° below zero. Between the 11th and the 25th the mercury ranged from zero to 27° below.

March 3d, news comes of death of Francis Teabout, pioneer and originator of town of Frankville, at Sanborn.

April 5th, Upper Iowa river flooded. G. V. Puntney states but once in thirty-six years had he seen the water higher in the river.

April 15th, J. S. Hickey of Ridgeway took his life. Domestic difficulties were the cause.

May 7th, a rain and wind storm of great violence does great damage. Magne Langland, a Highland township lad, is swept away and drowned in torrent in Bear Creek.

July 1st, B. D. Haines of Hesper on his way to Decorah to take the train for Allison, Iowa, to engage in business, finds his pocketbook missing. It contained \$1,000. Decorah postoffice becomes second-class and salary of postmaster increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

July 4th, Ossian creamery burned.

August 2d, Rev. Abraham Jacobson, Springfield township pioneer who returned to Norway on a visit, writes that on shipboard he was thrown violently by the

lurching of the ship and one of his hips broken, necessitating his detention in a hospital for five weeks. He completed his visit nevertheless.

August 9th, firm of Olson & Thompson, general merchants, Decorah, dissolves after twenty-five years, Mr. Olson retiring.

September 7th, Knut Larson, a Military township pioneer, is killed by the cars as he was driving into Ossian.

September 27th, announcement made that Prof. L. S. Reque of Luther College had been nominated by the democrats of the fourth district for Congress. He was defeated at the polls by J. H. Sweney of Osage.

September 21st, three hundred neighbors help Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Lien of Hesper celebrate silver wedding.

October 21st, fire damaged Decorah M. E. church to extent of \$1,400.

November 2d, a hot political campaign closed with a monster county republican rally participated in by hundreds. Its equal was never held in this part of Iowa.

During the year 1888 the following deaths occurred among the old residents of the county: March 3d, Elizabeth H. Strayer, Freeport, 1853. March 21st, Elijah Clark, Fremont, 1853. June 29th, Christopher A. Estram, Frankville, 1850. July 6th, Mrs. Mary Thornton, Bloomfield, 1858. September 10th, S. B. Dunlap, Washington, 1855. September 30th, Frank P. Jones, Hesper, 1855. October 10th, Roleun Chamberlain, Freeport, 1855.

#### 1889

April 9th, friends and neighbors assisted Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Wilson of Hesper celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding. They were Hesper residents since 1856.

April 24th, firm of Leonard & Son, Decorah, takes place of firm of Jas. Alex. Leonard.

April 23d, lightning struck Elevator "B" at Decorah, which destroyed same.

May 19th, Luther College burned. Lou and Dell Coleman, sons of Dr. W. F. Coleman, severely burned. The latter died from his injuries.

June 14th, German church two and one-half miles southeast of Ridgeway dedicated.

September 19th, record of land sale at \$40 per acre; this was considered above the average in this county.

September 19th, fire destroyed building of Julius Meyer at Decorah. Charred remains of Meyer found after the fire had been extinguished.

September 19th, new United Lutheran church at Decorah dedicated.

October, Tarvold Evenrud found dead on his farm at Glenwood. Supposed suicide.

November 18th, Sheriff Langland severely wounded by a shot from a tough he was arresting.

December 7th, N. H. Adams' seed warehouses wiped out by fire.

December 20th, farm home of Winfred Baker in Bluffton township burned.

December 30th, Todd Peck killed by the cars in C., M. & St. P. yards in Decorah. He was engaged in tagging cars, slipped on the end of a tie and went under the wheels.

Among the names of the pioneers who passed away during 1889 we find the following: January 4th, Mrs. T. W. Burdick, Freeport, 1856. January 17th, Mrs. S. B. Ervin, north of Decorah, 1850. January 27th, Wm. Birdsell, Frankville, 1851. Paris R. Baker, Bluffton; Sven J. Folkedahl; and Sever Gilbertson, Highlandville, 1859. February 5th, R. N. Sawyer, Ossian, 1855. March, Rollin Wilson, Decorah, 1855. March 25th, Albert Stonson Grindeland, Highland, 1852. June 2d, Ira Bloomfield, Decorah, 1854. June 17th, Isaac G. West, Freeport, 1855. June 29th, Robert Kirkland, Freeport, 1855. July 2d, B. F. Giles, Canoe, 1852. July 9th, Charles Brady, Bluffton, 1853. October 18th, Silas Dayton, Decorah, June, 1856. November 25th, Wilson W. McHenry, Decorah, 1855.

## 1890

January 1st, Rev. P. Garrahan of Decorah Catholic church departs for Ireland on a health recuperation trip.

January 2d, John Kavorik, a farmer residing near Conover, found dead in the road under circumstances indicating he had been kicked by one of his horses.

January 4th, Mrs. W. H. Valleau of Decorah passes away.

January 16th, two eagles trapped near Bluffton.

April 4th, fire in Calmar swept away property valued at \$11,000. The losers being John Scott, Jos. Wallender, and Town hall.

May 9th, Alice Glover received fatal injuries. The buggy in which she was riding was struck by the cars at the Broadway crossing in Decorah. She died two days later.

June 23d, heavy rains cause floods that do damage to great dams and bridges along the Upper Iowa and its tributaries.

September 22d, Mrs. Daniel Borst of Frankville, aged seventy-nine years, burned to death.

October 14th, new Luther College building dedicated.

Among the list of deaths we find the following pioneers: January 22d, E. M. Farnsworth, Orleans, 1855. February 9th, Mrs. T. M. Hoyt, Freeport, 1855. February 10th, Narve Gilbertson, Madison. February 3d, Gullick I. Berg, Decorah, 1850. March 13th, Thomas Headington, Canoe, 1859. April 7th, Mrs. Anna Morse, Bluffton, 1852. April 11th, Ephraim Webster, Burr Oak, 1855. June 3d, Mrs. Frank Snell, Bluffton, 1854. June 28th, Dr. John M. Green, Decorah, 1856. July 21st, Mrs. A. O. Lomen, Springfield, 1850. August 2d, Mrs. Mary Painter, Hesper, 1856. August 5th, William Fifield, Fremont, 1854. August 31st, James F. Moore, Washington, before 1851. September 1st, Iver Erickson, 1857. December 4th, William Rowlee, Orleans, 1854. December 6th, Frank E. Fletcher, Bluffton, 1853. December 31st, James B. Smith (died at Sioux Falls), Decorah, 1855.

## 1891

January 18th, Unity church at Decorah dedicated.

February 12th, an eagle was caught on Captain Gardner's farm that measured six feet and six inches from tip to tip.

March 19th, new opera house proposition on foot at Decorah. Subscription of \$10,000 secured in two days. Resulted in building of Grand Opera House.

April 20th, revival meetings begun by Rev. D. P. Brown which resulted in the organization of a Baptist church in Decorah.

June 2d, George Bernatz's flour mill at Fort Atkinson burned to the ground. Loss \$15,000. Insurance \$9,000.

August 2d, Ole Hopperstan killed by lightning while in a field engaged in harvesting.

August 13th, B. H. Sherdahl robbed of \$117 while in a saloon in Decorah.

October 17th, Michael Maley found dead. Evidently while driving home with a load of lumber the team got out of the road, sending the wagon over a slight bank and throwing him under the load.

During the year the names of the following old settlers are found among the deaths: January 4th, James B. Smith (died at Sioux Falls), Decorah, 1855. January 6th, Augustus P. Leach, Freeport, 1854. January 17th, Thomas N. Wilson, Hesper, 1856. February 23d, Wesley Bailey, Decorah, 1860. March 4th, Mrs. James Bucknell, Bluffton, 1855. April 3d, Mrs. Benjamin Headington, 1858. April 4th, Mrs. Lydia Lawrence, Decorah, 1858. April 6th, Rev. J. M. Wedgewood, Ossian, 1858. April 12th, Mrs. Mary Kenyon Glimps, Hesper, 1853. April 23d, Mrs. Mary E. Williams, Decorah, 1856. April 23d, Mrs. Abigail Letchford, Frankville, 1854. May 17th, James Bucknell, Bluffton, 1855. May 29th, Mrs. Harriett Beard, Bluffton, 1856. June 9th, Mrs. Phoebe Aldrich, Hesper, 1858. August 14th, Robert Kennedy, Burr Oak, 1858. August 21st, Ira Garfield, 1857. August 29th, Michel Omlie, Springfield, 1850. September 8th, Nicholas Battey, Hesper, 1856. November, Erastus V. Andrus, 1858. November 29th, Mrs. Charlotte Winship, Decorah, 1855.

## 1892

January 6th, opening of the Grand Opera House at Decorah. Speeches by prominent business men, also Hon. C. T. Granger, judge of Iowa Supreme Court.

January 13th, Gottlieb Krumm, first pioneer in Washington township, who arrived there with his family in 1848, passed away. Ernest Pim drove over embankment on Dug road, Decorah, and died later from injuries.

March 22d, Jacob Schwartz, while walking on the track near Nordness, was killed by the cars.

May 15th, Henry Bakke was killed by lightning while engaged in work as a cream gatherer.

June 22d, Sumner and Jackson townships visited by small cyclone. Over \$10,000 damage done.

June 23d, Flood in Dry Run inundated one-third of the city of Decorah, and much damage was done to property along the line of Dry Run and Upper Iowa river. Over twenty-nine bridges in the county washed away or badly damaged.

July 21st, Morrow Paper Manufacturing Company organized to operate the Freeport mill.

August 11th, Florence Morrison and Burton Shroyer of Castalia drowned in Turkey river at Clermont. A party of six attempted to ford the stream and drove into a deep hole.

September 19th, Valleau elevator, Decorah, burned.

September 26th, Free delivery of mail in Decorah ordered to begin December 1st. S. E. J. Halvorson and B. H. Adams were the first carriers.

October 7th, Corner stone of Decorah Baptist church laid.

November 9th, Martin Blake makes his advent as a country wrestler. He subsequently proved to be "Farmer" Burns, world champion.

November 23d, E. E. Meader, Hesper pioneer, awakened by burglars who compel him to open his safe and give over its contents, several hundred dollars.

December 22d, Frankville township land sells for \$50 per acre, a record price.

Deaths of pioneers: May 2d, Mrs. Charlotte L. McHenry, Decorah, 1856. May 10th, Hon. H. B. Williams, Hesper, 1858. May 11th, D. D. Webster, Washington Prairie, 1852. May 12th, John McKay, Frankville, 1854. May 29th, Mrs. Mira D. Wheatman, Calmar, 1850. May 30th, James McIntosh, Madison, 1855. June 8th, Mrs. Ira Bloomfield, Decorah, 1852. July 20th, H. H. Hintermann, Spillville, 1854. July 20th, Elizabeth H. Groves, Springfield, 1850. September 16th, Jos. Zahasky, Sumner, 1857. October 2d, Mathias Kneeskern, Frankville, 1858. October 7th, J. S. Daskam, Fremont, 1854. October 11th, Mrs. Bertha H. Evenson, Pleasant, 1851. November 16th, Mrs. Olson, Conover, 1852. November 18th, Mrs. Betsey A. Walker, Burr Oak, 1855. November 20th, Thomas Truman, Fremont, 1855. November 22d, Mrs. John Kessell, Fremont, 1853.

### 1893

January 1st, E. I. Weiser, pioneer druggist (1858), retires, and his son, E. J. Weiser, succeeds him.

January 28th, Walter E. Akers, former well known attorney, killed in railroad accident near Kent, Illinois. Twenty days of below zero weather in January, the coldest being 26° below.

