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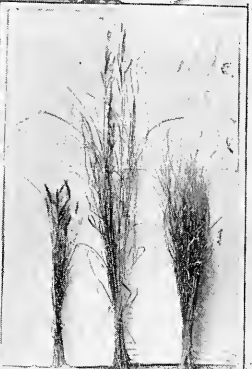
JOHN FRASER'S LOG HOUSE 1868



IRA STRONG'S LOG HOUSE 1865



JOHN WOOD'S STONE HOUSE 1870



NATIVE GRASSES.



TUMBLE WEED



LIZARD CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

MEMENTOS OF PIONEER DAYS.



THE  
*PIONEER HISTORY*  
OF  
*POCAHONTAS COUNTY, IOWA,*

FROM THE TIME OF ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME, IN

THREE PERIODS:

- I. 1855-1869, PERIOD OF EARLY SETTLEMENT BY THE PIONEERS.
- II. 1870-1882, PERIOD OF ORGANIZATION AND EARLY RAILWAY.  
CONSTRUCTION.
- III. 1883-1904, PERIOD OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

INCLUDING

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF EACH TOWNSHIP, TOWN AND  
IMPORTANT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE; BIOGRAPHICAL  
SKETCHES OF THE LEADING CITIZENS; AND  
AN INTERESTING OUTLINE OF THE

EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY

ROBERT E FLICKINGER, A. B., B. D.

Pastor of the Presbyterian church, Fonda, 1886-1902.

AND PUBLISHED BY

GEORGE SANBORN

Editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times, 1879-1900.

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PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS AND THE POR-  
TRAITS OF OVER 450 PERSONS.

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Fonda, Iowa,  
THE TIMES PRINT,  
1904.

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GEORGE SANBORN.

Member of Co. E., 4th Wis. Inf. and Cav. January 1, 1861 to June 19, 1866; Editor and Proprietor of the Pocahontas, now Fonda, Times from November 1, 1879 to January 1, 1901.



REV. ROBERT E. FLICKINGER.

Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Fonda, Oct. 1, 1886 to July 6, 1902; Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, July 1, 1892 to 1904; Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Iowa, 1901-02; Director of the Iowa State Temperance Alliance for the 10th Congressional District, 1890-94; Secretary of the Pocahontas County Temperance Alliance, 1888-1902; Secretary of the Fonda Bible Society, 1889-1904; Trustee of Buena Vista College and of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge; Organizer in 1901 of the movement to secure a reasonable time limit to consent petitions under the Mulct law of Iowa.

# THIS VOLUME

IS

RESPECTFULLY

Dedicated to the memory

Of the hardy PIONEERS, who, coming from  
England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Norway, Sweden,  
Denmark, Germany, Bohemia and other countries or eastern  
States, patiently and heroically endured the privations and hardships,  
Incident to dwelling in humble CABINS, far out on the frontier, while  
They converted the wild prairies into fertile fields, planted groves, estab-  
lished schools, BETTER HOMES AND CHURCHES; and thus  
Laid the foundation of the progressive civilization that is  
Now enjoyed by the happy and prosperous people of  
POCAHONTAS COUNTY,  
IOWA.

The busiest life is but  
A chisel stroke of the Omnipotent;  
Enough for thee to make the little stroke;  
The Sculptor's eye is on the final touch.  
Have faith and wait, and waiting know this much,  
If error be not mightier than the truth,  
And wrong 'han right, and hell than heaven, then truth  
And right and heaven shall win; else God wills not  
To have them win. It must be the  
Omnipotent will yet demonstrate His  
Omnipotence, when once His will has stamped  
Its die upon the page of history.

—T. NIELD.

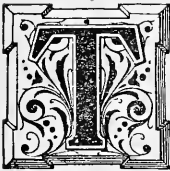


# PREFACE.

---

We will not wait until your heart shall cease  
To throb with human hopes and cares and fears,  
Before we wish you all the joys of peace  
And happiness, to crown your ripening years;  
No! While your heart is warm, and beats with ours,  
We bring our love, our friendship and our flowers.

—MRS. MCV EAN ADAMS,



THE author, after passing through a couple of periods of illness from which recovery seemed doubtful, has lived to see the completion of the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, while a number, some of whom were valuable helpers in the preparation of this work at the beginning, have completed the period of their earthly existence and passed to the enjoyment of their eternal reward. The preparation and publication of this volume have required many times the time, labor and expense anticipated, when it was undertaken. That which was undertaken as a pleasurable and useful employment for spare moments in pastoral and presbyterial work, has detained him as a resident of the county two years after the close of a delightful and honored pastorate of sixteen years at Fonda. But if the task has been long—a severe test to the author's patience, perseverance and power of endurance—the opportunity of placing so many of his fellow travelers through this world in a pretty historic setting has been greatly appreciated, and the work has constantly enlisted his best endeavor to make it a complete and worthy tribute of loving affection, to the memory of the hardy pioneers of Pocahontas county.

## Things That Endure.

It is delightful to have an opportunity of doing something in this world that will endure longer than our short and uncertain lives. All have the longing desire to be kindly remembered. "If we work upon marble," said Webster, "it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles—with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men—we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity." Some things quite evanescent, may yet leave an enduring impression. A rose has but a brief existence and yet it may leave a touch of beauty on the hearts of those who behold it. Charles Kingsley wrote, "Never lose an opportunity of saying anything beautiful. Welcome beauty in every fair face, every fair sky and every fair flower; thank Him for it, who is the fountain of all loveliness; and enjoy it as a feast, a cup of blessing." Sometimes the most transient things leave touches of beauty on the lives of others, or put inspirations toward sweeter and better living into their hearts.

## VIII PIONEER HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, IOWA.

It is possible to live so that many things we do shall last. In the sphere of unseen things, results are rated not according to dollars but moral values. There is no immortality to vanity and self-seeking. Only that which is inspired by love for others and is calculated to make the world better will endure. It ought to be one of the deepest longings of every heart to leave in this world something that will last and continue a source of comfort and blessing to others. Good and great thoughts are immortal. They can no more be buried than they can be burned or hanged. They are not affected by time, but are as fresh today as when they were uttered or expressed. George Elliott very truthfully writes,

Oh, may I join the choir invisible,  
Of those immortal dead, who live again  
In minds made better by their presence; live  
In pulses stirred to generosity,  
In deeds of daring rectitude,  
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,  
And by their mild persistence urge man's search  
To vaster issues; so to live is heaven.

Nearly every schoolboy knows the familiar lines that tell of the immortality of kind words.

"Kind words can never die,  
Cherished and blest.  
God knows how deep they lie,  
Stored in the breast."

"Heaven and earth shall pass away," said Jesus, "but my words shall not pass away." A good book also possesses the essence of immortality and will survive the decay and ruin of many other things. We are passing through the world but once, and

"For me to have made one soul  
The better for my birth,  
To have added but one flower  
To the garden of earth;  
To have sown in the souls of men  
One thought that will not die,  
To have been a link in the chain of life,  
Shall be immortality."

### The Spirit of the Pioneer.

The pioneers of Pocahontas county were principally tillers of the soil. In every country the life of the pioneer has been a struggle—a battle for life; but here, after a few short years of privation, they were more than conquerors. Here they found the bountiful earth, the teeming mother of riches. This fertile soil, splendid water, and bracing climate; these Iowa prairies—the sod of ages, full of rich, organic matter, the debris of thousands of crops of luxuriant grass—formed the prophecy and also the basis of their subsequent prosperity. Their history serves to show that it is a good policy to "stick to the farm," and that it is possible to "make the farm pay." The number of those, who have accumulated clever fortunes ranging from ten to thirty or more thousands of dollars on the farms in Pocahontas county, is many times the number of those, who have accumulated similar fortunes by embarking in business in the towns of the county.

"They also built churches where today they stand,  
For all the people lent a willing hand,  
And, when the sabbath bell summoned to prayer,  
The worldliest put away their week-day care;  
And flocked from miles around to hear the word.  
And hither came a man with snowy hair;  
He preached and they believed the holy things they heard.  
These were the men—not men but higher powers,—  
Whose hardy sinews, stiffening into steel,  
Grappling with the wilderness, made it a garden bower,  
And laid the sure foundation of the commonweal."

"The old pioneer days," in the language of President Roosevelt at the dedication of the building for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, May 10,

1903, "are gone with their roughness, their hardships, their incredible toil and their wild, half savage romance. But the need for the pioneer virtues remains the same. The peculiar frontier conditions have vanished, but the manliness and stalwart hardihood of the frontiersmen can be given even freer scope under the conditions surrounding the complex industrialism of the present day. The old days were great, because the men who lived in them had mighty qualities; and we must make the new days great by manifesting the same qualities. We must insist upon courage and resolution, upon hardihood, tenacity and fertility in resource; we must insist upon the strong, virile virtues; and we must insist no less upon the virtues of self-restraint, self-mastery and regard for the rights of others; we must show our abhorrence of cruelty, brutality and corruption in both public and private life." The hardy spirit of the pioneer is manifested in the present time by a readiness to advance along every way, that will secure new conquests for truth and righteousness, blazing the path and marking the way.

"Oh, blessed is he to whom is given,  
 The instinct that can tell,  
 That God is on the field, when He  
 Is most invisible.  
 And blessed is he who can tell,  
 Where real right doth lie,  
 And dares to take the side, that seems  
 Wrong to man's blindfold eye."

The successful men of Pocahontas county are presented to the reader in such a way in this volume, that the story of their struggles and achievements, like a voice from the past, tells how it was done. The veil of mystery has been drawn aside and the reader is told plainly the methods adopted by those, who have achieved the highest degree of success. Here the agriculturist or farmer will learn how the best results have been achieved on Pocahontas county farms. Here the horticulturist, or fruit grower, may learn the conditions of successful fruit culture in this county. Here the one who would embark in raising fine or fat stock, poultry or even "process butter" will find the valuable experience of those who have achieved a high degree of success along these lines. Here the aspiring young teacher will find an illustrious example, and the incentives to a high degree of efficiency in that noble art.

The people of Pocahontas county have indeed caught the spirit of the West; the spirit of efficient purpose and noble achievement; a spirit that faces the facts of life courageously, hopefully and successfully; a spirit that looks forward to the future and is undaunted by present disappointments; a spirit that moves on to educate and elevate; in fine, the spirit of truth, which is mighty to prevail, constitutes the nation's hope and controls the nation's destiny.

Everything has changed but the sky. It is the same that overhung the patient ox or horse team, that drew the canvas-topped schooner across these same prairies half a century ago. The mind reverts to those times and the heart swells with pride and reverence for those hardy pioneers, who, turning their eyes toward the setting sun crossed the great Father of Waters, and braved the dangers and privations of that lonely time, while they laid the foundations of the present progress and prosperity.

#### **The Author's Aim.**

The author in the preparation of this volume has kept constantly in view the following objects: To give an accurate narrative of the principal events in the history of this county, that should include all that was valuable to make it a complete record of the past; to avoid all partiality, partisanship and prejudice; to secure a fair representation of every interest and nationality in the county, including the pioneer women and teachers of the public schools, on its one hundred and ten pages of finely engraved portrait work; and in general to make it a volume of real interest and instruction to the young—the boys and girls in the public schools of the county—as well as to those advanced in life; and to the new settler as well as the venerable pioneer, to whose memory it has been specially dedicated.

The opening chapters, including pages 13 to 110, containing a brief synopsis of the Early History of Iowa, are intended to familiarize the reader with the important events in the history, and the public institutions and buildings, of a state, whose history and standing, among the states of the American Union, are worthy of the highest admiration.