February 19th, John C. Pearson killed by accidental firing of a gun at Rockvale, Colorado.

March 1st, Dr. E. B. Hutchinson, Decorah pioneer of 1858, and county clerk for four years, died at Taopi, South Dakota.

March 9th, word received that Col. J. E. Simpson, Winneshiek pioneer, is made commander of Nebraska Soldier's Home.

March 6th, C. N. Goddard, pioneer merchant, elected mayor of Decorah.

March 7th, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Tracy, Sumner township pioneers, celebrate fiftieth wedding anniversary.

March 20th, Calmar Manufacturing Company is organized with \$20,000 capital.

March 26th, Helmer Johnson, Calmar boy, killed by the cars.

June 10th, Prof. L. S. Reque of Luther College appointed consul at Rotterdam, Holland, by President Cleveland.

June 10th, Dr. Anton Dvorak, world famous Bohemian composer, comes to Winneshiek county to spend three months at Spillville. It was while here that he wrote his celebrated New World symphony. He also composed a quintette which he called "Spillville."

June 10th, in the announcement of awards in the dairy butter contest for



June at the world's fair in Chicago, Mrs. D. H. Leach of Freeport is first in Iowa with a score of ninety-six points.

June 29th, Decorah Windmill Company receives orders for mills to be shipped to Yucatan, Mexico, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

July 13th, Plans for new M. E. church at Burr Oak completed.

August 4th, Capt. M. A. Moore, who organized Company H, Ninth Iowa Volunteers, while residing at Burr Oak, dies at Omaha.

August 17th, Patrick Roney died at home of G. Severson in Canoe township under circumstances that caused Severson's subsequent arrest, trial and conviction of manslaughter. Roney had lived in the county since 1855.

August 22d, Hexom Brothers, in the Hutchinson building on Washington street, Decorah, burned. Loss \$9,500. Insurance \$6,500.

October 21st, George Cooney, pioneer of Decorah (1850) and Fort Atkinson (1853), passed away. Mr. Cooney was appointed agent to take care of the fort property until it was sold by the Government.

October 28th, Public Library Association formed.

November 1st, Ezekiel Cutler, first auditor of Winneshiek county, dies.

December 14th, Prof. H. W. Shiel of Luther College, explores Glenwood cave and reports length of 2,400 feet with a stream navigable for 1,400 feet.

Deaths of pioneers during the year as follows: January 16th, Cyrus Williams, Washington Prairie, 1855. January 28th, Benjamin Beard, Washington Prairie, 1851. (In Fresno, Cal.) March 1st, Arvilla Pugin, Frankville, 1852. March 30th, Mrs. W. M. Ranken, Frankville, 1856. (At Tonganoxie, Kas.) April 6th, Phineas Banning, Bloomfield, 1849. April 21st, Alva Tracy, Sumner, 1858. April 28th, Leonard Standring, Decorah, 1855. April 28th, Patrick Courtney, Bluffton, 1855. June 25th, John Herrick Coleman, Decorah, 1857. August 18th, Mrs. F. D. Sawyer, Ossian, 1858. August 13th, Christopher Todd, Fremont, 1855. August 15th, Hiram Wilson, Frankville, 1858. August 23d, Mrs. Wilson Daubney, Pleasant, 1855. September 3d, Lewis L. Cooke, Glenwood, 1853. September 15th, David Kinnison, Frankville, 1849, Canoe, 1850. October 9th, Violet McMurtrie Burdick, Decorah, 1858. October 14th, Mrs. Magne Langland, Pleasant, 1853. November 6th, Mrs. Jacob Zuchmayer, Decorah, 1858. November 19th, Amos Harris, Castalia, 1859. November 24th, Amos C. Earl, Springwater, 1858. November 29th, Willard Converse (at Cresco), Sumner, 1856.

#### 1894

January 15th, Hon. Henry M. Rice, who ran a trading post on the Peter E. Haugen farm southwest of Decorah in 1840, dies at San Antonio, Texas.

February 1st, Winneshiek county has eighteen creameries. There were two each on Washington prairie and Kendallville. The Ossian Creamery Co. operated one each at Castalia, Ossian, Festina and Nordness. Wm. Beard & Son operate one at Decorah, one at Ridgeway, and one at Frankville, and the others were located at Burr Oak, Calmar, Glenwood, Hesper, Locust, Spillville, and Highlandville.

February 1st, the death of Gjermund Johnson, the leader of the second party of Norwegian pioneers who came to the county in 1850, passed away.

February 11th, Jared Ferguson of Decorah celebrates his one hundredth birthday anniversary.

February 25th, Mrs. Sarah M. Thune of Washington Prairie dies from fright caused by actions of a horse attached to buggy in which she was riding.

March 6th, S. C. Treat, pioneer Decorah baker (1856), retires from business. Russell Tabor, founder of Hesper village, passed away. He was a pioneer of 1854.

March 12th, Snyder's store and Freeport postoffice burglarized and building badly damaged by blowing open safe.

March 8th, James Malloy, prominent resident of Ossian, passed away.

April 4th, Plymouth Rock mill, one of the early ones, bought by George Sears.

March 30th, Hon. D. O. Aker, Burr Oak Springs pioneer of 1854 and former state representative, died at his home at Ridgeway.

April 12th, a damage suit for \$5,000 brought by the wife of a man named Reihle against the county, settled for \$1,000. Reihle was one of two brothers whose threshing outfit went through a county bridge near Spillville and he was killed.

March 30th, town of Ridgeway votes to incorporate.

April 18th, Sheriff Christen searches homes of Frank Ferguson, George Strauss and John Hickey at Calmar, securing large amount of loot stolen from freight cars. Arrest and conviction followed.

May 12th, first mulct consent petition taken under new law is filed with board of supervisors. It contained the names of 78.2 per cent of the voters at the last general election. Decorah city council voted to make the tax \$800, adding \$200 to the amount stipulated by law.

May 20th, Capt. George Q. Gardner died.

June 7th, Mrs. Gabriel I. Osmondson of Pleasant township killed in a runaway.

June 13th, James Shea of Burr Oak died while under the influence of chloroform administered to perform operation.

June 26th, Kate Jennish of Decorah killed by lightning. In a hard storm she started to run from the home of her sister to her father's home and it is supposed she was killed by a bolt that struck a tree near by.

July 20th, Judge L. O. Hatch, of this district court, dies at his home at McGregor.

August 16th, extreme dry weather makes the fire hazard great. At Ossian on August 2d, a spark from the passing engine sets fire to dry grass and the town is menaced. In Sumner township on the 6th a threshing engine sets fire to a field on E. C. Wingard's farm and it was necessary to plow around it to put out the blaze. On the morning of the 7th the Gilchrist elevator in Decorah burned. During the week of August 9-12 heat expanded the rails on a newly laid track at Calmar so they curved four feet out of alignment. On the 7th a little son of Jas. Iverson, Hesper, was prostrated with heat while driving to Mabel, and died.

September 2d, bodies of George Wemett and Mrs. John Cater of Burr Oak discovered. Circumstances point to murder, and John Cater is subsequently convicted of the crime and sent to the penitentiary for life.

October 15th, new M. E. church at Burr Oak is dedicated.

Deaths: January 21st, Samuel Hunter, Bloomfield, 1855. January 23d, Ellen Fleming, Decorah, 1856. January 26, Dr. Austin Pegg, prominent physician and resident of Ossian. February 6th, John Stead, Burr Oak, 1853. February 2d, Andrew McIntosh, Madison, 1855. March 23d, B. O. Dahly, Freeport, 1854. March 16th, Joseph Huber, early Sumner pioneer. March 30th Albert Weiser (at Preston), Decorah, 1856. May 18th, Silas Gripman, Canoe, 1855. May 21st, John Twanley, Fort Atkinson, 1857. July 26th, John Kennedy, Decorah, 1858. September 11th, Mrs. Crescentia Rastetter, Spillville, 1851. October 6th, Mrs. B. Harmon, Franklin Prairie, 1850. December 22d, Mrs. Mary Carter, Bloomfield, 1856.

### 1895

January 11th, ten-year-old son of Torston Johnson of Glenwood frozen to death. It is supposed that while skating he broke through the ice and was so exhausted when he got out he could not go home.

January 31st, agitation for a new courthouse began.

February 3d, J. J. Marsh's machinery houses burned. Loss \$10,000. Insurance \$1,100.

February 5th, stores of Levi Fossum and J. C. Tarvestad and photo gallery of J. E. Borlaug, Decorah, ruined by fire.

March 4th, Doctor Daubney elected mayor of Decorah, beginning a service of eighteen years in the office.

March 15th, Alonzo Houck, proprietor of Burr Oak stage line, died suddenly from heart disease.

February 22d, word comes of the death of Ernest Willett, blind son of Judge G. R. Willett, in Germany, where he was studying music.

March 27th, M. W. Carey, superintendent of county poor farm, died.

April 16th, Decorah Congregationalists vote to build new church.

April 26th, Winneshiek Lodge, No. 58, I. O. O. F., celebrates seventy-sixth anniversary of Odd Fellowship in America. Dr. F. Andros, pioneer physician, died in Minneapolis. He was physician to the Winnebago Indians at Fort Atkinson in 1846.

May 9th, Doctor Cartwright secures for Grace Episcopal church, Decorah, the bell in the old Episcopal church at Waukon. The bell was a present to the Waukon church from Jay Cooke, noted Philadelphia banker.

June 20th, the census of Winneshiek county is 23,041, a gain of 513 in five years.

July 1st, George Q. Gardner Camp, Sons of Veterans, installed in Decorah. A camp at Hesper had been installed previously.

July 3d, Wm. Updegraff lays out Updegraff's addition to Decorah. A portion of the tract is now included in the city park.

July 9th, farm home of Michael F. McCabe, near Plymouth Rock, with its contents, destroyed by fire.

July 22d, Sumner W. Matteson, pioneer of 1857 and clerk of courts 1860-1864, died in St. Paul.

August 14th, Peter Peterson of Calmar has leg crushed by cars in Calmar yards.

August 22d and 23d, old settlers reunion held in Decorah.

August 30th, Jacob Cipera of Spillville arrested for shooting Frank Novotney. He was convicted of assault.

September 14th, Baker's store at Ridgeway burglarized of \$300 worth of goods. It was entered again October 2d and a large amount of stock taken.

September 16th, Rev. and Mrs. Ephraim Adams, pioneer pastor and wife, celebrate fiftieth wedding anniversary.

September 26th, Decorah becomes central station for Winneshiek county telephone lines.

October 2d, Jared Ferguson of Decorah dies at the age of 101 years, 7 months and 21 days. Pioneer Norwegians hold first reunion.

October 22d, Mrs. D. F. Knowlton celebrated ninetieth birthday.

October 8th, D. C. Tabor and wife of Hesper celebrate golden wedding anniversary.

December 26th, T. J. Crawford of Frankville has a \$1,300 pig. He bought it at the state fair and subsequently it was found it had cholera. The disease was transmitted to Mr. Crawford's herd and his losses represented the above sum.

December 24th, John Kern's home at Locust burned. It was a landmark, having been built by Wm. Vail, one of the first settlers.

Among the deaths of pioneers during the year we find the names of the following: January 18th, Mrs. Lucinda Garfield, 1857. January 23d, Sarah Jane Taylor, Canoe, 1853. January 24th, Wm. Vreeland (at Spirit Lake), Decorah, 1855. Jan. 27th, Sarah Smith Sharp, Canoe, 1851. January 28th, Mons K. Foss, Pleasant, 1853. February 1st, Judge E. E. Cooley, Decorah, 1854. February 5th, James Cameron, Military, 1854. February 7th, Jeremiah T. Atkins, Decorah, 1851. February 13th, Gilbert K. Opdahl, Decorah, 1850. February 14th, Martha M. McMullen, Canoe, 1854. March 25th, Mrs. Amelia Packard, Frankville, 1856. April 19th, Mrs. Maria Hogan, Decorah, 1858. June 18th, Michel Dibb, Madison, 1856. July 12th, Lorenz Stortz, Canoe, 1859. August 9th, Mrs. Judson E. Dean, Military, 1851. August 13th, John I. Ringstad, Madison, 1852. September 6th, Mrs. James Headington, Canoe, 1859. September 5th, Mrs. Isabelle Blanchard, Canoe, 1849. September 12th, Jos. McMahon, Decorah, 1855. October 11th, Richard Gripman, Canoe, 1855. November 12th, Mrs. John McKay, Frankville, 1852. November 18th, Ralph C. Pike, Decorah, 1856. December 12th, John Henry, Canoe, 1854. December 13th, B. L. Bisby, Hesper, 1851.

1896

January 1st, news comes of the death at Denver of Rev. W. A. Keith, who was the organizer and the first minister of the Congregational church at Decorah. He came to Decorah in June, 1854.

January 28th, burglars entered the store of J. A. Giesing at Calmar and one was killed by a shot fired at random from a son of Mr. Giesing, who was in a room upstairs.

February 6th, the city council considers a proposition to light the city by electricity. It was submitted to the voters and on March 3d won a substantial majority. Franchise was given to a Mr. Rolf, but this was forfeited, and on August 19th the council gave the franchise to Burtis & Howard of Minneapolis.

February 12th, residence of Mrs. Esther Pegg at Ossian consumed by fire.

February 16th, new Congregational church at Decorah dedicated.

April 5th, fire destroyed barn of John Wingate at Burr Oak. Seven horses and several head of cattle burned.

May 24th, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus McKay celebrate their golden wedding. Lived in Decorah for thirty-six years.

June 25th, hard storm. Rain fall was 2.02 in. in one hour.

June 24th, reorganization of Cemetery Association. Six acres purchased to enlarge Phelps cemetery. Archway to be erected by Mr. Phelps.

June 28th, Baptist church at Decorah dedicated.

July 1st, contract let for new school house at Decorah.

July 4th, Jacob Segmiller, Jr., thrown from the back of a horse on to cement side walk and killed.

July 27th, Congregational church at Decorah calls Rev. Mahlon Willett, their present pastor.

August 18th, little Schellhammer boy of Castalia fell from a sixty foot windmill tower, died two hours later.

September 2d, Luren Singing Society won honors at the annual Saengerfest held at Omaha.

October 22d, word is received of the death of Wm. Fannon, at Neleigh, Nebraska. He was a pioneer in this county, and served four years as county treasurer.

November 12th, after thirty-four years of existence the National Bank of Decorah succumbs to adversity. Closed by bank examiner.

November 27th, Y. M. C. A. rooms opened in Decorah.

December 14th, J. H. Mackenstadt's tailor shop at Decorah, looted and goods to the amount of \$1,200 stolen.

Among the deaths during the year we find the following names of pioneers: January 18th, Mrs. Jane Grout Coleman, Decorah, 1857. January 22d, Dr. William Parlman, Decorah, 1857. February 12th, A. W. Brownell (at Salem, Ore.), 1857. February 13th, Ezekiel E. Meader, Hesper, April 12, 1861. Mrs. Richmal Pollett, Burr Oak, 1855. February 17th, N. S. Marsh, Decorah, 1856. March 7th, Deighton B. Ellsworth, Decorah, 1855. Mrs. Sophia Hoffstrom, Decorah, 1856. N. H. Williams (at Mitchell, S. D.), Decorah, 1860. March 10th, Vincent Kapler, Spillville, 1855. March 23d, Thomas Mitchell, Hesper, 1856. May 2d, James McEnery, Decorah, during the '50s. May 15th, Mrs. Cynthia Bachelder, Bloomfield. May 24th, Mrs. Ingrid Haugen, Madison, 1850. June 1st, Mary Ann Gorman Birdsall, Frankville, 1854. June 29th, H. J. Harden, Burr Oak, 1857. July 1st, Mrs. N. C. Earl, Decorah, 1860. August 5th, Henry Heivly, Decorah, 1856. August 14th, Charles H. Jennish, Decorah. September 1st, George Daubney, Pleasant, 1854. October 13th, Amos Smith (at Beloit, Wis.), Decorah.

1897

January 7th, war is declared between the Iowa and Standard telephone companies, resulting in the latter being built to all parts of the county. The Decorah Electric Light Company organized. This was the forerunner to the Upper Iowa Power Company division of the Inter State Power Company.

January 13th, Sarah Campbell, first settler in Winneshiek county, died at her home near Castalia.

January 20th, Cater murder case sent back for retrial because of error in Judge Cooley's instructions to the jury. Change of venue taken to Fayette county and Cater was again convicted and sent to penitentiary for life.

January 25th, new Decorah High School building occupied. The building cost \$33,752.

January 27th, Samuel Murdock, judge of tenth district in 1855, died at his home in Clayton county.

January 29th, W. H. Oxley, well known Bloomfield pioneer, killed in runaway accident.

January 30th, Hon. John McHugh, prominent banker, stockman and politician, died at Cresco.

February 7th, Decorah Electric Light Company begins operation of plant.

February 18th, announcement made that Rev. Thomas Linchan is appointed bishop of Cheyenne. He was a priest of the Decorah-Bluffton charge in 1869-70, his first charge.

March 11th, Mrs. Joel Perry, daughter of Mrs. Sarah Campbell who died January 13th, found dead in bed. She came to the county with her parents in June, 1848.

March 20th, Citizens Savings Bank buys Finn building, corner of Water and Winnebago streets, Decorah, and announces it will be remodeled for new bank home. At a citizens' mass meeting at Calmar it was unanimously voted to build a new eight room schoolhouse with basement under the whole building.

March 22d, Judge Hobson declares Mullet petition is short of required 65 per cent.

June 6th, what was thought to be an earthquake shock was felt throughout this region.

July 5th, Decorah celebrated day of national independence with Sen. J. J. Ingalls of Kansas as orator. It was the greatest celebration ever held in this part of Iowa.

August 5th, American Pulp, Linen & Fibre Company buy Freeport Paper Mill and prepare to convert it into a flax fibre plant.

August 25th, F. W. Daubney nominated by republicans for Senator for Winneshiek and Howard district. At the time a suit was pending against him in which Charlotte Daubney, his aunt, demanded the return of \$7,000 of securities from the estate of her husband. He was defeated for the senatorship by D. A. Lyons of Cresco and the court ordered him to turn over the securities he claimed as a gift from his uncle.

October 16th, fire on Peter Roney's farm at Trout Run burns barn, seven horses, 500 bushels of oats and other property.

Deaths of pioneers during the year were as follows: January 7th, Stephen

Allen, Bloomfield, 1855. January 23d, Mrs. Salmon Shroyer, Bloomfield, 1856. January 24th, Mrs. J. H. Burhans, Bloomfield, 1855. January 27th, Wm. B. Goocher, Orleans, 1855. January 31st, Peter McMartin, Bloomfield, 1855. February 6th, Lyman Seeley, Decorah, early '50s. February 26th, Lueretia C. Talbert, Hesper, early '50s. February 28th, Sarah A. Husted, Moneek, 1851. March 22d, Mrs. Mary Holcomb, Bloomfield, 1854. March 29th, Dr. Wm. C. Battey, Hesper, 1855. April 7th, Geo. Heckle, Burr Oak, 1855. April 12th, Joseph M. Langhlen, Burr Oak, 1857. April 20th, Mrs. H. Holverson, Springfield, 1854. May 2d, Jacob Rotner, Canoe, 1854. June 14th, Thomas Russell, Canoe, 1854. June 21st, Mrs. Elizabeth Botsford, Decorah, 1857. July 1st, Ella F. Gripman, Canoe, 1854. July 25th, Walter Rathbun, Frankville, 1850. August 18th, Mrs. J. H. Porter, Burr Oak, 1857. September 1st, Wm. Russell, Canoe, 1855. September 7th, Dr. H. C. Bullis, Decorah, 1854; James Tyler, Decorah, 1853. September 14th, James Van Pelt, Decorah, 1853. October 7th, Wm. L. Iverson, Canoe, 1851. October 11th, J. N. Kelley, Bluffton, 1856. November 1st, Mrs. John DeCon, Moneek, 1850. November 6th, C. Van Wey, Frankville, 1856. December 6th, Jens Christopher, Springfield, 1854. December 20th, Mrs. Alva Tracy, Sumner, 1858. December, W. W. Wheelock, Decorah, 1855.

1898

February 10th, John Scott, first mayor of Calmar and well known merchant, passed away.

February 12th, jury in the case of F. W. Daubney, asking \$10,000 for libel from A. K. Bailey, returns verdict for defendant. Another case of \$10,000 against the Decorah Republican never got beyond the notice of suit being served.

February 18th, worst snow storm in years.

May 19th, city of Decorah orders eight blocks on Water street paved.

June, among the Winneshiek county boys who served their country in the Spanish-American war we find the names of Charles T. Bailey, Fred Gellerman, Lester Rice, Charles Larson, Ole Evenson, Lou Hafl, Herbert Haskel, Julius Schwarz, Hans Endustad, Will Asseln, Weld T. Burdick, Charles Drake, Charles Dwyer, Robt. Reynolds, M. Olson, E. Elzea, Wm. Coan.

June 29th, G. C. Krumm and wife at Fort Atkinson celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their location in Washington township, Winneshiek county.

July 18th, The Grand Opera house at Decorah gutted by fire. Loss \$15,000, fairly well covered by insurance. In August a contract was let for rebuilding. Finished in December.

July 26th, Mrs. Bertha Nelson of Madison township burned to death. A spark from her pipe set fire to her clothing.

October 4th, Nathan Peckham of Castalia killed in a runaway.

October 7th, Julius Huber of Fort Atkinson buried alive in a pit while engaged in road work. Smothered to death before he could be dug out.

December 10th, seven indictments returned by Winneshiek grand jury against J. H. Easton charging fraudulent banking. Five other indictments were previously secured. Trial of the cases was postponed until the statute of limitations expired.

December 12th, George R. Willett, pioneer attorney and legislator, passed away. He came to Decorah in 1857.

December 15th, John Kjerland of Highland township in a jealous rage kills Lars G. Aarhus. Subsequently he killed himself.

Among the deaths of the pioneers during this year we find the names of the following: January, Mrs. Aaron Street, Hesper, 1854. February 18th, Almira Mason Burdick, Freeport, 1852. February 16th, Henry Wingate, Burr Oak, 1859. February 25th, Christian Lower, Frankville, 1855. April 30th, August Draws (at Staples, Minn.), Decorah, 1853. April 10th, Mrs. Bridget Wilson, Decorah, 1854. April 14th, George C. Winship (at Tekoa, Wash.), Decorah, 1855. April 20th, Mrs. DeWitt Smith, Frankville, early '50s. May 13th, Robert F. Greer, Decorah, 1858. May 23d, William Henry Baker, Bloomfield, 1854. May 27th, Magnus Anderson Linnevold, Frankville, 1853. June 6th, Charles Henry Hitchcock, 1856. July 15th, Mrs. Gertrude Bidne, Pleasant, 1853; Ezekiel Webb, Canoe, 1854. July 16th, Theodore Weld Burdick, Decorah, 1853; Peter Sampson, Pleasant, 1852. October 3d, John W. Humphrey, 1859. Oliver Kenyon, Hesper, 1858. November 8th, Mrs. Louise Amy Weiser, Fort Atkinson, 1857, Decorah, 1859. Levi Moore (at Red Cloud, Neb.), Burr Oak, 1851. November 16th, Ole Evenson Hann, Springfield, early '50s. November 30th, Mrs. W. W. Wheelock, Decorah, 1855. December 18th, Mrs. Philip Pfister, Locust, 1855. December 24th, John R. Slack, Decorah, 1856. December 28th, Mrs. C. P. Gibbs, Glenwood, 1852.