The author, conscious that the value of this history would depend largely on the authenticity of its materials and correctness of its statements, has spared no time, labor or expense in his efforts to verify every statement. It contains many lists of proper names that have been obtained from many and very different sources;—the names of county officers from county records; names of homesteaders from the records of the United States land offices, civil and school officers from the records of each town and township, the founders and officers of churches and civic societies from their respective official records. All of these sources of information are supposed to be strictly accurate, and yet in a few instances of early pioneers, now dead or removed from the county, the variations in the spelling of the same name were so numerous, it was difficult to determine their correct form. The utmost vigilance has been constantly exercised and many letters have been written to the postmasters of the county and others to identify names that were similar, and secure uniformity in the spelling of each. A few instances of variation escaped notice. Pages 793 to 808 were unexpectedly printed in the volume, without correcting the typographical errors, that had been previously marked, while the author was spending a summer vacation in Puget Sound. These and some other slight variations in names, dates and sections of land, perceived or received too late for correction, have been noted on a separate page at the end of the volume. A review of them will indicate, however, that to the general reader none of them are of any special importance. The printing of this history, as a weekly serial in the columns of the *Fonda Times* afforded an unusual opportunity for the correction of any matters in regard to which the author was under a misapprehension; and it is believed that the highest degree of accuracy possible in such a work has been attained.

### History and Biography.

The study of history is a study of humanity, and that not in ideal conditions but as it exists. "Truth is stranger than fiction," and history not only furnishes a literature based upon truth, but also some of the most valuable information in the world. History is philosophy teaching by example and warning; it is the unrolled scroll of prophecy. Kossuth termed it, "the revelation of Providence." To forecast the future we must understand the present, and to understand the present we must know the past. Guizot, the great French historian, philosopher and statesman, observed, "Religion opens the future and places us in the presence of eternity; but history brings back the past and adds to our own existence the lives of our fathers." The men who make history do not always have time to write it; yet nothing strengthens a nation so much as familiarity with its history. It makes amends for the brevity of life and is the complement of poetry. We cherish the knowledge of the past that we may enrich the literature of the present, and be inspired to emulate the noble lives of our predecessors.

The study of history, as a means of cultivating the mind and for its immediate practical benefits, ever since the days of Moses, who wrote the pioneer history of Israel, and of Herodotus, the father of profane history, has formed a necessary part of a liberal and thorough education. He, who is able to make the facts and events of history the basis of philosophical reflection and generalization, discovers that there is a living spirit moving through it like the force that links every effect to its cause. God is always the same in dealing with men, and human nature is an invariable factor. One may learn the sure result of certain courses today, by learning what they have been in the past, and he is foolish who does not profit by the recorded successes or mistakes of others.

An easy and excellent grasp on history is obtained by reading the lives of those who make it; and among the most interesting and inspiring books that can be placed in the hands of young people are those that tell the life-story

and achievements of the men and women, who have made and left behind them the greatest and best impress upon their church, community or country. The lives of great men are our best instructors, and biography, which is history teaching by example, is one of the most charming and useful studies. A later life may be inspired and strengthened by the principles and achievements of an earlier one. The departed constitute a cloud of witnesses, who, looking upon the living with sympathy, know that human existence is not vanity, but can be made a splendid success.

He who studies the sayings and doings of the pioneers may avoid their mistakes and profit by their successes. The men who succeed are thoughtful, progressive and are never satisfied with ordinary advancement. This volume intended to be an appropriate and an enduring memorial of those who planted the institutions and developed the resources of Pocahontas county during the first fifty years of its history, contains briefly the experience and principles of nearly every one of its leading citizens.

There are indeed many standards of success or greatness; for men's ideas differ greatly as to what constitutes a truly great and successful man. Our Lord Jesus gave utterance to the sentiment, "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This is the standard of Heaven, though it is not always recognized on earth. At the head of all biographies stands the Book of Books, "the educator of youth, the guide of manhood and the counselor of age." It is a series of biographies of patriarchs and prophets, princes and heroic leaders, some of whom occupied a very lowly station in common life. This volume contains the biographical sketches and portraits of many who, from the humblest beginnings, have made the world better by their noble lives and worthy achievements.

"All who labor wield a mighty power;  
The glorious privilege to do  
Is man's most noble dower."

#### **The Portraits and Other Engravings.**

The hope is indulged that the numerous portraits and other engravings will prove an interesting and pleasing feature of the volume to every reader. The grouping of nine or more portraits on the same page at a nominal cost of one dollar each, minimized the space and made it possible to secure a portrait of the county officials, both past and present, and one or more representatives, either of the first or second generation, of most of the pioneer families in each of the towns and townships. The photographs used were obtained either from the persons or their nearest friends, and in a number of instances the one received was the only one in existence. Many of the first settlers in this county never had a photograph taken, and a representative of the family could be secured only through one from the second generation. In order to secure the portraits of some of the first county officials and first settlers in the older townships, it was necessary to use some old and faded photos. It was impossible for the engravers to make as pretty half-tone prints from these as from recent ones, but we did not care to omit them merely for that reason. The portraits have been printed upon fine paper, and the unusually large number of them make this volume a real treasury of human interest whose value, it is believed, will increase with passing years. Sallust says, "I have often heard that Quintus, Publius Scipio and other renowned persons of the Roman commonwealth used to say, that whenever they beheld the images of their ancestors, they felt their minds vehemently excited to virtue." It could not have been the wax nor the marble that possessed this power; but, the recollection of their great actions kindled a generous flame of noble aspiration in their hearts, that could not be quelled until they also had acquired equal fame and glory.

#### **Easy to Find Things.**

In order that this volume might be one of easy and ready reference, the title of each chapter has been placed at the top margin of the right hand page; and the townships have been arranged alphabetically, rather than numerically, geographically, or even according to the date of their settlement. The sketches of the pioneers in each township, save a few that were

received too late, are also arranged in the same order. The index is very copious, enabling the reader to trace quickly any topic treated in the volume, and the number of the page containing the biographical sketch has been placed first after each name. Names not printed under the engravings, on account of a lack of room, may be found in the list of portraits. Family lists, repeated there, show their order according to birth.

The author has endeavored to reach the ideal of a complete, interesting and instructive county history, and if this effort has not been crowned with success, the failure has been in the execution, rather than in the aim and purpose.

He has sang the praise of Iowa,  
 The fairest state of all the west;  
 And of Pocahontas county,  
 Where people dwell and prosper well  
 On the prairie or in busy town;  
 Where the sun is bright, and the stars at night  
 Shine like jewels in Nature's crown.

A grateful acknowledgement is made of the valuable assistance rendered by many on whom frequent calls were made to verify doubtful matters, and especially to those who freely furnished general matter for the narrative portions, in addition to those referred to in the introductory Note: To the recorders, secretaries and clerks of townships and towns, for official lists of officers; to Mr. James S. Smith for the early history of Plover; to the late Michael Crahan for valuable contributions to the history of Lizard township; to Mr. Fred A. Malcolm for a draught of the Indian battlefield at Pilot Creek; to Messrs. C. A. Grant and C. H. Tollefsrude for photographic views of places of historic interest in the northeast part of the county; to Mr. J. H. Lighter for the free use of the plate for the insertion of his (1903) map of Pocahontas county; to the presidents or superintendents of our state institutions for the numerous and excellent cuts of the Iowa state buildings; to the Interior, Chicago, for the four plates illustrating the Story of Pocahontas; to the Des Moines Daily Capital for the cuts of Governor A. B. Cummins and Senator J. P. Dolliver. Also, our indebtedness for the helpful information derived from the Plat Book of Pocahontas County, compiled and published in 1887 by the National Publishing Company, Philadelphia; and the Plat Book published by Mr. J. H. Lighter, Rolfe, in 1897.

The printing of the special pages of engraved work was done partly by the engravers, the Bucher Engraving Company, Columbus, Ohio, and partly by the binders, the Regan Printing House, Chicago.

### Mr. George Sanborn.

The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, as an undertaking or business enterprise, belongs to Mr. George Sanborn, editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times for more than twenty-one years. As it is now issued from the press, in the form of a fine royal octavo volume, it is a fitting memento and culmination of his long period of faithful and acceptable service of the people of this county and vicinity, through the columns of the Times. When he relinquished his interest in the Times to the Fonda Printing and Publishing Company, Jan. 1, 1901, he retained ownership of the Times building and of the Pioneer History, then incomplete. Whilst the author gathered the materials, prepared the copy, read the proofs and arranged the portrait work, including the printing thereof, this was done in response to the request of Mr. Sanborn. To him belongs the credit of projecting the work and of printing it so neatly from new type in the Times office. The people of Pocahontas county are to be congratulated upon the fact, that in outlining the plan and scope of this work, it was not limited to some special recognition of the readers of the Times, but was designed to be an historic tribute to the memory of all the hardy pioneers of the county. The public spirit manifested in launching and completing this work—the most important and valuable contribution to the literature of Pocahontas county—would seem to merit a high degree of appreciation on the part of those to whose memory it has been unselfishly dedicated.

Indulging the hope, that a considerate judgment will give just recogni-

PREFACE

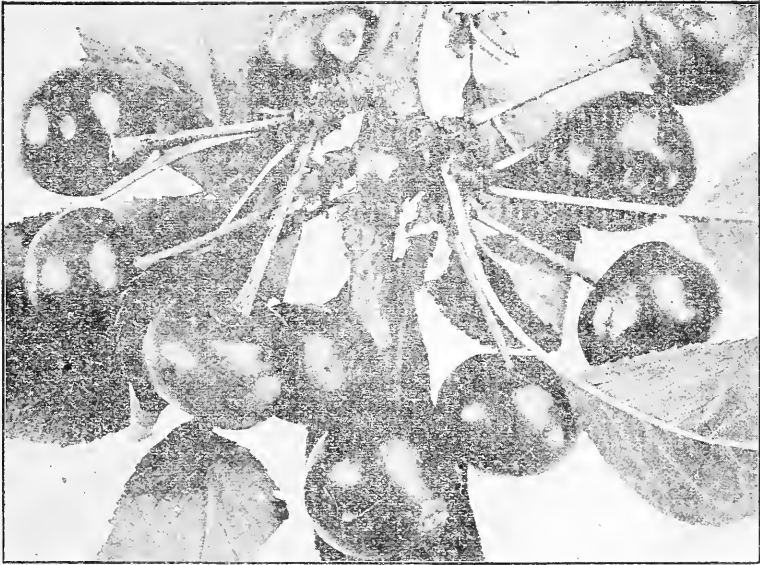
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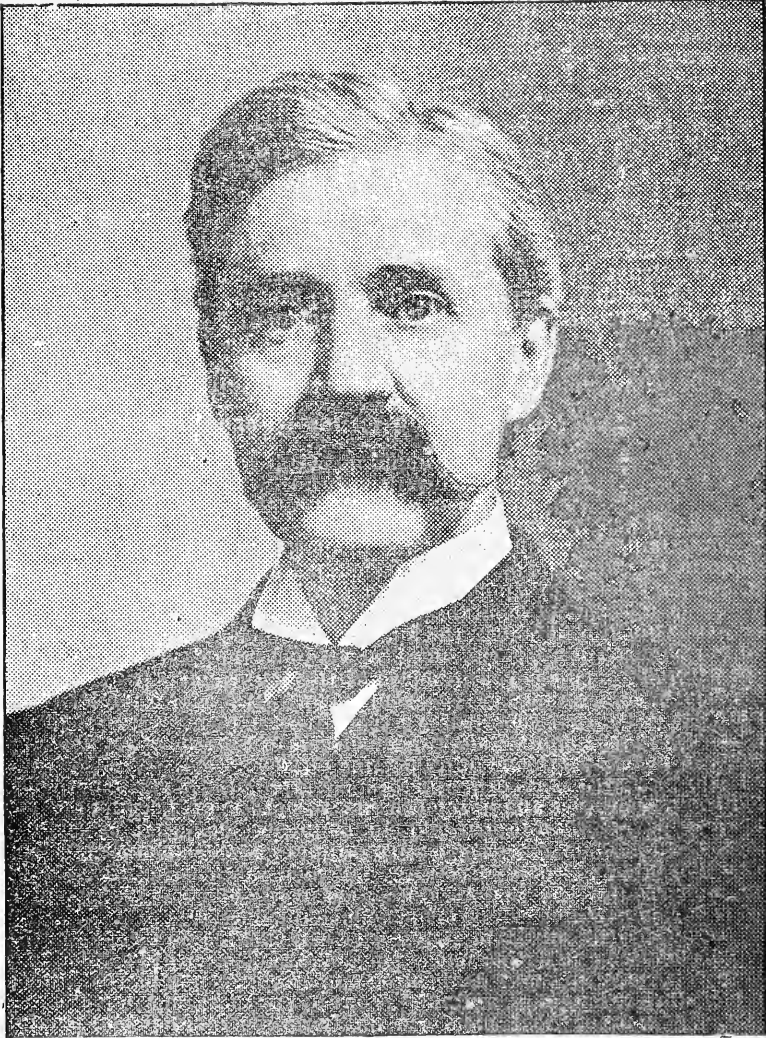
tion to whatever worth this volume contains, it is now sent forth to accomplish its mission,—to perpetuate the memory of the hardy pioneers of Pocahontas county.