1899

January 27th to February 13th, eighteen days of extreme weather, the average low readings of the thermometer being 20.33° below zero. On February 10th the mercury registered 34° below.

February 20th, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Broghammer celebrate golden wedding.

March 2d, Decorah and Calmar are engaged in lively fight over courthouse question.

March 9th, C. N. Goddard installed as postmaster of Decorah. In 1856 he was deputy postmaster to "Bill" Kimball.

April 21st, John Breckenridge, well known educator and founder of Decorah Institute, dies.

May 11th, the estate of John Fisher, pioneer Military citizen, on demand of county treasurer Nordheim, pays \$848.27 in back taxes for four years on sums varying from \$16,000 to \$22,000.

May 26th, Wm. H. Valleau, former mayor of Decorah, died in Chicago.

June 6th, Woodmen of Northeastern Iowa hold picnic in Decorah, with an attendance of eight to ten thousand people.

June 8th, Luren Singing Society of Decorah celebrate twenty-fifth anniversary.

June 10th, Decorah is fifty years old.

September 10th, banquet of B. Anundson on the attainment of his twenty-fifth anniversary as editor of Decorah Posten is a public affair attended by members of the Scandinavian Press Association and other prominent Norwegians from all over the Middle West.



September 30th, Mrs. Sewall Knowlton, Bluffton, pioneer (1859) died at the age of ninety-four years.

October 9th, paper mill at Freeport burned. Loss \$15,000. Insurance \$6,500. (It was rebuilt.)

October 29th, Lavina B. Benedict, founder of Benedict Home at Des Moines, passed away.

Among the deaths of pioneers during the year 1899 we find the following names: January 3d, John W. Thune, Glenwood, 1850. January 25th, Moses Gove, Hesper, 1856. February 18th, E. Blackmarr, Hesper, 1854. February, Mrs. Carrie Allen, Decorah, early '50s. February 17th, Timothy E. Fuller, Frankville, 1848. February 27th, Geo. N. Holway, Hesper, 1853. March 17th, J. H. Burhans, Bloomfield, 1855. April 10th, Mrs. H. R. Thomas, Decorah, 1858. April 26th, Charity E. Wingate, Burr Oak, 1859. May 20th, Wm. B. Updegraff, Canoe, 1854. June 22d, Enos S. Lambert, Bloomfield, 1854. July 25th, Mrs. John Greer, Decorah, 1857. August 22d, Mrs. Simson Drake, Decorah, 1856. September 10th, Peter Olson, Highland, 1854. September 25th, Mrs. O. P. Tenold, Calmar, 1855. October 15th, Eliza B. Todd, Fremont, 1856. October 15th, Philip Kratz, Sr., Lincoln, 1859. October 17th, Adam Steinmann, Decorah, 1853. October 23d, Mrs. J. C. Strong, Fort Atkinson, 1858. October 19th, Mrs. Tollef H. Larsen, Springfield, 1855. December 8th, Ole P. Tenold, Calmar, 1855. December 9th, DeWitt Smith, Frankville, 1855.

## 1900

January 18th, fire at Ossian damages the Ossian Band and M. J. Carter's law library.

January 29th, Dr. C. W. Amy died at Decorah. He came here in 1857 and in 1861 enlisted with the Second Colorado Cavalry, serving under General Blunt and Kit Carson.

February 1st, Winneshiek County Medical Society organized with Dr. P. M. Jewell as president.

January 31st, Capt. Hannibal Tower, prominent citizen of Fort Atkinson, passed away.

February 10th, Corp'l Willis McMartin, Company G, Forty-fifth U. S. Infantry, died in Philippines from malaria fever. He was a Castalia boy.

February 14th, People of Fort Atkinson start movement for a state park to include site of old fort, but nothing ever came of it.

March 24th, Col. William Thurlow Baker, retired officer of the English army, passed away. He was a survivor of the Sepoy mutiny in India, and for his efforts in restraining the spread of disaffection among his own men he was rewarded by being given permission to organize the Fourth Regiment of Ghoorkas and he was made their commander. After coming to Decorah in 1865 he was prominent in the Decorah Woolen Mill Company during its greatest activity.

April 4th, Mrs. Olinda C. Willett, widow of Judge G. R. Willett, pioneer lawyer, passed away.

April 7th, Theodore Thorson of Canoe comes to Decorah and disappears. His body was found several days later in the river, death having been due to accidental drowning.

April 6th, Dr. E. Cartwright, well known physician, died.

April 25th, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Barfoot, pioneers of Decorah and Madison townships, celebrate golden wedding.

May 10th, J. L. Windell, Castalia resident, writes relatives that he has disposed of mining interests at Nome, Alaska, for \$20,000.

May 22d, Mr. and Mrs. David Dorn of Ridgeway celebrate fiftieth wedding anniversary.

May 23d, Rural Free Delivery Route No. 1, Decorah, the first route in the fourth congressional district, is approved and recommended established. Rev. Paul Koran was instrumental in securing the service, which began July 1st, with Henry Viste as carrier.

June 3d, C. L. Lott kidnaps his daughter, who was being cared for by her uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Coleman. He was caught at Canton, Minnesota, and the child restored.

June 12th, Mrs. Nancy Self celebrated her one hundred and fifth birthday. She had been a resident of Decorah for forty-three years. (She was the mother of Mrs. Wm. Painter [Decorah, 1849], who died May 28, 1900, at Dexter, S. D. Mrs. Self died November 29, 1900.)

July 9th, J. J. Marsh of Decorah departs for Oyster Bay, New York. He was chosen as one of the committee of forty-five to notify Theodore Roosevelt of his nomination for the vice-presidency.

August 1st, Decorah city council orders paving on Water and Winnebago streets. Washington street was ordered paved to the bridge later in the year.

August 15th, Mrs. Toger Landsrud of Springfield gored by a bull and dies.

August 22d, Mr. and Mrs. James Daniels of Centennial celebrate golden wedding.

October 23d, Rev. R. Swearingen, pastor of Decorah M. E. church in 1872 and presiding elder of Decorah district, 1873-76, died at Marshalltown.

November 4th, Andrew Meyer, who settled near Fort Atkinson April 1, 1849, passed away.

Deaths of pioneers during the year 1900: January 4th, Mrs. J. R. Slack, Decorah, 1855. January 5th, Mrs. Ned Walsh, Decorah, 1850. January 17th, Mrs. Henry Adams, Decorah, 1855. January 26th, Mrs. Christian Lower, Frankville, 1855. February 26th, C. W. Allison, Decorah, 1856. March 6th, C. Christian, Pleasant, 1856. March 22d, John Fredenburgh, Canoe, 1850. April 13th, Mrs. Jens Christopher, Springfield, 1853. April 8th, G. W. Oxley, Bloomfield, 1854. May 12th, Mrs. Emma Perry, Canoe, middle '50s. July 10th, J. L. Cameron, Hesper 1858. July 23d, Mrs. P. Lyons, Jackson, 1856. July 31st, John Knox, Burr Oak, 1856. August 17th, Mrs. Chas. Golz, Decorah, 1857. September 10th, Mrs. Samuel Bolger, Canoe, early '50s. October 6th, Mrs. W. G. W. Sawyer, Decorah, 1855. November 10th, Lydia A. Blackinton, Decorah, 1856; Elling O. Ramsey, Frankville, 1852. November 22d, G. W. Russell, Canoe, 1854. November 30th, Mrs. C. A. McClintock, Frankville, 1849. December 10th, Gulbrand T. Lomen, Decorah, 1851. December 20th, Mrs. Butz, Lincoln, early '50s. December 22d, Lewis W. Updegraff, Hesper, 1858; Guttorm Allen, Springfield, 1854. December 27th, James Headington, Canoe, 1859.

1901

January 3d, census bulletin shows Winneshiek county has 23,731 people, a gain of 1,203 or 5.3 per cent in ten years.

January 5th, Locust postoffice, discontinued because the postmaster thought he could hold up the Government for \$300 a year, is restored.

March 31st, Ben Bear celebrated quarter century as Decorah merchant.

April 15th, Citizens Bank of Ossian begins business.

May 3d, James D. McKay (Frankville, 1851), pioneer lawyer and Representative of Winneshiek and Allamakee counties in the Legislature of 1854 and 1856, passed away.

June 7th, 8th, Union Fibre Company take over Freeport paper mill and begin manufacture of flax fibre.

July 4th, George Phelps gives orders for the erection of a receiving vault at Phelps cemetery.

July 28th, a season of extreme heat, which began on June 23d, is ended. The average high reading for thirty-six days was 96.28°. There were but five days in the term when the mercury showed lower than 90° and twenty-seven days showed 96° or higher. On ten days the record was 100° or higher, and the readings on July 20th to 26th were 105°, 107°, 100°, 105°, 107°, 105° and 103°, or an average of 104.6°. Crops were not damaged by the heat.

August 5th, E. P. Johnson nominated for state senator. He was defeated at the polls by Senator D. A. Lyons of Cresco.

September 14th, Mrs. Gertrude M. Olson of Pleasant township found in a deep ditch with broken hip. She became lost in the woods the Saturday previous, had fallen in the ditch, and laid there during three nights and two days of cold rainy weather.

October 24th, Ole Halvorson Valle of Pleasant township died. In 1844 he was employed by the Government to plow for the Indians located on the reservation in Winneshiek county, some of the plowing being done at Trout Run.

November 25th, Michael McCabe of Plymouth Rock killed by cars at North McGregor.

During the year the following old residents celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their weddings: February 2d, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Treat, Decorah. February 13th, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Puntney, Canoe. April 24th, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Riggs, Castalia. May 5th, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Gibson, Decorah.

During the year we find the following deaths of pioneers recorded: January 5th, Hans E. Sivesind, Glenwood, 1853. January 8th, Mrs. Sarah W. Landers, Decorah, 1856. January 23d, Mrs. Anna J. Spilde, Canoe, 1859. January 30th, Elling E. Vold, Madison, 1853. February 7th, K. Vigen, Washington Prairie, 1853. February 13th, Mrs. Ole Burrison, Hesper, early fifties. April 1st, Mrs. Stephen Berry, Burr Oak, 1856. April 18th, Jacob Haas, Decorah, 1857. April 25th, Jacob Thorgrinson Bjortuft, Springfield, 1853. April 23d, Rachel Hutchinson, Hesper, 1854. May 13th, George Tyler, Decorah, 1857. May 28th, Tarine Wennes, Highland, 1854. August 9th, Ezra Schoonmaker, Military, 1855. August 16th, Henry F. Dean, Bloomfield, early fifties. September 4th, Calvin Brown, 1855. October 10th, Anon Anderson, Frankville, 1857.

1902

January 12th, Rev. K. Seehuus' congregation in Highland township vote to build a new church.

January 10th, Winneshiek Co. Bank of Decorah buys G. R. Baker's bank at Ridgeway.

January 13th, David Dorn, prominent Ridgeway citizen, dies.