“May the God above  
Guard the dear friends we love  
In east or west.  
Let love more fervent grow,  
As peaceful ages go,  
And strength yet stronger grow,  
Blessing and blest.  
Be noble! and the nobleness that lies  
In other men sleeping, but never dead,  
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own.”

Fonda, July 15, 1904.

Very truly,  
R. E. F.





**Hon. Albert B. Cummins, Governor of Iowa.**

Per favor of Des Moines Daily Capitol.



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Second Row: Bert Forbes, Robert Beswick, Alma McMichael, Madge Hughes, Hazel Wilde, Mata Bergren, Minnie Swenson, Ethel Dunn, Velma Brown, Theo Stevens, Pearl Eaton, Valley Heftin, Roy Longnecker.

First Row: Arthur Messenger, Harrison Busby, Gracie Blizzard, Erma Rule, Charlotte Busby, Mazie Ellis, Laura Sargent, Ruth Sargent, Gertrude S. Eaton, Lolo Nichols, Lilly Selzer, Bessie Beswick, Linn Forbes, Newell Forbes, June Bollard—42.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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“The pleasant books, that silently among  
Our household treasures take familiar places,—  
And are to us, as if a living tongue  
Spake from the printed leaves or pictured faces!”

The gathering of the materials for the following pages has been the work of spare moments on the part of a busy pastor, principally during the last twelve months. The preparation of this volume is an humble effort, undertaken by special request, to place in grateful remembrance the exploits and achievements of those hardy sons and daughters of toil, the pioneers of Pocahontas county, who, seeking and establishing homesteads or abodes in these once western wilds, have developed their material resources, devised and built up their educational and religious institutions and thereby transformed them into a land of plenty, a paradise of beauty, the home of the happy and prosperous.

This history of Pocahontas County has been undertaken with the conviction that such a volume would meet an oft expressed desire on the part of many of the old settlers. At various times in the past leading citizens of the county have prepared, and, in some instances, read on public occasions, valuable papers on the early history of the county or of particular townships, and these have appeared and a few of them re-appeared in the public press of the county, especially in the Pocahontas (now Fonda) Times, the Pocahontas Record and Reveille.

There are yet living, in or near the eastern part of this county, a few of the first residents in it who are connecting links that bind the present with the past; and as one and another of their former number have “gathered about them the drapery of their couch,” and been carried to their last earthly resting place the wish has oft been expressed that some one might perpetuate in some suitable and convenient form the story of their early experiences.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Statehood of Iowa at Burlington, Dec. 28, 1896, turned anew the public mind of the state to histor-

ic research and under the impulse of this movement George Sanborn, one of the very first to locate on a homestead in Cedar township (1869), editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas (now Fonda) Times since November 1, 1877, decided soon thereafter to undertake the publication of a brief history of Pocahontas County as a matter of public spirit and called upon the writer to see if he would not be willing to arrange and prepare the copy for publication. This request found us wholly engrossed with other engagements and though our assent was given a few weeks later, months passed before we were permitted to enter vigorously upon the work of gathering the necessary material.

In the early part of the year 1876 Governor Kirkwood issued a proclamation urging all the township officers that year to compile histories of their respective townships to that date, and that they be made a matter of record at the ensuing Centennial anniversaries of that year, in order that they might form a true and accurate basis for future records of advancement and progress. In accordance with this request the history of Grant and Powhatan townships were compiled in an admirable manner, the former by Mr. C. H. Tollersrude, the latter by Messrs. P. J. Shaw and Thomas L. Mac Vey. An account of the last Indian battle in it, and a brief outline of the general history of the county were prepared at the same time by Wm. D. McEwen, Esq., who, as an officer of the county from 1866 to 1887, with the exception of two years, 1884 and 1885,—a period of twenty years of public life,—had excellent opportunity of doing this work very efficiently.

We would make grateful acknowledgment of the valuable contributions of these gentlemen to the matter contained in this volume and for their very cordial co-operation. Others who have favored us with more recent contributions are, John M. Russell, the complete history of Lizard township; Messrs. Marion Bruce and A. R. Thornton, editors of the Reveille, copies of that paper containing their own articles on the "Aboriginal Inhabitants" of this country, "Indian Graves and Relics" by Fred A. Malcolm, "The Relief Expedition to Spirit Lake" by A. H. Malcolm and the "Topography of the County" by Lute C. Thornton; Port C. Barron, editor, for files of the Pocahontas Record, April, 1884, to April, 1891, that contained the historic papers, with one exception, of the first three contributors named and a number of others of real value, of which we may note the "Drainage of the County" by the late County recorder, Alonzo L. Thornton, and successful "Fruit Culture" in this section by the late D. C. Williams, nurseryman; Geo. Sanborn for files of the Pocahontas Times from April, 1876, to date, with their numerous articles of historic value, especially McEwen's account of the "Last Indian Battle" and the weekly letters of Hon. J. J. Bruce giving the development of the northeast part of the county previous to 1884 and an account of the "Swamp Lands" of the county. We would express our obligations also to the county officials for access to the county records, to Hon. Robert Struthers, Swan Nelson, Wm. Brownlee and the many other friends who have so kindly aided us in the work of gathering the materials for this volume in their respective localities.

The work has been embellished with the portraits of nearly two hundred of the leading men and women that have been, or are now, residents of the county, and with many beautiful views of the fine residences and buildings in the towns and rural districts. This feature was not included in the original plan of the work, but is the development of an after-thought on the part of the writer that has had for its object the beautiful setting of some represent-

ative of every family of the early pioneers in a place where they might be held in living, loving and grateful remembrance.

The fact that we have been enabled to afford this opportunity to so many persons, and, throughout the entire edition of this work, to insert, in finely printed form by the engravers, the portraits of all those who have entrusted to us the privilege of securing their plate work, and that, too, at rates so nominal as to represent merely the ordinary cost of good plates, has been to us a source of great satisfaction. The ready acceptance of this opportunity of recognition, on the part of so many of those to whom it has been extended, shows that it has been highly appreciated. These illustrations add very much to the attractiveness and permanent value of the volume.

The biographical or family sketches herein contained are confined either to those who have come into greater or less prominence as pioneer settlers of the County, or by dint of their industry, energy and perseverance have made a commendable success in their particular calling, or have specially identified themselves with some public or private interest worthy of grateful mention. No one has paid or promised any consideration for this recognition. The sketches of leading individuals have been prepared to illustrate the achievements of the early settler in a rural district and to convey to others their methods of attaining the highest degree of success in their particular calling. It is believed that interest in these personal sketches will increase as the years go by.

History deals solely with the past and its aim is to preserve the annals of the past and the foot-prints of those who have been leading actors. The leading men of all countries have been those who have best represented the ruling ideas of their times and by the aid of the people, brought them into prominence and success. It is not incumbent on the historian that he should pass judgment upon the persons and the events he reviews, and try them by his own standard; but it is his privilege to trace the origin and development of particular events and if possible, show their influence upon succeeding ones. He should be a careful observer and a correct reporter of the past. Abraham Lincoln observed, "If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending we could better judge what to do and how to do it." Every fact in history has a bearing on the future and to those who are gifted with foresight the history of the past becomes a prophecy of the future.

The loss already of the earliest records of the oldest townships and some others belonging to those more recently organized, together with the fact that a number of others have been kept at times in a fragmentary manner, made it impossible for us to obtain the full succession of officers in the various townships from the township records, the natural sources of information. The effort to complete these lists through two other lines of research involved an expenditure of time and labor that was wholly unexpected.

That this volume might be one of easy and ready reference, the histories of the several townships, including their respective towns, have been arranged in the alphabetical, instead of the numerical, or even chronological order; and the biographies at the end of the volume have been arranged in accordance with the same rule.

In view of the greatly increased size of the volume, due to the insertion

of so many pages of illustrations and a desire on our part to give it a reasonable degree of completeness, its publication has involved an expenditure of funds many times greater than was at first contemplated, and in consequence, the completed volume, instead of being presented to friends as a souvenir, as originally intended by the publisher, will be offered for sale and at a price so reasonable as to place it within the reach of all.

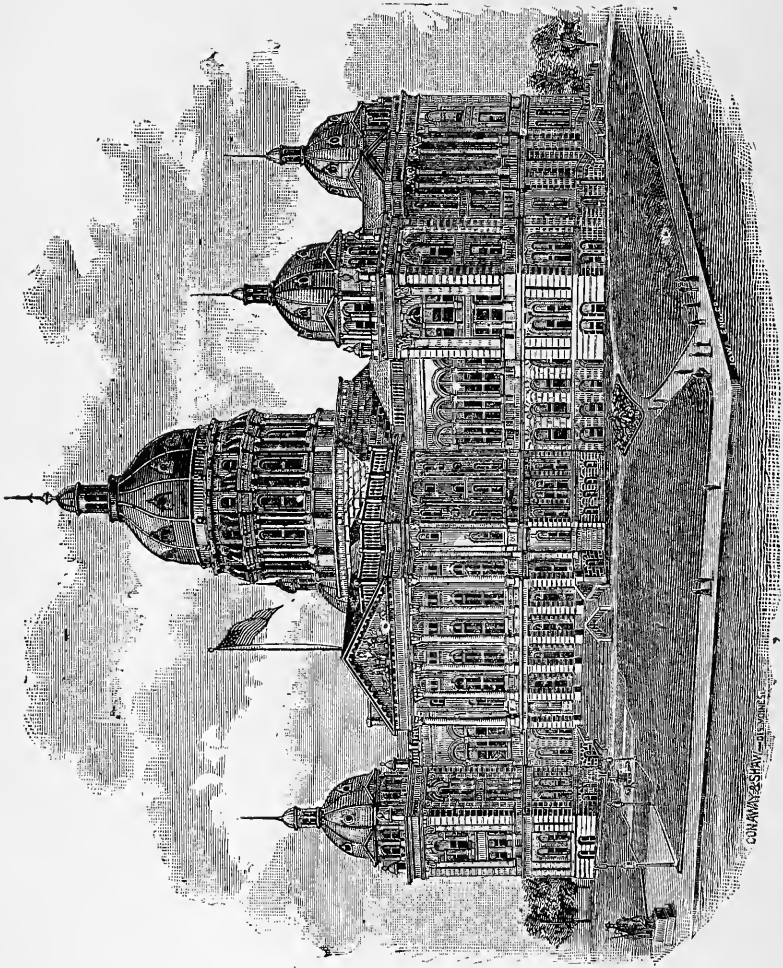
The strictest accuracy has been steadily kept in view in the preparation of this volume, and the highest degree of this, it is trusted, has been attained that could be expected, in view of the loss already of so many of the township records. That it is not free from imperfections we are only too conscious, yet we feel assured it has this advantage, that its value and interest as a record of the past, instead of being lessened, will be greatly increased with the flight of years.

The hope is therefore expressed that copies of this humble volume of pioneer history will be preserved in the home, the school and public libraries of the county, and that it will become the basis upon which the historian of Dec. 28, 1946, the first Centennial of Iowa, will find his record of early events for Pocahontas County.

R. E. F.

FONDA, IOWA, Aug. 1, 1898.





THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES.



## EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

MOTTO—"Our Liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."



### I.

#### LOCATION AND EXTENT.

"Let me sieze the pen prolific,  
While the muses guide me on,  
Let me chant the song seraphic  
Of Iowa, land of corn."



THE name of this beautiful prairie state, like Ohio, "The Beautiful River," is of Indian origin and signifies "The Beautiful Land" or "Land of Beauty." It became identified with this section of country from the name of a tribe of Indians, who, previous to 1840, occupied the territory along the Iowa River. The name of this tribe has been perpetuated in the name of this river, a county and a city of the State, and the latter was the first seat of the State Government. To this wandering tribe of Indians must be accorded the discovery of the fact that is now so richly realized by the sturdy yeo-

many of Iowa that "This is the place"

"You ask what land I love the best,  
The fairest land of all the West,  
From yonder Mississippi's stream  
To where Missouri's waters gleam:

"Tis Iowa, fair Iowa."—Byers.

The State of Iowa has an out-line figure very nearly resembling a rectangular parallelogram, the northern and southern boundaries being nearly due east and west lines and its eastern and western boundaries are determined by rivers that flow in a southeasterly direction—the Mississippi on the east and the Missouri, together with its tributary the "Big Sioux," on the west. The northern boundary is upon the parallel of 43 degrees, 30 minutes, and the southern is approximately upon that of 43 degrees, 36 minutes,

north latitude. The distance from the northern to the southern boundary, not including the small angle at the southeast corner, is a little more than 200 miles, and the extreme width from east to west is a little more than 300 miles. The area of the State is 55,044 square miles or 35,228,200 acres.

The whole state may be regarded as a part of a great plain situated near the center of the Mississippi Valley and having a gentle slope to the southeast where it is only 444 feet above the level of the sea. The average height of the whole State is not far from 800 feet, although it is located more than 1000 miles from the nearest sea coast. Iowa is also centrally situated in the American Republic, its southwest corner being very near the geographical center of the territory of the United States, not including Alaska.

#### THE MOUND BUILDERS.

In many places, not only in Iowa, but throughout the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries, the Ohio and the Missouri, there may yet be seen the remains of the works of an extinct race of men who seem to have made advances in civilization far beyond the tribes of the red men discovered here by the first European adventurers. These remains consist chiefly of mounds of earth, or of earth and rock, sometimes in the form of pyramids, but frequently in the form of ramparts that enclose areas of greater or less extent, and that have manifest regularity and similarity of form. The walls or ramparts of these enclosures vary in thickness and height and sometimes enclosed areas that ranged from 100 to 400 acres. They were usually placed upon elevations or upon the banks of streams and the area enclosed sometimes bore no proportion to the relative labor bestowed on them. In the State of Ohio, where it is estimated there are 10,000 of them, in one instance an area of not more than 40 acres is enclosed

by circular mounds a mile and a half in circumference.

The smaller mounds, having the form of low pyramids, appear to have been used at times as burying places for the dead, but the larger ones built in the form of a hollow square or circle must have served either as temples for worship or castles for defence.

Wisconsin, the meeting grounds later of the Algonquin and Sioux Indian tribes, is noted for its large number of mounds, the work of the Mound Builders. They were located along the rivers and lake banks, and were two to six feet high and frequently two hundred feet long. There were found in the ramparts there brick built into a regular wall, and in the smaller mounds a very large collection of pre-historic implements of copper.

#### MOUNDS IN IOWA. \*

“The mounds in Iowa are not so large or elaborate as those found in the Ohio Valley, but they present the same characteristics and in them are found the evidences that they were erected by the same people. They are scattered over the entire State and are of two classes, elongated or oval, and round. The former are in some instances 600 feet in length and are usually flat on top, resembling those found in Mexico and Central America. Their height varies from two to thirty feet, those of small area being usually the highest, and in some instances they have contained stone sepulchers or vaults for the dead.

A considerable number of these mounds are scattered along the valley of the Des Moines river the and are usually found in groups. There are several on the banks of Lizard creek in Webster county and others in the vicinity of Fort Dodge. Some of the latter when opened were found to contain the remains of human beings, the fairly preserved parts of skulls and

\*Reveille.

teeth, together with pieces of charred wood and ashes. Others in this vicinity appear to have been fortifications; they are built of earth, and their arrangement discovers considerable knowledge and skill in the use of the strategic art for self-defense.

On the second bottom of the Raccoon river, near Sac City, there is a group of eight that range from two to six feet in height and from thirty to ninety feet in diameter. Along the Little Sioux river there are a number of them, especially in Cherokee county, and in these there were found pieces of ornamented pottery. In others in Woodbury county earthen pots and jars were found covered with hieroglyphics, or figures, and many of them appear to have been glazed."

#### THEIR BUILDERS.

In view of the number and extent of these mounds, it must have required the labor of a numerous population that had both the leisure to undertake and the energy to carry to completion, operations so vast. The question therefore presses, to what people must we ascribe the construction of these vast works? They cannot with certainty be attributed to the ancestors of the North American Indians, for they never made any use of them, and their disinclination to work, especially in the ground, has ever been proverbial. They had even lost the story of them. Neither can they be attributed to the early Norwegian Colonists of Iceland and Greenland of the Ninth Century, for they were few in number and seem never to have passed westward of the Alleghanies.

Beyond the works themselves to which we have alluded, and similar ones found in other parts of the American Continents, no trustworthy information has come to us in regard to these Mound Builders, save a curious tradition through the Iroquois tribe to the effect that when the Lenni Lenapi the common ancestors

of the Iroquois and other tribes, whose language is still widely spread among the Indians, advanced from the North-West to the Mississippi, they found on its eastern side a great nation more civilized than themselves, that lived in fortified towns and cultivated the ground. This people at first granted the Lenni Lenapi leave to pass through their territories to seek an eastward settlement, but afterward treacherously attacked them while crossing the river. This conduct gave rise to inveterate hostilities in the end of which the fierce and war-like Indians overcame and forced southward the Mound Builders, thereby acquiring their lands, but none of their refinements or arts. This tradition, though imperfect, is not wholly improbable, and is likely to be all that we shall ever learn of the people who built the mounds that now excite our surprise.

The origin of the aboriginal population of America is a problem that yet remains to be solved. In Europe it is known that man was in existence at a very remote period; and there are some facts that lend some support to the view that man has been a resident of America for many centuries. Portions of the human skeleton and fragments of human handiwork, associated with the bones of mammals which now have no existence, have been found under circumstances that imply great antiquity. In most instances, however, it is not certain that these relics are of the same age of the deposit in which they have been found.

Human skeletons and bones in a fossilized state or associated with bones of extinct mammals have been found in Missouri, Kansas, near Natchez, New Orleans, in the Florida reefs and in California. Some of these have been referred to a very distant period ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 years.

The histories of these communities generally agree that civilization was

introduced by persons who first appeared as strangers amidst the people already in possession of the country. Hence the question has a two-fold aspect, namely, the origin of the earliest uncivilized as well as that of the earliest civilized tribes. It is possible, as the traditions suggest, that people have arrived upon the shores of America from different quarters and at different times.

#### EARLIEST AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS.

In relation to this subject, it will no doubt be of interest to note that the earliest American civilizations are those of Yucatan, Peru and Mexico, including the intervening points along the line of the Andes.

#### TOLTECS IN MEXICO.

On the testimony of Humboldt and others, the history of Mexico is traced as far back as the year 544 of our era, when the Toltecs left their original location (Chic'-o-moz-toc) far to the north or west, and, after a long journey, in the year 748 invaded Mexico which was then occupied by wandering hordes. About the year 895 a very formidable rebellion occurred and one of the chiefs leaving the country with a few chosen attendants founded a new Toltec Empire further north, the ruins of which are yet seen near the city of Pueblo. This Toltec population later penetrated further south, but after the lapse of a few centuries, having been reduced by famine, pestilence and unsuccessful wars, disappeared from the land as silently and mysteriously as they had entered it.

After the fall of the Toltec Empire there commenced the great movement of the northern tribes toward the south, a movement that continued through the 11th, 12th and 13th Centuries. This movement consisted of a succession of migrations, and its starting point appears to have been in New Mexico and California, which region was evidently the seat of a semi-

civilized Empire. Among these invading tribes there was one that subsequently rose to high importance, namely, the Aztecs, or Mexicans proper, who, living at Atz-lan, a country described as being surrounded by water, and where the usual occupation of the people was that of boatmen and carriers of wood, (believed to have been Lower California,) commenced their journey to Mexico in 1090, reached Chic'-o-moz-toc, the original home of the Toltecs, in 1116, An-a-hu-ac in 1177, and laid the foundation of the city of Mexico in 1325. The series of Mexican Kings that commenced in 1352, was continued through eight monarchies to Montezuma, who, in 1519 surrendered to Cortez.

Prescott in the "Conquest of Mexico" calls attention to the following, among other points of resemblance, between the Aztecs and the nations of Europe, as indicating their European origin.

1. Their traditions and religious usages; the former including a reference to a great deluge that a man and his wife, together with a dove and some pairs of animals, survived, and the latter, the use of the Sacraments instituted by Christ, namely, the communion and baptism, the latter by touching the head and lips of the infant with water.

2. The analogies of science. Their annals were kept by means of hieroglyphics, or picture writing; the year had 365 days, divided into months, and of the twelve signs of the Zodiac, eight were represented by creatures or designs identical with those in present use.

3. Their own traditions point to a western or northwestern origin and their physical features, such as their reddish complexion, approaching a cinnamon color, their straight glossy hair, high cheek bones, eyes obliquely directed towards the temples, narrow forehead and prominent nose, all simi-

lar to the inhabitants of eastern Asia, confirm these traditions.

#### INCAS OF PERU.

Humboldt, in speaking of the ancient empire of the Incas of Peru, more extensive than Mexico since it occupied a seacoast of 2500 miles in extent, says, "Although they had no money, and no knowledge of iron or glass and no animals fitted for draught, yet they had utensils of copper, and, like the ancient Egyptians, they understood masonry and mechanics sufficiently to dress and move stones thirty feet in length into the walls of their fortresses, and their architecture displays a remarkable uniformity not only of style but plan. The ruins of immense structures, apparently never completed, exist on the southern shore of lake Tit-i-ca-ca that appear to have been erected by powerful sovereigns with unlimited command of labor, and their unfinished state seems to indicate the overthrow of the government that conceived them and which must have held sway over the whole of this lost, pre-historic empire.