February 5th, Chinnoek's shoe store in Decorah burned. Estimated loss \$11,000, insurance \$8,000. Incendiarism was suspected as the cause.

February 16th, new Methodist church at Ridgeway dedicated. This parish was the nursery of a number of prominent ministers in the church.

February 20th, J. J. Marsh celebrates fortieth anniversary as Decorah business man.

February 25th, announcement of the organization of the Castalia Savings Bank is made. It opened for business in March.

March 1st, Thomas Letchford, prominent Frankville resident, died.

March 9th, K. I. Haugen celebrates quarter century of merchandising in Decorah.

March 24th, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Casterton, Highland township pioneers, celebrate golden wedding.

April 22d, fire destroys feed mill and other property of John McMillan, Hesper, causing loss of \$5,000. In the property consumed was a Percheron stallion raised by Mr. McMillan that was a first prize winner at the International Live Stock Show the previous fall.

April 17th, Adolph Meyer, prominent citizen of Calmar, died.

April 22d, Mrs. David Kinnison, wife of Canoe pioneer, passes away. She came to the county with her husband in the fall of 1849.

May 8th, question of building new courthouse is again under discussion.

May 21st, flood in Dry Run does greatest damage in history of county. Milwaukee railroad track and bridges from Peterson's grove to Decorah practically all demolished, only one bridge left intact in Decorah. Thousands of dollars in property destroyed; the infant child of Charles Clark drowned; John Garver died from heart failure caused by fright; Richard Bucknell and family taken from hole cut in roof of his house, which was carried two blocks from its foundation and landed against Mrs. Ellen Curtin's house, and M. T. Torsen narrowly escapes drowning. The loss in county bridges alone was \$40,000.

May 27th, Dr. E. T. Wilcox of Frankville died.

June 17th, survey of proposed Decorah-Preston electric line commenced. (Aside from the survey it never progressed farther.)

July 1st, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Emory, Canoe pioneers, celebrate golden wedding.

July 2d, Joseph Mott, of the pioneer band of Quakers (Springwater, 1855), dies.

July 21st, Levi Bullis, pioneer lawyer, dies. He came to Decorah in 1854.

July 26th, Wm. Painter, who was a first settler in Decorah with the Day family in 1849, dies at Dexter, South Dakota.

August 13th, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Ousley celebrate golden wedding.

August 17th, First Lutheran church of Decorah celebrates twenty-fifth anniversary.

August 28th, Albert Severson killed by cars at Ossian, August 22d, and Charles Hargraves suffers same fate at Decorah, August 27th.

September 17th, board of supervisors issue statement concerning the old courthouse and announce that the question of building a new one will be placed before the voters at the November election. (It carried by 966 majority.)

September 29th, K. P. lodge organized in Decorah.

October 7th, at a special election the town of Decorah and West Decorah vote to annex. The school districts were also annexed.

October 15th, C. N. Goddard celebrates fortieth anniversary as pioneer merchant of Decorah.

October 30th, ten deaths are recorded during the preceding week. The most prominent one among them is Capt. E. I. Weiser, pioneer druggist (1856), soldier and citizen of Decorah. Others were Simon Broghammer, Pleasant township, 1857; Peter T. Tvenge, Springfield, 1853; Mary Ann Huber, Fort Atkinson; Lizzie Martinek, Washington township, 1857; August Schrubbe, Decorah, 1862; Ernest G. Hegner; Ragnor J. Monrad, an editor on Decorah Posten; Mina C. Aasen, Decorah, and Ole A. Blegen, one of the pioneers of Glenwood.

November 6th, Winneshiek County Bank will incorporate after a life of forty-six years as a private institution.

November 1st, Rev. M. S. Drury, one of the first members of the board of supervisors, dies in California.

Other deaths of pioneers recorded during the year of 1902: January 1st, John Theilich, Decorah, 1853. January 4th, James Stringer, Decorah, 1856. January 27th, Francis Tucker, Freeport, 1854. January 30th, Mrs. Caroline Allen, Hesper, 1857. February 6th, John S. Losen, Hesper, 1851. February 14th, Margaret Olson, Pleasant, 1854. March 18th, Mrs. Thomas Mitchell, Hesper, early fifties. March 30th, D. L. Richards, Bloomfield, 1855. May 3d, Ole Anfinson Tweet, Pleasant, 1854. May 18th, Mrs. Wm. Telford, Decorah, 1859. June 6th, Marit Rovang, Springfield, 1850. July 9th, J. C. Strong, Fort Atkinson, 1857. July 12th, Mrs. Geo. N. Holway, Hesper, 1852. July 16th, S. O. Wilson, Decorah, 1854. July 11th, Mrs. Joseph Adams, Frankville, 1855. August 6th, Mrs. Harriett Smith, Bluffton, 1857. September 1st, Lawrence Falck, Fort Atkinson, 1853. September 13th, Mrs. Dominick Curran, Glenwood, 1858. October 2d, P. McCusker, Frankville, 1858. November 18th, George Yarwood, Calmar, 1855. December 14th, Mrs. Peter Aye, Decorah, 1857. December 15th, Peter L. Wennes, Highland, 1854. December 23d, Timothy Finn, Decorah, 1855. December 19th, George W. McKay, Frankville, 1851. December 25th, Mrs. Jeddidiah Miller, Canoe, 1856.

1903

February 17th, Calmar postoffice burglarized and between \$300 and \$500 taken.

March 4th, contract for building new courthouse awarded to O. H. Olson of Stillwater for \$74,875. (This only built the shell. Another bond issue of \$50,000

was necessary to complete it.) Workmen in tearing down the old building find hidden in the northeast cornice two old-fashioned folding silk sunshades of 1850 vintage, five combs, five plaited linen shirt fronts and a bolt of tape. How they got there the oldest inhabitant couldn't say.

March 21st, Congressman Haugen announces he will recommend J. J. Marsh for postmaster at Decorah. (Mr. Marsh held the office nearly nine years.)

April 14th, Mrs. Frederica Sellman of Locust dies at the age of eighty-eight years. She came to Winneshiek county in 1860.

May 7th, word comes of the death at Center Grove, Minnesota, of Thor Peter Skotland, first Calmar pioneer.

May 8th, Mrs. A. K. Sogen died. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hegg and was born December 16, 1855, in Springfield township.

May 18th, Tim Ahern of Calmar, roadmaster of I. & M. division of C., M. & St. P. Ry., killed by being knocked from train at Cresco.

June 18th, the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America held in Decorah. Thousands of visitors attended the meeting, which lasted a week. Rev. J. A. Otteson, Rev. H. A. Stub and Rev. N. Brandt, three of the seven original ministers, survive. The occasion is also the anniversary of the marriage of Rev. and Mrs. V. Koren, and of their coming to Winneshiek county. King Oscar of Sweden and Norway honors Reverend Koren by conferring upon him the degree of commander of the order of St. Olaf, and Rev. H. A. Preus and Dr. Laur Larsen are made Knights of St. Olaf.

August 18th, Rev. V. Koren and wife celebrate golden wedding.

August 22d, cornerstone of new courthouse laid.

September 1st, Decorah Methodist church celebrates semi-centennial.

September 10th, Decorah city council lets contract to pave Washington street from bridge to Milwaukee tracks.

September 11th, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Nicholson of Military township celebrate golden wedding.

September 19th, J. J. Marsh, pioneer dealer in farm implements, retired from business.

October 11th, United Lutheran church in Springfield township celebrated fiftieth anniversary.

November 30th, Samuel Rosa, Frankville pioneer, fell from load of hay and his neck was broken.

December 23d, G. O. Rustad, who came to Decorah in 1855, passed away. He was treasurer of the Lutheran Synod from 1862 to 1900.

December 31st, in the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago, Miss Belle Christopher of Decorah and Wilma Porter, daughter of Mrs. Nellie Landers Porter, lost their lives. Mrs. W. F. Coleman (now Mrs. B. H. Adams) was painfully injured.

Deaths of pioneers during the year were as follows: January 1st, Mrs. G. W. Estey, Monck, 1854. January 10th, Tollef Vick, Sr., Springfield, 1854. January 22d, Norris Miller, Decorah, 1855. January 31st, Mrs. M. P. Riggs, Castalia, 1854. February 14th, Mrs. Mary L. Boyd, Decorah, 1851. February 15th, Robert Burrows, Bluffton, 1852. February 27th, Moses Hostetler, Frankville, 1851. March 10th, Mrs. Gunhild Bakke, Frankville, 1851. March 14th, Joseph Bowland, Calmar, 1856. March 11th, Moses M. Lockwood, Fort Atkin-

son, 1856. March 31st, Almon Rice, Bluffton, 1857. April 22d, C. B. Riggs, Bloomfield, 1854. April 24th, Wm. King, Burr Oak, 1854. July 8th, Henry R. Thomas, Decorah, 1854. July 16th, Mrs. Andrew Smith, Burr Oak, early fifties. July 28th, Gullbrand Gullbrandson, Decorah, 1852. July 29th, Mrs. Milo Emory, born in Canoe in 1853. August 2d, Betsey A. Snell, Bluffton, 1854. August 8th, John McMartin, Bloomfield, 1851. August 31st, Mrs. A. C. Ferren, Decorah, 1857. September 16th, Mrs. Oline O. Ellingson, Calmar, 1858. October, John Odson, Springwater, 1857. November 4th, Mrs. Eliza M. Decker, Decorah, 1850. November 9th, Peter Roney, Decorah, 1855. November 8th, John Walton, Sr., Orleans, 1855. November 4th, Elijah Briggs, Burr Oak, 1855. December 2d, John Lawrence, Jackson, 1852. November 22d, John Cameron, Orleans, 1854. December 14th, James P. McKinney, Fort Atkinson, 1857. December 16th, Mrs. Jane Wilsie, Burr Oak, 1854.

1904

January 29th, funds to build new Winneshiek Hotel in Decorah raised in one day. (The work was begun July 1st and was completed April 20, 1905.)

February 11th, Edna Lawrence succeeds her father, John Lawrence, as postmaster at Navin. He held the office thirty-four years.

February 26th, Prof. H. T. Ytterboe of St. Olaf College, Northfield, dies. He was born November 25, 1857, in Springfield township.

May 21st, in district court Mrs. Lucy A. Fairman is given the estate of Almon Rice valued at \$30,000. Plaintiff introduces letters to prove she is the illegitimate daughter of Rice.

July 6th, C. J. Weiser presents a clock to the county to be installed in the tower of the new courthouse. It is made in honor of his father and mother, both of whom were early pioneers.

August 6th, news comes of the death at Franklin Park, Illinois, of Henry Woodruff, editor of Decorah Journal from 1874 to 1893.

August 10th, at 10:40 A. M. the last stone on the exterior of the new courthouse was laid.

August 16th, Thomas Haugen of Springfield burned by traction engine.

September 23d, Capt. James E. Simpson, pioneer county surveyor and for many years U. S. revenue collector at Dubuque, died at Norfolk, Nebraska. Mrs. Simpson died a week later. C. P. Brown, former well known attorney, died at St. Paul.

September 29th, St. Mary's Catholic church, Festina, celebrates fiftieth anniversary.

October 11th to 13th, annual conference of Unitarian churches of Iowa held in Decorah.

October 22d, Friends' church at Hesper burned. (It was subsequently replaced by a new structure.)

October 29th, Jacob Aal Otteson, one of the seven charter member ministers of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America, died in Decorah.

November 5th, H. A. Bigelow, early day resident, murdered by T. I. Gifford in a quarrel over a trivial matter. Gifford subsequently escaped punishment, the jury finding he committed the crime while insane.