According to their traditions, about the year 1000 of our era Manco Capac, with his wife and sister Mama Ocello, persons of majestic appearance, appeared as strangers on the banks of lake Tit-i-ca-ca and announced themselves as "Children of the Sun" sent by their beneficent parent to reclaim the tribes living there, from the miseries of savage life. Their injunctions, addressed to a people who probably worshiped the god of day, were listened to by a few who settled around them and founded Cuzco. By degrees the surrounding tribes were induced to renounce their wandering habits and give attention to agriculture and religion. Huay'-na (woi'-na) Capac, the twelfth in succession from the founder of the dynasty, occupied this throne when the first party of Spaniards visited Peru in 1520 and

the empire was then still in a state of progress.

The following points of resemblance between these ancient people and the people of China, as suggestive of a Chinese origin, have been noted.

1. In both, the emperor assumed the title of the "Father of his people" and affected to have sprung from ancestors, who sprung from heaven like the "Children of the Sun."

2. Both extended an ostentatious patronage to agriculture by celebrating an annual festival in its honor.

3. Both constructed roads for the use of pedestrians and erected store-houses or places of refreshment at proper distances, on precisely the same plan.

4. The bodies of the dead, instead of being interred, in both were placed on the ground and a tumulus or mound raised over them.

5. The Peruvians made coarse pottery, an art in which the Chinese excelled.

6. Both built suspension bridges, made of ropes, over deep ravines. This is a remarkable coincidence as these suspension bridges have been found only in China and the neighboring country of Thibet.

7. Both, while displaying a little taste in agriculture, had the power of cutting and moving immense masses of stone and the same uniformity of style pervades their structures of every size and description.

These and other points of similarity, that might be named, suggest that the ancient Incas, the Mound Builders of Peru, had been imbued with a civilization by persons who derived their ideas from China.

#### YUCATAN.

The earliest traces of civilization in America, however, if the native traditions are to be credited, originated in Yucatan and the neighboring districts in Central America, where it is

said, "Vo-tan' and his companions, wearing long flowing garments arrived in large ships about the year 955 B. C." They found the whole of the country from Darien to California "occupied by a barbarous people who used the skins of wild beasts for clothing, caverns and huts made with branches of trees for shelter, and wild fruits and roots with raw fish for food." Vo-tan', it is said, wrote an account of the origin of the Indians and of their immigration into America, attempting to prove "that they were descendants of Imos of the race of Chan, or the Serpent." The forest covered ruins of Mexico and Central America present so many different architectural styles that it seems very probable they were built at different periods of time and by people of different civilizations.

Iceland was discovered about 860 and was colonized in 874; and that land had been occupied by the Irish Culdees, a monastic order, many years before. Red Erik, a resident of Iceland, arrived in Greenland in 986, a colony of Norwegians settled there sometime afterward, christianity was introduced and Arnold appointed the first bishop in 1126, a stream of emigration set in and in 60 years 4000 homesteads had been occupied, and in 1261 a form of colonial government was established there under Hakon Hakonsen, King of Norway. This settlement of Norwegians became ex-

tingent about the end of the 15th century and for a period of 200 years following, Greenland was neglected and forgotten. But when the first persons arrived in Iceland and Greenland they found these most northern parts of America already inhabited by the Es'-ki-mo, or, as they called themselves the In'-nu-its which signifies "The People."

America, in view of the traditions and facts above stated, must have been known to the barbarous tribes of eastern Asia for hundreds and even thousands of years, and it is singular that it should have been visited by one of the most enterprising nations of northern Europe five centuries before the time of Columbus without awakening the attention of either the statesmen or philosophers.

These mounds, and the things found in them, indicate that their builders were much further advanced in civilization than the red man, known as the North American Indian. Their numerous fortifications suggest that they resisted the encroachments, but were unable to cope with their ferocious invaders. It is believed that the ruins of the immense temples, monuments, highways and other astonishing achievements of engineering skill found in Mexico, Central America and Peru, are the handiwork of these same Iowa Mound Builders developed to a higher degree of proficiency.

## II.

## THE INDIANS OF IOWA.

“Such of late  
Columbus found the American, so girt  
With feathered cincture; naked else, and wild  
Among the trees, on isles and wooded shores.”—MILTON.

## TWO GREAT NATIONS.



**D**URING the occupancy of this territory by the mound builders, who were an agricultural or shepherd race rather than hunters, game became very plenty. The Indians who relied upon the chase for a livelihood, learned of these delightful hunting grounds and took possession.

There came from the St. Lawrence region, the Algonquin or Delaware stock that embraced the Delawares, (sometimes called Lenni Lenapi,) the Chip'-pe-was, Shaw'-nees, Ottawas, Pot-ta-wat-tamies, Nar-ra-gan'setts, Illinois, Pow'-ha-tans, (a confederacy of thirty-three tribes) Sac and Fox and other tribes to the number of thirty or forty. All of these spoke dialects of the same language and occupied the territory that extends from the upper Mississippi to the Atlantic, and from South Carolina as far north as Hudson's Bay. From the northwest there came a more savage horde known as the Sioux (Soo) or Dakota (allies as they called themselves) families that included the Dakotas proper, the Assiniboin (rebels because they withdrew from the confederacy about 1600 and settled in the Assiniboin river district,) the Win-neba'-goes, (parent stock of the Iowas, Kansas, Quappas or Arkansas, Oma-

has, Osages and other tribes of the lower Missouri district,) and others whose domain extended over the western prairies between the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains and from the Sas'katch'-a-wan to the Red river of Texas.

These two great streams of savages came first against each other in the valley of the upper Mississippi and then turned southward. The Algonquins from the east seem to have outflanked the Sioux and began to occupy that part of Iowa that lies south of a line extending from the mouth of the Iowa river in Louisa county, to the mouth of the Big Sioux near Sioux City; and the Sioux occupied the territory north of this line.

## I—THE ALGONQUINS.

The Algonquins were represented on Iowa soil by the Chippewas from the Lake Superior region, the Sac and Fox tribes from the vicinity of Green Bay, Wisconsin; the Ottawas and Potawattamies from the country south of the Great Lakes, and the Illinois from the Illinois river district.

The Chippewas were a powerful tribe that ranged formerly over most of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and were constantly at war with the Sioux and others of their neighbors. They took sides with the English in the Revolutionary war of 1776

and again in 1812. They number at present about 20,000 and are located on thirteen reservations in the above named states and are making gratifying progress in civilization.

The Ottawas in 1650 were driven by the Iroquois, (at one time the most powerful confederation of Indians on the American continent and sometimes called the "Six Nations,") beyond the Mississippi only to be forced back a little later by the Sioux. They then settled near Mackinaw, Michigan. They aided the French in their war with Great Britain in this country, known as the French and Indian War of 1754, and aided the English in the Revolutionary War. The tribe has been reduced to a mere handful and they have been moved to Indian Territory.

The Pottawattamies were driven from Michigan into Wisconsin by the Iroquois. They were allied with the French in their wars against the Iroquois and participated in the Indian conspiracy led by Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, who besieged the city of Detroit for eleven months in the year 1769. In the wars of the colonists with Great Britain they aided the latter. In 1838 most of them were removed to a reservation in Kansas. Most of these became citizens and abandoned the tribal relation. Of the others, some are in Kansas, some in Indian Territory and the remainder became wanderers.

The Sac and Fox tribes were united about the beginning of this century. They originally occupied the southern part of Wisconsin, especially the Fox river district, and also the Rock river district in Illinois. In 1832 they were conducted across the Mississippi and united with the Iowas. A little later all were removed to the Sac river district, Missouri, but subsequently were located on special reservations, one in Indian Territory, the other in Tama Township, Tama County, Iowa. The

latter is a part of the original hunting ground of the Iowas. These Indians number about 450, and this year (1898) have harvested for their own support, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 2,000 bushels of oats and 20,000 bushels of corn.

#### II—THE SIOUX (SOO) OR DAKOTAS.

The Sioux or Dakotas, the other great family, were represented in Iowa by the Dakotas proper, from the upper Mississippi region, the Winnebagoes from the country west of Lake Michigan, the Iowas identified with the Iowa River district, and the Otoes (now united with the Missouries,) the Omahas, Sissetons and Yanktons.

The Omahas after a fatal visitation of small pox that greatly reduced their numbers, wandered westward to the Niobrara river and together with the Otoes have been located on reservations in eastern Nebraska.

The Yanktons in 1803, when Lewis and Clark made their remarkable tour of discovery through the northwest, were found in northwest Iowa. The description given by them of these Yanktons is that they were "strong, well-proportioned, bold and dignified." They found a brotherhood among them consisting of a chosen few, the bold, athletic ones, who vowed they would never say die or give up a purpose formed, for anything. They camped and held their pow-wows separate from the balance of the tribe. In council their word was law. While making a trip to the Black Hills they met the Kites, and eighteen of the twenty-two that formed this brotherhood, licked the dust in an engagement that ensued.

The Sioux nation, for many years, has been the most powerful of all the Indian tribes of North America. The chiefs and warriors of this tribe have been noted for their "fine physique, great personal courage and great skill in warfare." Though slow to adopt civilization their intellectual powers



compare favorably with those of most other tribes. Their number at present is about 40,000, divided into twenty-one sub-tribes that are more or less independent of each other. Their reservations include 108,450 square miles and they range over most of the unsettled portion of the Dakotas, eastern Montana and north-eastern Wyoming.

The history of the Sioux has, from the first, been one of war, and their name a terror to their Indian neighbors, as well as to the whites. In their progress toward the east they encountered the Chippewas, who at that time formed a tribe sufficiently powerful to cope with them. After a long continued warfare with the Chippewas they were driven back into Minnesota.

In 1857 a band invaded the settlements along the Little Sioux river in this state committing depredations at first, but murder at Lake Okoboji and vicinity, known as the Spirit Lake Massacre. Again in 1862 the bands in Minnesota fell upon the white settlers and a terrible massacre ensued. As a result of these outbreaks they were placed on reservations in the Dakotas.

The bands inhabiting the country farther west were in a state of almost constant hostilities with the whites until 1877 and the protection of the border settlements required almost constant presence of large bodies of troops. In 1875 and 1876, the chief, Sitting Bull, at the head of a large body of warriors maintained a successful resistance against all the troops that were brought against him and finally escaped across the boundary line into the domain of Canada with the bulk of his followers.

The Winnebagoes at the time of the advent of the whites, formed the vanguard of the eastward migration of the Sioux and were found in the vicinity of Winnebago Lake and Green Bay, Wisconsin. They also aided the

French in their early wars with the English, and the latter in the time of the Revolution and the war of 1812.

The Winnebagoes, some time previous, or about the time of their removal to Iowa, seceded from the Confederacy of the Sioux and became the allies of the Sac and Fox tribe. This placed them on bad terms with the Sioux, their neighbors on the north, in the northeastern part of Iowa, and trespassing on each others' hunting grounds afforded pretext for continued war between them. To remedy this difficulty, on the 15th of July, 1830, the United States Government entered into a treaty with the above named tribes by which each of them ceded to the Government a strip of land twenty miles in width along their line of division from the Mississippi, (vicinity of Prairie du Chien,) in a southwesterly direction to the mouth of the Boone or head waters of the Des Moines river. This strip, forty miles in width, was called the "neutral ground" and both parties were to have the privilege, in common, of hunting and fishing upon this broad division line.

#### THE BLACKHAWK WAR.

"Far from the tumult fled the roe,  
Close in her covert cower'd the doe,  
Till, far beyond her piercing ken,  
The hurricane had swept the glen."

For a number of years previous to 1825 the Winnebagoes and their neighbors, the Sac and Fox tribe, had possession of and worked the lead mines in southern Wisconsin. These mines had been known from the earliest days of exploration by the French, and had attracted a mining population of considerable extent. The encroachments of the whites led to hostilities with the Winnebagoes in 1828 and as a result the entire lead region was ceded to the government and the Indians agreed to occupy the territory west of the Mississippi.

These Indians were reluctant to

leave their villages and the hunting grounds they had occupied for several generations, and their removal by the government was immediately followed by the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Black Hawk was a brave and noted chief of the Sac and Fox who aided the British at Detroit in the War of 1812, and, until he was completely subdued, never had a friendly feeling toward the government of this country. The principal village of his tribe was located on the Rock River, three miles above its mouth or near the present city of Rock Island.

Having been removed to Iowa in 1831 without his consent, in the spring of the following year he re-crossed the Mississippi with a band of 200 warriors and on May 14, 1832, won a victory over the first force that was raised against him. But in three different engagements with United States troops at Galena, June 24th, at Blue Mounds July 21st, and a little later near the Mississippi, he was defeated and his power completely broken. He fled but was captured by the Winnebagoes and delivered to the government. After an imprisonment in Fortress Monroe for a year, he was taken to several of the principal cities of this country that he might see the folly of contending against the whites. When released to go to his countrymen, he was deeply moved, as he passed the village where he was born, where he had lived so happily, and where he hoped to die, for he found it occupied by another and himself a wanderer. He passed the remainder of his days with his tribe in Iowa, and died in 1849.

#### SIoux OUTLAWS.

The Sioux, in an early day, had no chief. This was an unnecessary luxury with them until they had dealings with the British which required a spokesman and Wah-ba-shaw was the first to hold this position.

They were entirely different from

the other families of Indians in customs, language and almost everything. Schoolcraft, the great Indian authority says, their feasts, sacrifices, burnt offerings and supplications to the Great Spirit, etc., remind him of similar customs and observances among the Asiatic tribes before the Christian era. Another authority claims they have descended from the Tartars of Asia. They have often been alluded to as the Arabs of Western America and their fondness for war has been proverbial.

When the cabin of the white settler began to break the monotony of the prairies of northern Iowa this tribe sought less molested hunting grounds in Dakota and Minnesota, but a band of Sioux outlaws, chiefly from the Sisseton tribe continued to roam over this section of country. Having murdered an aged chief, they had been expelled from the main tribe, but had drawn strength from other tribes until they numbered about 500 at the time when settlements were first made in Webster, Cherokee and Woodbury counties. They were then under Sidom'-i-na-do-ta, (Two-Fingers) and as wanderers moved from place to place without regularity. As Pocahontas county was slow to receive settlers, they spent much of their time in this county.

These Indians were in league with another band of desperadoes, who resided along the St. Peter's river in Minnesota, of whom Young-Sleepy-Eyes was the chief. These two bands lived in a state of almost constant outlawry upon other tribes and sometimes united in waging war against the Pottawattamies in the southwest, or the Sac and Fox tribes in the southeast part of the state. The early settlers tell of battles fought by them at various places, as at Adel, Mud Lake, Hamilton county, and along the banks of the Cedar, Skunk, Iowa, and upper Des Moines rivers, and Pilot Creek

in Pocahontas county.

INDIAN BATTLES. \*

"The battle at Adel occurred in the year 1841, at which time the Sac and Fox tribe was encamped in the vicinity of Des Moines. A party of twenty-four Delawares who were returning from Nebraska to visit the Sac and Fox tribe, with whom they were on friendly terms, were followed by a band of these Sioux, overtaken in the vicinity of Adel and in the bloody conflict that ensued, there fell twenty-three of the former and twenty-six of the latter. The only Delaware that survived through concealment in the grass, hastened to the Sac and Fox village, related the terrible fate of his companions and immediately five hundred warriors under Pa-she-ta-ho, then eighty years of age, mounted their ponies, started in hot pursuit of the ruffians, and, overtaking them about 100 miles north of Adel, completely routed them, killing many, and sustaining a loss of seven of their own number.

Another battle that occurred six miles north of Algona on the east branch of the Des Moines river is of historic interest. When in 1869 A. R. Fulton visited this spot he found "portions of skeletons mercilessly indented with tomahawk marks, and other relics of the battle." His account of the battle is in part as follows: "In April, 1852, a portion of the Musquakie (Fox) tribe, then and still residing in Tama county, under the leadership of Ko-ko-wah, went north by the way of Clear Lake to what was then called the Neutral Ground. While encamped at Clear Lake, their scouts brought information that a band of their old enemy, the Sioux, were encamped over on the east branch of the Des Moines. Ko-ko-wah with sixty warriors proceeded to attack them. They arrived in the

night and concealed themselves in the timber, a mile above the Sioux encampment, where, unperceived, they learned the exact position of the enemy.

In the morning, after many of their warriors had gone on a hunt, they swooped down upon the unsuspecting Sioux when they were not prepared to make a successful resistance. For a short time the conflict was desperate, but the advantage was all on the side of the attacking party, and the Sioux were completely vanquished. Sixteen of them were killed, including some women and children. The Musquakies lost four braves. They charged into the village after the first fire and a noted warrior was killed by a squaw, who sent two arrows through his body. But few of the Sioux warriors escaped and all their dead were left unburied. After the fight the Musquakies hastily returned to their village in Tama county."

Si-dom-i-na-do-ta's band was engaged in battle with the Pottawattamies at Twin Lakes and on the South Lizard, where they were victorious and the war between these two tribes was at an end in Iowa.

We next hear of this notorious band of Indians in 1848 in Webster county, a short distance south of Fort Dodge, where they notified a party of surveyors who were establishing a correction line across the state, not to go west of the Des Moines river as that was their territory. After serving this notice they departed and the surveyors continued their work, but when they had proceeded a short distance west of the river the band returned and surrounded the surveyors. They broke their instruments, stole their horses and provisions, and destroyed their landmarks, thereby convincing them they had better go no further into their territory. After this, Si-dom-i-na-dotas' band again comes into notice by

\*Reveille, Feb. 20, 1890.

reason of their frequent robberies of the new-comers who had located above Boone and were waiting for the new lands west of the river to be opened for settlement or purchase. The military post at Fort Dodge was opened in 1850, the time had come for the advancement of the whites and these outlaws could no longer prevent the occupation of the territory by them."

#### WESTERN IOWA INDIAN TREATY.

Western Iowa was ceded by the Indians to the United States on July 15, 1830. The Sac, Fox, Western Sioux, Omaha, Iowa and Missouri Indians sold this large tract of land to the Government and in consideration therefor, they received as follows: Sacs, \$3,000; Foxes, \$3,000; Sioux, \$2,000; Yankton and Santee bands of the Sioux, \$3,000; Omahas, \$2,500; Otoes and Missouris, \$2,500; total, \$16,000. This amount was paid to the Indians in annual installments for ten years, and provision was made for farm implements for the Indians and schools for their children.

This treaty was negotiated and completed on behalf of the Government by William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Col. Willoughby Morgan, of the first United States Infantry. The boundaries described in the treaty were as follows: "Beginning at the upper fork of the Des Moines river, and passing the sources of the Little Sioux and Floyd rivers, to the fork of the first creek that falls into the Big Sioux river, or Calumet, on the east side; thence down said creek and Calumet river to the Missouri river, thence to the Missouri state line above the Kansas; thence along said line to the northwest corner of

the state; thence to the high lands between the waters falling into the Missouri and Des Moines, passing to said highlands along the dividing ridge between the forks of the Grand river; thence along the highlands that form the dividing ridge, separating the waters of the Missouri from those of the Des Moines, to a point opposite the source of the Boyer river, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Des Moines river, the place of beginning."

This treaty went into effect on February 24, 1831, by proclamation and the settlement by the whites began at once, though at first but few families had the daring to take up their homes in this wild country at that time.

At the time of this sale western Iowa abounded in buffalo, elk and deer, and the streams abounded with fish. The Indians lived off the game and were loath to give up their fine hunting grounds. They made no further claim to the lands after the treaty, but there were frequent outbreaks of the different tribes, and several times it became necessary to call the Federal Troops to the assistance of the organized companies of pioneers. Reservations were set aside for the Indians, but it was with considerable trouble for many years that they were kept within bounds.

The location of troops at Fort Dodge in 1850 awed the Indians in the northern part of the state and settlers east of the river were not molested, but in 1853 the troops were unwisely removed and the Indians very soon afterward inaugurated a reign of terror among the settlers as far east as the Cedar river.

## III.

## THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE AND PRELIMINARY EVENTS.

“Westward the Star of Empire takes its Way.”

## I—REMOVAL OF FORT DODGE MILITARY POST.



WHEN the military post was established at Fort Dodge in 1850 the Indians deserted the east side, and the majority of them fell back from ten to twenty miles on the west side of the Des Moines river to a region which at that date was as yet comparatively unexplored, an Indian territory. Although they were occasionally seen on the opposite side of the river, apparently to observe the movements of the troops, it was nearly nine months before any intercourse could be had with them. By the treaty of 1851 they ceded the last of their lands in Iowa to the Government, but as in the case of previous treaties, they were permitted to occupy them for hunting and fishing until the arrival of white settlers upon the domain thus ceded. In 1852 some robberies were reported on the Boyer river and a detachment of troops from Fort Dodge overtaking the culprits, held Ink-pa-du-ta and Um-pa-sho-ta, two of the chiefs, a few days, until the stolen property was returned.

In the summer of 1853 the garrison at Fort Dodge was transferred further north to a new post on the Minnesota river in Minnesota. On the removal of this garrison, Major William Williams, who had been a member of it, remained, and in partnership with

John Lemp, purchased from the state of Iowa the section of land on which the garrison had been stationed; and in March of the following year, 1854, platted thereon the town site of Fort Dodge, at which time, there were on the ground, only two other men, James B. Williams and John M. Hefley, and one family, that of William Miller, besides himself.

After the removal of the troops the Indians became more impudent and annoying in their depredations, and for the protection of the frontier settlers, who now began to arrive in considerable numbers, Governor Hempstead, in 1854, and also his successor Governor Grimes, empowered Major Williams to keep them in check, and to raise men for this purpose if necessary. The roving bands that inhabited this portion of Iowa became very friendly to the Major, his word to them was law, and he succeeded in keeping them peaceably disposed until Henry Lott, a desperate character of Webster county, waylaid and shot Si-dom'-i-na-do-ta, chief of the Sissetons or Sioux out-laws, and murdered his squaws and children.

## II—MURDER OF SI-DOM'-I-NA-DO-TA.\*

“Twas not as when, in rival strength,  
Contending nations meet,  
Or love of conquest madly hurls  
A monarch from his seat.”

“Henry Lott, as the first settler,

\*Centennial History of Webster county.

erected the first cabin in Webster county near the mouth of the Boone river, where in 1846, he was found by the pioneers "selling whiskey to the Indians, stealing their ponies and running them off to the south." In his dealings with the Indians he was so unfair that they finally became suspicious of him, threatened his life, and in the winter of 1846 drove him from his cabin, but did not meddle with his family. His two sons, fearing for the safety of their father, followed him, became lost, separated, and one was frozen to death near Elk Rapids. In November, 1853, he and his son began to occupy a claim near Lott's creek in Humboldt county and laid in as a winter's supply—three or four barrels of whiskey and some goods, as he said, "with a view of trading with the Indians."