November 24th, new Winneshiek county courthouse completed and occupied.

During the year golden weddings were celebrated as follows: July 3d, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hamre, Springfield township. August 6th, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Falek, Calmar. September 24th, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Garden, Springfield township. September 27th, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Hoyt, Decorah.

The following names of pioneers appear in the record of deaths: January 23d, Almira Allen Russell, born in Frankville, 1858. January 31st, John Adam Kern, Pleasant, 1855. February 25th, Mrs. Rowena Libbey, Orleans, 1857. February 24th, Wm. Brinkman, Lincoln. March 2d, Eliza King Leach, Canoe, 1854. March 22d, Mrs. Claiborn Day, Decorah, 1857. March 17th, Jane McMillan Hallock, Hesper, 1852. March 22d, D. T. Manning, Burr Oak, 1853. April 16th, Charles Rudolph, Decorah, 1859. April, Henry C. Palmer, Burr Oak, 1855. April 17th, S. S. Wade, Burr Oak, 1850. April 26th, John Heckel, Burr Oak, 1855. May 23d, O. W. Ellingson, Pleasant, 1854. May, Peter J. Falstad, Hesper, 1856. June 2d, Mrs. A. C. Smith, Springfield, 1853. June 14th, Thomas K. Morrison, Bluffton, 1855. June 14th, Andrew Bakken, Madison, 1854. June 23d, Caroline Russell Giles, Canoe, 1855. July 10th, Dominick Curran, Glenwood, 1858. July 23d, Mrs. C. W. Rowe, Hesper. August 1st, Mrs. Silas H. Hendrickson, Glenwood, 1852. August 6th, Melvin Green, Bloomfield, 1850. September 6th, Mrs. Charles Rudolph, Decorah, 1859. September 15th, Mrs. M. J. Boland, Hesper, 1858. September 16th, Mrs. Abbie Malanaphy, Bluffton, 1854. September 25th, John Barth, Pleasant, 1855. October 10th, Israel Birdsell, born in Frankville in 1852. October 21st, T. A. Windell, Bloomfield, 1853. November 16th, Mrs. John Heckel, Burr Oak, 1857. December 23d, J. Pickworth, Calmar, early fifties.

## 1905

January 5th, Winneshiek County State Bank celebrates fiftieth anniversary.

January 7th, W. S. Bucknell, Decorah architect, departs for Panama to be employed on the big canal.

April 27th, New Winneshiek Hotel formally opened.

May 24th, John C. Todd, prominent farmer of Fremont township, passed away suddenly.

June 7th, Decorah city council orders paving of seven blocks of city streets and alley in blocks 10 and 11.

June 12th, Student Singers of Norway visit Decorah and give concerts.

June 20th, Burr Oak old settlers' picnic brings reunion of large number of old residents.

June 22d, Freeport paper mill burned.

June 22d and 23d, North Iowa Veterans' Association meets in Decorah and is attended by six score old soldiers.

July 11th, Elizabeth Douglass Adams, wife of Rev. Ephraim Adams, pioneer pastor of Decorah Congregational church, dies at Waterloo.

August 12th, Mrs. Gottlob Krumm of the second pioneer family to locate in the county (June 29, 1848) dies at her home at Fort Atkinson. She was the mother of eight children, seven of whom survived her. At the time of her death she was eighty-six years of age.



August 23d, Iver Larson, Decorah merchant and Canoe township pioneer of 1851, passed away.

August 22d, Mr. and Mrs. James Daniels (Frankville, 1852) celebrate their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary.

September 2d, William Jennings Bryan lectured in Decorah.

September 14th, census of Winneshiek county is 24,109, a gain of 378 in five years. Decorah's population, 4,018.

September 17th, Mrs. Andrew Meyer, who came to Winneshiek in 1849, celebrates eightieth birthday.

October 21st, Henry Schulze, well known contractor and builder of Decorah, died suddenly at Mabel, Minnesota.

November 1st, E. O. Schjeldahl celebrates thirtieth anniversary as merchant at Highlandville. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Kramer of Castalia celebrate golden wedding.

October 29th, New Friends church at Hesper dedicated.

November 14th, board of supervisors let contract for building of concrete bridge to cost \$15,000 over Upper Iowa river in Decorah.

November 16th, C. N. Goddard, pioneer merchant, announces that he will retire from business, closing a career of fifty years.

November 20th, C. C. Bates, veteran horseman, died at his home in Decorah. In "Thalberg" he owned one of the most noted horses in the Middle West.

S. W. Field, aged eighty years, died. He came to Decorah in the early '60s.

November 26th, corner stone of new Lutheran church laid in Ridgeway.

December 7th, Jane Amy McKinney, pioneer of Fort Atkinson in 1857, died at Cleveland, Ohio. She was an ardent member of the W. C. T. U. and enjoyed something more than a local reputation as an able champion of that work and the fight for equal suffrage.

Deaths of pioneers recorded during the year:

January 2d, Mrs. Susan A. Reed, 1854.

January 24th, James Sharp, Hesper, 1853.

January 29th, D. C. Taber, Hesper, 1855.

February 5th, James McKernan, Bloomfield, early '50s.

February 22d, Mr. Brockman, Military, early '50s.

February 15th, James McMillen, Hesper, 1852.

March 20th, Charles Golz, Decorah, 1857.

March 12th, Thomas Daly, Fremont, 1852.

March 21st, George Strayer, Freeport, 1858.

April 19th, Louis Nolte, Decorah, 1850.

April 21st, Franklin Dean, Bloomfield, 1854.

April 22d, Lydia C. Aldrich, Hesper, 1856.

May 1st, Amos J. McKay, Freeport, 1856.

April 26th, C. E. Dickerman, Decorah, 1855.

May 6th, Ellen Giles, born in Canoe, 1856.

—, John H. Pierce, Burr Oak, 1854.

July 30th, Mrs. Anna M. Christianson, Pleasant, 1854.

—, Mrs. L. P. Frazine, Decorah, 1856.

August 31st, Tolley Halvorson, Military, 1854.

August 22d, Mrs. John Ammon, Decorah, 1852.

September 21st, Mrs. M. Forde, Pleasant, 1856.

November 12th, Mrs. C. F. Hiller, Spillville, 1855.

1906

January 2d, Decorah city council raises mulet tax from \$600 to \$1,200.

January 9th, Mrs. A. Bradish celebrated her eightieth birthday on the 5th and R. F. Gibson celebrated his eightieth birthday on the 8th. (Both are still living and in fair health.)

February 10th, Mrs. David Taber celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Settled in Hesper in 1855.

April 12th, papers of this date record the death of Alexander McKay, a prominent citizen and one of the pioneers of the county, having settled in Decorah in 1853. For several terms he served as a member of the city council.

May 13th, Knut Thompson, who came to Decorah in 1854, passes away. He was sheriff of Winneshiek county from 1869 to 1873.

June 6th, cyclone hits Canoe and Highland townships with total damage of \$50,000. The heavy losers are: E. T. Selness, \$10,000; G. Fawcett, Carrie Luross and Kittle Severson, \$3,000 each; Nels Larson, \$800; Lewis Larson, \$300.

July 3d, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Newcomber of Hesper celebrate golden wedding. (Mrs. Newcomber died July 28.)

July 25th, old Fort building at Fort Atkinson, used by Mrs. A. Cooney as a residence, narrowly escapes burning.

August 3d, Swenson Valve Company, Decorah, incorporated.

June 2d, board of supervisors buy twenty-seven voting machines from U. S. Standard Voting Machine Company. The act was repudiated by the voters.

June 23d, Eric Anderson and John W. Stiles, prominent Decorah citizens, pass away. Mr. Anderson came to Springfield township in 1850 and was sheriff from 1861 to 1865. Mr. Stiles came to Decorah in 1855 and was pioneer liveryman, later engaging in hotel business.

June 30th, Congress appropriates \$5,000 to buy postoffice site in Decorah.

June 27th, Rev. C. A. Marshall died at Cresco. He was an early day pastor of the Burr Oak Congregational church.

June 30th, Luther College Concert Band departs on its first trip to the Pacific coast.

August 21st, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Reed celebrate fifty-fifth wedding anniversary.

September 20th, Aaron R. Young died at Waucoma. He was a soldier at Fort Atkinson in 1848, and his marriage to Mary A. Rogers on February 11, 1849, was the first ceremony of its nature in the county. He was transferred to Fort Snelling a few weeks later and did not return to take up his permanent residence in the county until 1851.

October 22d, A. W. Kramer, pioneer merchant of Castalia, passes away.

October 20th, Mrs. E. E. Meader, the pioneer woman of Hesper township, died.

November 20th, Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Dresselhaus celebrate golden wedding.

December 11th, Decorah State Bank opens for business.

December 21st, Rev. H. B. Woodworth, pastor of Decorah Congregational church from 1872 to 1882, dies at Grand Forks.

December 23d, Reed & May's implement stock in J. J. Marsh building, Decorah, burned. Loss about \$7,000.

Record of deaths of pioneers during the year 1896 as follows:

January 25th, Nels N. Quandahl, Sr., Pleasant, 1856.

January 31st, Joel Dayton, Decorah, 1856.

February 5th, Mrs. A. K. Bailey, Decorah, 1860.

February 18th, Grandma Torgrimson, Springfield, 1851.

February 19th, E. T. Ytterboe, Springfield, 1854.

March 3d, Anders O. Lomen, Springfield, 1850.

March 8th, John Ammon, Decorah, 1854.

April 19th, E. E. Lomen, Springfield, 1850.

April 29th, Mrs. Eunice Cooney, Fort Atkinson, 1854.

May 21st, William McMullen, Canoe, 1854.

June 9th, D. N. Hoyt, Freeport, 1854.

August 3d, Mrs. J. M. Green, Decorah, 1856.

August 16th, A. A. Benedict, Springwater, 1856.

August 19th, George Pennington, Decorah, 1858.

August 24th, Mrs. Signe B. Christen, Decorah, 1854.

August 30th, A. H. H. Perkins, Decorah, 1854.

September 11th, Mrs. James Sharp, Hesper, 1853.

September 12th, Mrs. S. S. Wade, Burr Oak, 1852.

November 2d, George Bolles, Bluffton, 1857.

November 9th, H. S. Tucker, Canoe, 1855.

November 17th, Mrs. Maria C. Daniels, Frankville, 1852.

November 30th, Wm. McLain, Canoe, 1857.

December 14th, Mrs. S. C. Treat, Decorah, 1857.

1907

January 7th, James A. Watterson, brother of the late Bishop Watterson of the Catholic church, and cousin of Henry Watterson of Louisville Courier-Journal, dies at home of his son-in-law, J. P. Wangler.

January 10th, Prof. Elmer L. Coffeen, a Decorah boy, chosen as superintendent of the Lyman School for Boys at Westboro, Massachusetts. This school is a reformatory for wayward boys and the selection of Professor Coffeen as superintendent marks him as one of the foremost workers in the "boy movement" in America.

January 14th, King Haakon of Norway confers degree of Knight of St. Olaf upon B. Anundsen, editor of Decorah Posten.

February 15th, O. P. Thompson, retired merchant and one of Decorah's best known citizens, died.

February 14th, Judge Hobson sentences Ambrose Duffy to forty years in the Anamosa penitentiary. Duffy confessed to assault upon a prominent lady of the county and of burglary at Immaculate Conception Academy, Decorah.

March 8th, K. I. Haugen celebrates thirtieth anniversary as Decorah mer-

chant. The retirement of C. N. Goddard leaves Mr. Haugen as the ranking pioneer.

March 21st, secretary of treasury selects the Levi Bullis office corner as site for new federal building in Decorah.

March 24th, the foundation of big dam built by Upper Iowa Company in Glenwood township proves defective and the structure is undermined and demolished. Loss upwards of \$40,000.

April 13th, the Colonel Taylor cabin in Canoe burned. For many years it was the summer home of Col. J. W. Taylor and contained many relics of the war.

April 25th, James Porter, Mrs. Susan Johnson and Mrs. Barnes, all old residents of Burr Oak, die within the week.

April 28th, new Synod Lutheran church in Madison township dedicated.

May 28th, Prof. Thron Bothne and Prof. Lyder Siewers die a few hours apart. They had been co-workers as teachers at Luther College, and at the time of their deaths were both doing editorial work on Decorah Posten—both men of unusual talents.

May 25th, fire and water cause loss of \$25,000 to stocks of Larsen Brothers and A. Niesh & Sons, Decorah.

June 13th, C. J. Mills, Ossian's postmaster, dies.

June 23d, Sheriff Qualley catches Harry F. Kurb, who passes worthless checks in Decorah. The fellow proved to be a noted check forger. Kurb got ten years.

June 27th, Rev. H. A. Stub, one of the founders of Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America, and pastor of the Big Canoe church for twenty-six years, from 1865, passes away. (He was the father of Rev. H. G. Stub, present president of the Synod.)

August 5th, Mrs. T. J. Qualley, wife of sheriff, detects Harry Kurb attempting to saw bars of jail windows. Nels Duff was subsequently arrested and convicted of supplying saws to Kurb, and sent to Fort Madison.

October 13th, Laur Larsen Hall at Luther College dedicated.

October 16th, new mill dam built by Geo. Weist on Turkey river at Fort Atkinson is undermined and demolished.

October 28th, owing to panic in money market the banks of Decorah go into a clearing house basis and issue clearing house certificates. The office of the Decorah Republican was "the mint" for about twenty-four hours, during which \$100,000 of certificates were printed.

November 6th, George Phelps, pioneer wagon maker and blacksmith, died in Cheltenham, England. He came to Decorah in 1854 and here laid the foundation of his fortune that had grown to a half million dollars at the time of his death. By the terms of his will, Phelps cemetery, Decorah, was endowed with a sum sufficient to provide handsomely for its future care and up-keep.

November 21st, Capt. Roald Amundsen, Arctic explorer, is guest of his countrymen in Decorah.

November 20th, Rev. Ephraim Adams, pioneer pastor of Decorah Congregational church, died at Waterloo.

December 14th, Rev. O. E. Schmidt welcomed as pastor of United Lutheran church at Decorah.

December 25th, Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Carolan of Bluffton celebrate golden wedding.

December 30th, Mrs. John G. Melaas, Orleans pioneer, died.

During the year 1907 the following names of pioneers are found recorded among the deaths:

- January 10th, C. L. Beebe, Freeport, 1855.
- January 13th, Martin Bottsford, Decorah, 1855.
- January 24th, Knut G. Nordheim, Pleasant, early '50s.
- January 25th, Wm. Hess, Festina, early '50s.
- February 9th, C. W. Rowe, Hesper, 1854.
- February 14th, Anna M. Volding, Glenwood, 1853.
- February 17th, H. J. Brickner, Decorah, 1857.
- March 4th, John J. Wold, Decorah, 1854.
- March 6th, Mrs. Gilmore Kendall, Kendallville, 1860.
- April 11th, Hiram Rosa, Frankville, early '50s.
- April 17th, Magne Langland, Pleasant, 1853.
- April 22d, James Daniels, Frankville, 1852.
- May 9th, Geo. W. Shattuck, Frankville, early '50s.
- May 14th, Grandpa Mikish, Spillville, early '50s.
- May 20th, Mrs. Mercy Chamberlin, Frankville, 1852.
- June 2d, Mrs. Henry F. Dean, Bloomfield, 1854.
- June 20th, Mrs. C. B. Riggs, Bloomfield, 1854.
- July 12th, Jacob Headington, Canoe, 1858.
- July 20th, Mrs. Harriett C. Tabor, Hesper, 1855.
- July 31st, W. H. Bently, Bluffton, early '50s.
- August 10th, Mrs. Wm. Glover, Canoe, 1853.
- October 10th, John Ward, Sr., Burr Oak, 1854.
- October 25th, John Van Pelt, Decorah, 1853.
- October 29th, Diebold Stoskopf, Pleasant, 1850.
- October 28th, George W. Daskam, born in Fremont, 1857.
- November 29th, Daniel Price, Pleasant, 1855.

1908

February 3d, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McMasters celebrate golden wedding. They were married at Freeport.

February 5th, contract for new school building for Immaculate Conception Academy, Decorah, awarded to Geo. Brunner, at \$5,490, without heating and plumbing.

February 10th, Samuel Magnus, Civil war veteran and former member of board of supervisors, dies at Ridgeway.

February 13th, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Puntney of Canoe celebrate fifty-seventh wedding anniversary.

April 2d, Dan Shea, former county superintendent and lawyer, died in Decorah.

April 23d—During the week Mrs. Wm. Beard (Frankville, 1852), T. M. Hoyt (Freeport, 1853), Heber Robinson (Freeport, 1854), and Andrew Williams, another old resident, pass away.

April 30th, three more pioneers die—Mrs. John Theilich (1853), Mrs. Zilpha Prothro (Decorah, 1856), and Halvor Garden, pioneer of Springfield.

May 6th, Cornelius Jennings of Ossian, sentenced to penitentiary for life for criminal assault upon his own daughter.

May 14th, Congress appropriates \$60,000 for government building in Decorah.

May 23d, Hemming Larson and Lauritz Ylvisaker of Luther College take state championship in collegiate tennis tournament at Cedar Rapids.

June 20th, tornado sweeps through Winneshiek county from northwest to southeast in a path twenty miles wide. Crops were pounded into the ground and trees were denuded of leaves and bark by hail, telephone lines were wrecked, bridges were washed out. In Decorah buildings were demolished or unroofed and thousands of panes of glass were broken. Hail stones were piled up in drifts all along the path of the storm and on July 4th following a large pile of them that had been washed into a gully and covered with leaves were found and used in freezing ice cream.

June 21st, Harry Crawford in a fit of jealousy attempts to kill Mrs. Edw. Ottaway and takes his own life.

July 17th, Mrs. Mitchell Debb, pioneer of Madison township, celebrated eightieth birthday (Mrs. Debb still lives and is in good health.)

August 20th, Henry W. Klemme, pioneer Lincoln township, farmer, died at Elma. (His wife followed him in death September 20th).

October 22d, Henry A. Baker, Bloomfield pioneer of 1850 and former legislator, died at Sioux City.

November 19th, J. C. Rollins (Burr Oak, 1864), and Jacob Jewell (Decorah, 1850) die on 13th and 16th, respectively. Mr. Rollins won prominence as an importer of horses and Mr. Jewell was a member of the board of supervisors for several terms and of the Iowa Legislature.

James Murr, Decorah, burned to death. It is supposed he set fire to his bedding while smoking after retiring.

December 18th, burglars steal \$400 worth of goods from store of F. P. Cizek at Fort Atkinson. John Hogan and Richard Martin, two tramps, are arrested for the crime and subsequently convicted. When they appeared before Judge Hobson he recognized Hogan as an old offender who had been sentenced by him twice before and he gave him a term in the penitentiary that will keep him confined the balance of his life.

Record of deaths of pioneers during the year:

January 9th, Moritz Lange, Bluffton, 1856.

January 11th, James H. Easton, Decorah, 1858.

January 11th, Lars Severson, Decorah, 1856.

January 30th, Erick Bakke, Decorah, early '50s.

February 22d, Johannes Wernsen, Highland, early '50s.

February 24th, Joseph Todd, Decorah, 1858.

March 9th, Henry Adams, Freeport, 1855.

March 9th, Henry Yager, Pleasant, 1857.

March 23d, Amiram Smith, Frankville, 1851.

March 24th, Wm. Murdock, Bluffton, 1855.

April 23d, Halvor K. Boe, Calmar, 1857.

May 6th, David Easter, Fremont, 1857.

May 9th, A. C. Ferren, Decorah, 1857.

May 24th, Lars O. Bergeson, Glenwood, 1854.

June 17th, A. H. Groves, Springfield, 1850.  
 June 13th, Mrs. Geo. Miles, Hesper, 1855.  
 July 18th, Mrs. R. F. Greer, Decorah, 1856.  
 July 23d, Mrs. Noris Miller, Decorah, early '50s.  
 August 23d, John Klemish, Sr., Spillville, in the '50s.  
 September 5th, Myron Dean, Bloomfield, 1853.  
 September 5th, Mrs. John VanPelt, Decorah, 1853.  
 September 5th, Mrs. Sigre B. Busness, Frankville, 1850.  
 September 23d, C. T. Hoyne, Springfield, early '50s.  
 October 4th, Jacob Exe, Highland, early '50s.  
 November 21st, Mrs. Jacob Haas, Decorah, 1856.  
 November 28th, Mrs. Geo. Yarwood, 1854.  
 December 17th, Linus Curtis, Orleans, 1853.  
 December 20th, Jacob Zuckmeyer, Decorah, 1857.

## 1909

February 10th, a Sons of Veterans camp is organized, with William Linnivold as commander.

March 20th, Nathan Drake, Glenwood pioneer, passes away. Among others who died during the year are William Renken of LaCrosse; Mrs. John W. Thune; Mrs. Mary Ann Feltin of Burr Oak; John B. Kaye, Calmar's talented lawyer and poet; Hulver Hulverson, Decorah; Cyrus Wellington at Belsam Lake, Wisconsin; John Spriggs of Bluffton; Adeline V. Minert, Frankville; John L. Kittlesby of Calmar; A. J. McClaskey, Decorah; James T. Relf, Decorah; Mrs. Lucy Briggs, Burr Oak; Henry Moore, Frankville; Andrew T. Gunderson, Ossian; Mrs. Anna Martinek, Fort Atkinson; Mrs. Harriett Todd, Kendallville; William M. Barthell, Decorah; William Puntley, Canoe; E. M. Carter of Hesper; E. R. Scott of Madison; Mrs. H. A. Thornton of Castalia; Mrs. Ann M. Houck, Burr Oak; John Thurlow Baker in St. Paul; Mrs. E. E. Cooley, pioneer of Decorah; Mrs. Z. B. Landon of Burr Oak; Mrs. J. C. Rollins, Decorah. On September 20th Ansel K. Bailey, senior editor of the Decorah Republican, passed away. On November 12th, Clark N. Goddard, pioneer merchant and former postmaster of Decorah, died.

The big event of the year was the first Home Coming. Over seven hundred former residents of the county registered during the week. They came from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, from as far south as Galveston, and from as far north as Northwestern Canada.

The Nordness creamery was burned during the summer; loss, \$4,000.

## 1910

January 3d, 10° below zero and an extra foot of snow gives Winneshiek county two feet on the level and all trains are blockaded.

January 24th, Cresco papers announce the death of Mrs. William Webster, one of the pioneer mothers of western Winneshiek.

January 29th, Lieut. Ole A. Anderson died at his home in Decorah at the age of seventy-six years.

February 4th, Rev. O. E. Schmidt brings charges against E. P. Johnson and proceedings for disbarment will begin before Judge Hobson. Later found guilty and disbarred.

February 4th, Mrs. R. F. Gibson passed away. A pioneer of Decorah in 1858.

February 10th, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Seegmiller celebrate golden wedding.