In January, 1854, Lott and his son went to the camp of the old chief, Sidom-i-na-do-ta, who was then living on the creek a mile west of Lott's cabin, and telling him there was a drove of elk feeding on the bottom lands, induced the old Indian to mount his pony and go with them. Lott and his son followed, and when a safe distance from his camp, treacherously shot and killed him, and that night, disguised as Indians, attacked the chief's wife, his mother and six children, and murdered all but two, a little girl aged ten, who hid in the bushes, and a boy of twelve years, whom they thought they had killed, but who regained consciousness and recovered."

The murdered chief and family were discovered about ten days after the tragedy by a party of Indians, living on Lizard creek, who, starting to hunt, called on their way and expected to see their friends. They found the little boy and girl and reported the affair at Fort Dodge. The settlers, on making an investigation, found also that the cabin of Lott had been burned and that he and his son,

taking with them the pony of the Indian chief, had left for parts unknown. At a coroner's inquest, the jurymen being Indians, the children so testified and the jury so decided, that the chief and his family had been murdered by Lott and his son (or step-son?). Subsequently the report became current that Lott had been killed on the plains on the way to the Pacific coast.

After this outrage, and especially in view of the fact that Lott had not been captured and punished, the Indians became sullen and suspicious, and in fact behaved in such a manner as to cause all the settlers to fear that they would retaliate on the whites. For some time they threatened the whites with destruction if they did not capture Lott and give him up to them. The only course possible was to promise them he should be taken and continue manifest efforts to capture him until they had time to prepare for defence.

### III—THE GRINDSTONE WAR.

About this same period, an incident of real interest occurred in the vicinity of Clear Lake that finds a place in the annals of that period under the title of the "Grindstone War," that led to the abandonment for a time of the frontier and spread alarm far into the settlements.

A party of Indians were passing the cabin of a settler by the name of Dickerson on a begging expedition and seeing a handsome rooster, a young redskin in chasing it around the premises in the effort to capture it, knocked over the grindstone, broke it to pieces and started off with the largest piece of it. Dickerson followed him, jerked the grindstone away, sent the Indian sprawling on the ground and when he rose knocked him insensible with a piece of the grindstone. The Indians demanded \$100 in reparation, but were for the time appeased by Mrs. Dickerson giving them what money she had

(\$6.00), some quilts and other articles.

The day following, the settlers at Clear Lake, Mason City and vicinity, to the number of twenty-five, mounted and well armed, determined to drive the Indians out of that section. The latter awaited the onset until they were within gun-shot, when the chief advanced with a flag of truce in one hand and a great pipe—the pipe of peace—in the other. The articles received of Mrs. Dickerson were returned, the pipe of peace was mutually smoked; but the treaty so unexpectedly made did not allay the fears of the settlers, all of whom were seized with a panic soon after and fled for a short time as far east as Nora Springs.

#### IV—OTHER EVENTS. \*

“In the summer of 1855, settlers began to push their way up both branches of the Des Moines river and the Lizard fork from Fort Dodge. Their pre-emptions were made where groves dotted these streams, that timber might be obtained for erecting rude homes and for fuel. The foundations of many pioneers' homes were made that season, though a majority of the founders did not remain, but returned with their families and effects the following spring to make their permanent homes. It was during this influx that Pochahontas county received its first settlers. Some settlers, more venturesome than others, journeyed along the Lizard to its headwaters, crossed over to the Little Sioux and located their claims at or near what is now Sioux Rapids.

The winter that followed was one of remarkable severity, but with the return of the warm spring sun and the disappearance of the snow there came those conditions that were so peculiar to this section in early days. Spring in those days came as a pardon from the Great Executive of the Universe,

\*By A. H. Malcolm, a resident of Clinton Township. a reprint from the Reveille, March 19, 1896.

releasing prisoners from their impregnable walls of snow, causing general rejoicing and a desire to gambol even as the lambs. Such was the spring of 1856, and the return of those who had visited the country the previous summer, together with the new-comers, inaugurated a veritable boom.

This was the year when settlements were made in northwestern Iowa on a permanent basis. From every patch of timber along the streams came the sound of the axe as it was sturdily plied in felling timber for the log cabin, or in cutting crotched poles with which to make a shelter for a few cattle. It was during this summer that the banks of the beautiful Iowa lakes, known as Spirit and Okobjis, became dotted with a few cabins. It was late when these settlers arrived, and with hard work they barely had time to erect their homes before a winter set in that was a winter, indeed. Northwestern Iowa had become generally settled this season, and yet during the severe winter the settlers were as isolated as if separated by mountains of granite.

During the time of these settlements, Ink-pa-du-ta's band of Indians occasionally made their appearance and usually frightened timid settlers, but no general scare was inaugurated. The greater part of their time was spent on the plains of Dakota, whither they had followed the buffalo and other game. In February, 1857, this band of Indians appeared on the Sioux in the northwestern part of Woodbury county, and a quarrel was precipitated with the whites, but with no serious results. The Indians claimed to be on a hunting expedition, but doubtless their real object was to beg, rob and plunder. They were sullen and abusive as they passed up the Little Sioux, and doubtless the lives of several families were saved by the exercise of forbearance.

In Buena Vista county they robbed

the house, shot the cattle and shamefully abused a family by the name of Weaver. In Clay county, near the present town of Peterson, their outrages on two families—Mead and Taylor—were even more bold and villianous. Finally, on March 7, they reached the Okoboji Lakes, when their pent up savagery became an insatiate thirst for blood. They had found their rich hunting grounds pre-empted and no doubt felt that they were being driven to the land of the setting sun. Ink-pa-du-ta, brother and successor as chief of Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, doubtless saw an opportunity to strike a last terrible blow at the whites and thereby avenge the death of his brother and mother before quitting the soil of Iowa.”

MURDERS AT LAKE OKOBOJI, MARCH 8,  
1857. \*

“Oh, bloodiest picture in the book of time;  
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime.”

“On the morning of March 8, just as the Gardner family were about to breakfast, an Indian entered the cabin. He professed friendship and the Gardners shared their breakfast with him. He was soon followed by several more with their squaws and papooses, led by Ink-pa-du-ta himself. The family shared their scanty stores with all these hungry visitors. After they had eaten they began a series of insolent and menacing interferences with the family and their household goods. One demanded ammunition and when Mr. Gardner was taking some from a box to give him, he snatched the box; another attempted to take the powder horn from the wall, but was prevented by Mr. Luce, a son-in-law of Mr. Gardner.

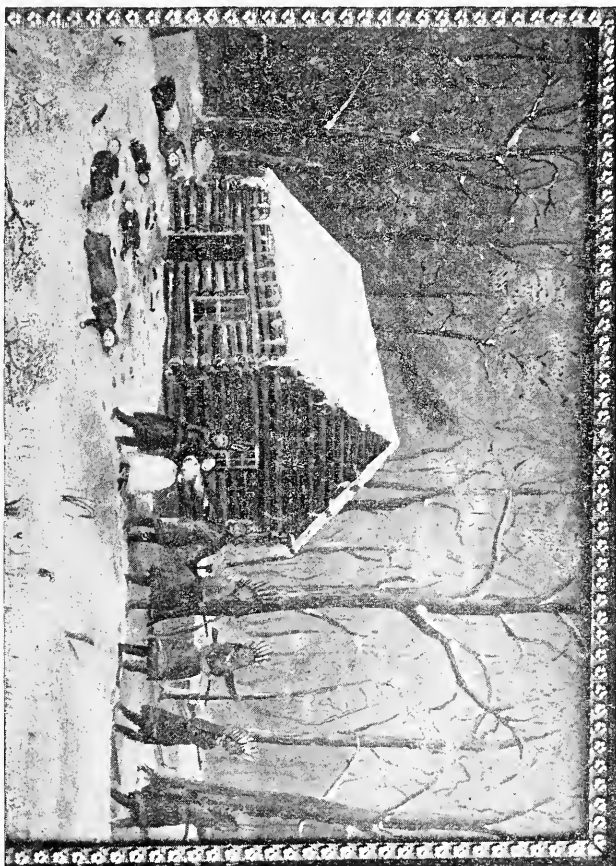
The Indians staid about the house until nearly noon, and finally left, after shooting some of the cattle and driving others before them. They went in the direction of the Mattock

\*Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, in *Midland Monthly*, July, 1895.

cabin, near which was the cabin of three young men, Dr. Harriot and Messrs. Granger and Snyder. In the judgment of Mr. Gardner, who had learned something of Indian character by his experience with them while living at Clear Lake, there was no longer any doubt as to the hostile purpose of the Indians. The situation was hastily discussed, and at the request of Mr. Gardner, the two young men at his home, Luce and Clark, started for the homes of the other settlers to notify them of the danger and summon them to the home of Mr. Gardner for mutual defence. They never returned from this perilous mission and their bodies were found on the lake shore the following summer. •

About an hour after they had gone, several gun shots were heard by the Gardners in quick succession, and in the direction of the Mattock cabin. This convinced them that the work of death had begun. Later they discovered several Indians approaching the cabin. The impulse of Mr. Gardner was to barricade the door and sell his life as dearly as possible. But his wife, feeling the hopelessness of any attempt at defense dissuaded him with the argument that if there was any hope for the family, it was in trying to conciliate them. Meanwhile, they reached the house and coming in, asked for flour, and when Mr. Gardner turned to get it, they shot him through the heart. Then one leveled a gun to shoot Mrs. Gardner. Mrs. Luce, her daughter, grabbed the gun and pulled it down, when the Indians seized both mother and daughter and beat them to death with the butts of their guns. Then they snatched the helpless babe of Mrs. Luce from the arms of the girl of thirteen,—now Mrs. Abigail Gardner Sharp,—to whom were clinging with the instinct of terror, not only the babe, but her six-year-old brother and another little child of Mrs. Luce. Snatching all





**The Massacre at the Gardner Home--Abbie Taken Captive.**

Mrs. Sharp's Recollection of the Tragedy, as Embodied by her in an Oil Painting.—Midland Monthly.

three of these helpless little ones from the dazed and paralyzed girl, they carried them outside the house and beat them to death with sticks of wood. They ransacked the cabin, taking such things as curiosity or their wants prompted, and then led away Abigail, a helpless captive, from this appalling scene to the Mattock cabin.

At the Mattock cabin the dead bodies of the family were found scattered over the ground, the cabin was in flames and two of the household had been left to perish in the fire. Here there had been an attempt at defense, but they had become conscious of their danger too late for organization. Near the house Dr. Harriott was lying dead, his gun still being in his hands. Snyder, also dead, was lying in the vicinity, indicating that when the attack was made upon the Mattock family, these two young men had, undoubtedly, crossed the straits to aid in the defense of their friends and had died with their faces to the foe. It was now evening and with savage intuition they celebrated the carnage of the day with an Indian war-dance at this place.

#### MURDERS AT EAST OKOBOJI, MARCH 9.

The next morning the savages, with appetites sharpened for blood, sallied forth on the war path for the cabins on the east side of East Okoboji. Here were living the families of Howe, his son-in-law, Alvin Noble, and Thatcher with whom was stopping a young man Ryan, another son-in-law of Mr. Howe, and all were entirely ignorant of the fate of their neighbors and of the presence in the neighborhood of Ink-pa-du-ta and his band.