February 11th, Claiborne Day, the last resident member of the first white family in Decorah, died at his home in Decorah, aged 83 years 6 months and 5 days.

March 2d, Germond Merrill died at his home in Frankville township.

March 6th, Mrs. Anton Hegg dies at family home in Decorah. A resident of the county since 1855.

March 31st, by vote of 480 to 10 Decorah decided to grant a franchise to J. J. Donelan of Waverly to erect a gas plant.

April 15th, Simeon V. Potter, for many years agent of the Milwaukee railway in Decorah, died in Calmar after an illness of ten weeks. He was undoubtedly the oldest employe in steady service on the Milwaukee road in the state.

April 18th, Moses Oren, a pioneer of Highland township, passed away.

April 26th, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Barfoot celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding.

May 15th, Rev. Abraham Jacobson, one of the pioneer Norwegians of the county (Springfield township, in 1850), passed away. He was a former member of the Iowa Legislature.

May 16th, Hon. Ove Gude, Norway's minister to the United States, is given a banquet at the Winneshiek Hotel. He delivered 17th of May address in Decorah.

May 20th, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Marsh celebrate their golden wedding.

June 23d, the Calmar Savings Bank incorporates with E. J. Curtin as president and S. E. Brickner as cashier.

August 12th, A. J. Cratsenberg dies suddenly at the home of his son-in-law, L. B. Whitney, at Decorah.

September 16th, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Cadwell celebrate their golden wedding.

October 15th, the Silver Creek creamery at Burr Oak is destroyed by fire.

October 24th, work under the superintendency of Mr. Harmon is begun on the Decorah postoffice.

November 12th, Bernard Dresselhaus dies at his home in Pleasant township. He was a pioneer of 1850.

November 14th, the Highlandville schoolhouse is destroyed by fire.

December 10th, Rev. U. V. Koren, president of the Lutheran Synod of America, pioneer Lutheran minister of 1853, and beloved pastor of the Washington Prairie church all the years since, passed away in his eighty-third year.

#### 1911

During the year 1911 the following well known and old residents passed away: January 2th, Peter E. Haugen and H. S. E. Reuken of Decorah; January 4th, Mrs. John Scott, Calmar, frozen to death; January 24th, Daniel A. Reed of Decorah, ranking pioneer, one of the early settlers in Bloomfield township; Robert Waters, Frankville; February 10th, Mrs. Duncan McMartin, Castalia; February 18th, Henry Broghammer, Hesper; February 28th, Mrs. D. H. Hughes, widow of Col. D. H. Hughes, Decorah; May 6th, Silas B. Ervin of Decorah, age ninety years;



May 16th, Mrs. H. J. Green, wife of Editor Green of Decorah Public Opinion; June 7th, Anton Hegg, Springfield township pioneer; August 19th, W. G. W. Sawyer of Decorah; September 9th, William Holmes of Decorah, ninety-one years old. Mr. Holmes helped to build the Whitby & Pickering railroad in England and rode on Stephenson's "Rocket;" helped build the Grand Trunk railroad in Canada and the Northern Pacific railroad; September 17th, H. L. Coffeen, Decorah; October 5th, John McAndrews, Decorah, killed by the Milwaukee train; October 22d, James M. Lennon, Washington Prairie; December 7th, Edward Vine, and December 8th, Thomas Graham, both of Decorah.

The following people celebrated their golden weddings during the year: February 14th, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Miller, Decorah; March 7th, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Summers, Fort Atkinson; April 11th, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gellerman, Decorah; July 5th, Mr. and Mrs. F. Einwalter, Fort Atkinson; August 15th, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Knowlton, Decorah; October 29th, Mr. and Mrs. G. Heuser, Decorah.

January 1st, Law and Order League organized.

January 4th, Elizabeth Wendling falls on ice in her yard and is not found until badly frozen. She died April 20th. May 3d, while examining her home \$3,400 in cash is found.

January 24th, Dr. Laur Larson retires from active teaching after fifty years on Luther College faculty.

February 16th, Decorah Gas Company begin operating their plant.

February 16th, Carl Moen, of Washington Prairie, dies from injuries by a wood sawing machine. (March 8th, George Johnson of Glenwood, killed by the same machine.)

March 8th, K. I. Haugen celebrates thirty-fifth anniversary as Decorah merchant. Work on Decorah federal building begins.

April 25th, corner stone of Decorah federal building laid by Masonic fraternity. Grand Master Craig and Grand Secretary Parvin have charge. Odd Fellows assist in exercises.

May 2d, Judge Fellows decides Thomas J. Qualley is the duly elected sheriff of Winneshiek county. Philip Carolan was the contestant.

May 6th, Ben Bear celebrates thirty-fifth anniversary as Decorah clothier.

May 29th, Henry Wesselman and family of Calmar have collision with Milwaukee train near Fort Atkinson. Mr. and Mrs. Wesselman sustained fractured skulls and a son and daughter are killed.

June 10th, E. J. Curtin, president of Citizens Savings Bank of Decorah, is elected president of Iowa Bankers Association.

June 21st, Luther College holds fiftieth commencement exercises.

June 22d, Luther College Concert Band starts on trip to Pacific coast.

July 1st, Frankville, second oldest postoffice in the county, is discontinued.

July 20th, Sivert Larson, Decorah clothier, secures a tract of ground from Prof. M. Updegraff for city park.

August 10th, Upper Iowa Power Co. decide to build a second dam in Glenwood township.

October 14th, Luther College celebrated semi-centennial. King Haakon of Norway sends greetings. Endowment fund of \$250,000 is raised, of which James J. Hill contributes \$50,000.

October 26th, Mrs. Anna Baker of Glenwood township celebrates 90th birthday.

1912

January 4th, while working around the McMillen gristmill at Hesper, Ole Ness was caught in the machinery and had both legs broken, and was injured about the head, causing death.

January 11th, the record shows that the thermometer has not risen above zero since December 21st.

January 18th, word comes from Frankville that Geo. M. Andersen fell and struck his head, injuring the optic nerve so blindness ensued. He is a pioneer and veteran soldier.

January 25th, on Saturday last Mrs. William Thurlow Baker died at the family home in Decorah from the infirmities of old age.

February 1st, the Decorah Farmer's Ice Cave Creamery is an established fact.

February 4th, M. H. Merrill died at his home in Decorah after a lingering illness.

February 15th, the new postoffice is completed and accepted by the government.

March 12th, Mrs. B. T. Barfoot passes away, after a long illness. Mr. Barfoot followed her April 2d. They came to Madison township in 1855, having lived in Decorah before that year.

March 16th, Mrs. John T. Baker, a resident of Decorah for the greater part of her life, passed away at St. Paul.

June 13th, Mrs. Loretta Webster Tuttle, of Decorah, passed away.

June 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Jacob Schaub, of Decorah, celebrated their golden wedding.

July 17th, Judge L. E. Fellows of the District Court, died at his home in Lansing.

July 20th, in the morning several large balloons were seen sailing over Decorah. From messages dropped it was learned they started from St. Louis in the Jas. Gordon Bennett race.

July 20th, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Larson, of Highland township, celebrated their golden wedding with some 500 guests and twenty-five grandchildren.

August 23d, E. P. Johnson, formerly attorney at Decorah, passed away at his home in Minneapolis.

September 9th, Hans P. Johnson, a well known harness dealer in Decorah, died at the LaCrosse hospital.

September 13th, Anderson Bros.' barn at Decorah was entirely consumed by fire. Twenty-two valuable horses and a span of mules were burned. Loss \$15,000.

September 14th, postoffice at Calmar robbed during the night. \$75,000 secured.

October 3d, owing to a second crop of strawberries, several families in the county enjoyed short cake at this time of the year.

Deaths of three well known residents are recorded this week. Mrs. C. J. Ambli, Decorah; Mrs. John Odson, Decorah, and Jos. Beiderman, a resident of the county for many years.

October 15th, John G. Barthell, a former resident of Decorah, died at Ocean Grove, N. J.

November 1st, Mayor F. W. Daubney of Decorah passed away after a critical illness covering nearly three weeks, diabetes being the cause. His funeral the following Sunday was one of the largest ever held in the city.

November 8th, A. D. Thomas, a well known resident of Decorah, passed away. He came to Decorah in 1859.

November 17th, Jacob Haas, of Decorah, died suddenly of heart failure.

November 20th, Dr. W. D. Kellogg, a pioneer dentist, died at his home in Decorah.

November 24th, Mrs. Peter E. Haugen, a resident of Decorah township in 1855, passed away.

December 5th, the mulct petition has been abandoned because of failure to secure the necessary signers.

December 21st, Judge John DeCou dies at the home of his son near Ossian. Judge De Cou was a pioneer of Frankville township, coming there with his bride in 1850. He was County Judge and also served one term in the State Legislature.

December 29th, fire destroys N. R. Groff's hardware store, the law office of E. W. Cutting and W. M. Strand in Marlow buildings, and does considerable damage to Wangler Drug store, and the Trzcinski and E. I. Weiser buildings. Loss \$40,000, fairly well covered by insurance.

## 1913

January 1st, Dr. Laur Larson, president emeritus of Luther College, lays down his pen, and retires to private life after fifty-one years in school room, pulpit and editorial chair.

January 3d, as a result of the Groff fire, the Winneshiek County State Bank secures the E. I. Weiser property and takes steps to erect a new building. (Sept. 23d, as these notes are being written, the building is nearing completion.)

January 14th, Mrs. James Stringer, pioneer Decorian, badly burned when her dress catches fire from the stove. She died several weeks later.

January 8th, Decorah firemen vote to purchase lots at corner of Water and River streets as site for future auditorium.

January 13th, E. O. Schjeldahl, pioneer Highlandville merchant, dies after long illness from typhoid fever.

January 19th, C. B. Lonnon, pioneer citizen of Frankville (1855), dies in Decorah.

January 18th, Miss Matilda Smith (Bluffton, 1855), dies in Decorah.

January 20th, E. A. Bakken, Ridgeway merchant, died suddenly.

February 22d, boy scouts organize in Decorah and Decorah Institute building is secured as headquarters and gymnasium.

March 7th, C. W. Burdick, pioneer of 1853, dies at his home in Decorah.

March 2d, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Stoskopf of Decorah celebrate their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary.

March 16th, Tormod Holton, who settled on Washington Prairie in 1849, dies at the age of ninety years.

April 3d, death of George Allen, former member of board of supervisors and Castalia resident, reported.

April 17th, movement to secure electroliers for Decorah street lighting meets with success.

April 15th, Daniel P. Hawes, widely known settler of 1860 on Washington Prairie, passed away.

April 13th, Mrs. Matilda Broghammer, aged Ossian woman, killed by the cars while on her way to church.

April 10th, J. H. Haug, leading merchant and capitalist of Spillville, dies in Milwaukee hospital.

May 15th, Wm. H. Smith offers \$10,000 for a hospital if citizens of Decorah will raise \$15,000 more. The proposition is accepted, and the money raised.

June 3d, Gov. A. O. Eberhart of Minnesota is guest of citizens of Decorah and makes address at Luther College.

June 22d, United Lutheran church in Springfield township celebrate sixtieth anniversary.

July 7th, George Harter of Locust has foot badly mangled in a mower accident and dies three weeks later. His parents were in Germany at the time and did not reach home until after his death.

July 10th, Jesse Schoonmaker badly injured by mower when team runs away with him in Decorah. The accident results in damage suits against Elmer Rosa, the boy's cousin, for \$20,000 and \$4,000, Newton Schoonmaker being the plaintiff for his son and himself.











DEC 9 - 1931