Mr. Howe, having started on an errand to the Gardner cabin, was met and shot a short distance from his home, and his head severed from his body. The savages then went to the cabin and murdered the remainder of the family, comprising his wife and

six children, a young man, a young woman and four younger children.

They next visited the Noble cabin, in which were Noble, his wife and infant child, his brother-in-law Ryan, and also Mrs. Thatcher and infant child. As usual they feigned friendship on entering the house, and as soon as opportunity was afforded they shot both Noble and Ryan. Seizing the two infant children from their mothers' arms, they dashed their brains out against a tree at the door. After plundering the house, shooting several of the cattle and killing the poultry, they left with their booty, dragging the two helpless and horrified women—Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher—into captivity. On the route to their camp, which was near the Mattock place, they stopped at the cabin of the Howes where Mrs. Noble was still more horrified on seeing the dead bodies of her mother, brothers and sisters.

#### MARBLE GROVE, SPIRIT LAKE, MARCH 11

On the tenth of March they moved westward across West Okoboji, and the next day northward to Marble Grove at Spirit Lake. Here another opportunity presented itself to slake their thirst in blood. Living alone, far from neighbors, were these two young people, Mr. and Mrs. Marble. Before they were aware of the presence of a human being besides themselves, the Indians were in and around their cabin. As usual they pretended to be friends and made signs of good will. They invited Marble out to shoot at a mark. After a few shots, when his gun was empty, the target fell and they motioned him to set it up. His wife sitting at a window, with a woman's instinct divined their purpose, and, as she suspected, when he turned his back to set up the target, they shot him through the heart. His wife in horror sprang from the house to run to his relief, but was led to their camp a captive. Before leav-

ing Marble's Grove they again repeated the fiendish orgies of the war dance.

AT SPRINGFIELD, MINNESOTA.

After these events, the Indians moved northwestward with their four captives and booty. On March 26th, they were encamped at Heron Lake, about fifteen miles northwest of Springfield, Minnesota, and thither they started early in the morning of that day.

Their arrival here was, in some measure, anticipated. The day on which they had visited the Howe and Noble cabins, Morris Markham had gone fifteen miles east, to the Des Moines river, for a stray yoke of oxen. Returning to the Gardner cabin late in the evening and finding it a scene of destruction, he believed it to be the work of Indians and started for the Mattock place, where he was diverted from running into the Indian camp—located within the timber and brush—by the barking of the Indian dogs. Thence he hastened to the Howe and Noble cabins—the latter his own home—only to find them desolate, or strewn with the mangled remains of former friends. Having traveled thirty miles that day, without food or rest, he remained in the timber until daylight and then hastened to Springfield, eighteen miles north, where, half-frozen and half-starved, he delivered his startling message.

On hearing Markham's story, several families assembled at the home of James B. Thomas, (father of Sylvester P. Thomas, of Havelock,) the largest home in the place and resolved to defend themselves to the end. They also dispatched two young men, Henry Tretts and Mr. Clifflen, to Fort Ridgely for troops. At first there were twenty-two persons, old and young, in the Thomas house, and here most of them remained for seventeen days.

About three o'clock on the afternoon of March 26th, a little eight year

old son of Thomas, who had been playing in the yard, rushed to the door, saying, "the boys are coming," referring to the two young men who had gone to Fort Ridgely and who were hourly expected. Quite a number of the people in the house came to the door, several stepping outside, when in an instant there sprang from behind the stable and the neighboring trees a score of Indians, who immediately fired a volley into the group of persons that stood in and around the door. The little boy, William Thomas, who had been deceived by an Indian dressed in a white man's suit, and who had called them to the door, fell mortally wounded in the head. Mr. Thomas was wounded in the wrist, causing the loss of an arm; David Carver was wounded in the left arm and Miss Drusilla Swanger in the shoulder. But in the excitement and rush for the door, none of them realized that they were wounded, and little Willie, who had fallen unnoticed, was left outside, where he soon died of his wound.

Now began a fight for life. There were three men, Jareb Palmer, Bradshaw and Markham, that were not wounded. The two latter seized each a gun, and, knocking the chinking from between the logs to get sight of the enemy, began firing. Palmer, assisted by Mrs. Thomas, barricaded the door, pulling up puncheons or timbers from the floor to strengthen it and protect the inmates from the shower of bullets that came against it. Miss Swanger, though wounded, and Miss Gardner, a sister of Abbie, rendered efficient service during the siege by casting bullets. Mrs. Louisa Church not only assisted by loading guns, but stood at a port-hole and fired at every Indian head she could see. It is believed that she fired the only shot that really killed an Indian.

While this battle was in progress at the Thomas house, a detachment of

Indians attacked the store, killing William and George Woods, the proprietors, and carrying away their goods. Others went to the Stewart cabin, where they killed Stewart, his wife and two children, one little boy of eight years saving himself by flight and hiding behind a log. Two cabins—that of Wheeler, where there were two men, Henderson and Smith, lying with frozen limbs, and that of Sheigley, where he and his little son were momentarily expecting an attack, were overlooked and left undisturbed.

The assault on the Thomas house was vigorously maintained and as vigorously resisted, till nearly sunset, when the Indians ceased firing and were seen throwing clubs at the horses that were running loose around the stable, to drive them beyond gunshot from the house. About dark little Johnnie Stewart was seen approaching the house, creeping on the snow amid the timber; and a little later Sheigley arrived, wholly unconscious of the tragic events that had been transpiring.”

#### FLIGHT FROM SPRINGFIELD.

Having no knowledge of the plans for their relief, and fearing the Indians would fire their dwelling under the cover of night, about nine o'clock it was decided to leave the place. Finding a yoke of oxen left in the stable, they hitched them to the sled and the seventeen persons that were there, three of them having wounds

undressed, taking no baggage and no clothing except what they had on, and leaving the body of little Willie where he fell, sadly and silently started in the darkness of the night on a perilous journey down the valley of the Des Moines to Fort Dodge, seventy-five miles distant. They arrived in the course of time, in a forlorn and destitute condition, having tarried two nights and one day at the cabin of George Granger, the nearest settler on the Des Moines, where is now the city of Estherville, meeting the Fort Dodge volunteer relief company on the afternoon of March 30th, and stopping at the Irish settlement, fifteen miles north of the mouth of Cylinder creek, on the way.

The Indians, finding that a detachment of troops from Fort Ridgely had arrived the next day after the battle at the Thomas cabin, having killed thirty-three persons at the Okoboji lakes, one at Spirit Lake and seven at Springfield—total, forty-one\*—fled immediately with their four captives, Abbie Gardner, Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher, to the country west of the James river in Dakota.

The reason why the foregoing tragic events have always been called “The Spirit Lake Massacre,” when Marble alone was killed near that particular lake, is due to the fact that at this early period, this whole lake region was known abroad as that of Spirit Lake.

\*Major Williams' report in History of Spirit Lake Massacre.

## IV.

## THE RELIEF EXPEDITION TO SPIRIT LAKE.

“Ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito.”—VIRGIL.

“Yield not to misfortunes, but on the other hand, more bravely go forward.”

## THE FACTS LEARNED.\*



AMONG the settlers who had located in the Spirit Lake region during the fall of 1856, there were three men from Jasper county—Orlando C. Howe, R. A. Wheelock and B. F. Parmenter—who, very fortunately, returned to their homes after locating their claims. About the first of March following they started from Newton again for the lakes, and their trials during that journey, could they be narrated, would scarcely be believed. Their wagons were drawn by oxen, which, on good roads moved slowly but when wollowing through the sloughs barely moved at all, and yet in an emergency of this kind they made as good speed as horses and more than a locomotive that was not provided with a snow-plow. When they had arrived within a few miles of the lakes, on March 15th, their oxen became completely exhausted and they felt constrained to leave them and proceed on foot. They arrived at the lakes after the shades of evening had fallen, and the darkness was increased by the gloom of the scenes of death and desolation that met their gaze. All congratulations over the completion of a perilous jour-

ney were ended. Instead of the smiles and hearty welcomes, that they had expected from the settlers with whom they had become acquainted the previous fall, they were greeted with the stony glare from the eyes of those who were cold in death.

They arrived first at the cabin of Joel Howe, and here they spent the night. In the morning they went to the Mattock cabin, a mile an a half distant, and found it in ashes and the family murdered. These were gloomy moments for these men, and, concluding that the entire settlement had been wiped out, without tarrying for further investigation, they hastened to return to Fort Dodge, where they arrived on the evening of March 21st, and delivered their startling message. A public meeting having been called, nearly every able-bodied man attended and it was determined to raise two companies of volunteers to march to the scene of the massacre for the purpose of rescuing any settlers that might have escaped, and, if possible, to overtake and punish the Indians.

That winter A. H. Malcolm worked for George H. Rogers, on Soldier creek, east of Fort Dodge. On the evening of March 23d, he went to Fort Dodge, and receiving his first information of the massacre, learned that a rescuing party was to leave in

\* A. H. Malcolm, Reveille, March 19, 1896.

the morning. Major Williams had organized two companies of men from Fort Dodge and Homer, who had elected as their captains—Company A, Charles B. Richards, and Company B, John F. Duncombe. Runners had been sent to Webster City, and on this same day, about thirty men had marched across the prairie from that place to Fort Dodge and organized by electing J. C. Johnson, captain. A. H. Malcolm became a member of Company B. and Guernsey Smith, who also afterward became a resident of Pocahontas county, joined this company. The battalion numbered about one hundred men and was under the command of Major William Williams.

#### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

On the morning of March 24th, with loaded teams, the expedition started upon its long, difficult and arduous campaign. As stated before, the winter had been a severe one, but on this particular morning the weather was so mild it began to thaw. The snow was about two feet deep upon the level and elevated places and often ten feet in the hollows, rendering them almost impassable. The means of transportation consisted of three wagons drawn by oxen, and three or four horses. It became necessary at times, in order to get the wagons through the snow, to form the command into two lines, separated the distance of the wagon wheels apart, and then march and counter-march until they had made a hard beaten track. Sometimes the snow would not pack and then the entire body of men, taking hold of a strong rope, would draw the wagons, and even the oxen, through the drifts by main force. When all pulled with the strength of determination then prevailing, it took more than snow to keep something from moving. Under these circumstances they made slow progress, advancing some days not more than six

or seven miles.

“The experience of camping on the open prairie, one night without fire, is well remembered. We were some distance east of the present town of Bradgate. The night overtook us at a place where there was no timber or fuel, and we camped on an elevated spot, from which the wind had blown the snow. Our feet were wet and we pulled off our boots, wrung our socks, put them on again quickly, lest they should freeze, and then to keep warm trotted around the knoll most of the night. When morning came we proceeded to McNight’s Point, where we built a fire and remained the balance of that day and night. One of the men, Geo. W. Brazee, from Chicago, was court-martialed that evening for some fancied misdemeanor. He was a droll sort of a fellow, but, as we found out, nobody’s fool. He plead his own case and the incident furnished no small amount of fun for the battalion.

The next morning we moved onward, following, as nearly as the snow would permit, the dragoon trail from Fort Dodge to Fort Ridgely. The experience of each day was very similar to its predecessor until the second day after we left Medium Lake (on the banks of which Emmetsburg is now located,) when we met the settlers from Springfield, Minnesota, whom the Indians had attacked after their bloody work at the lakes. They were glad to meet relief and they needed it. They had learned of the approaching Indians, barricaded themselves in the log house of Mr. Thomas and had succeeded in beating them off. Under the cover of night, these fleeing settlers had started for Fort Dodge, four days previous, and were nearly exhausted when met by the expedition. The wounded were cared for, provisions provided and the refugees sent on southward. This occurred on March 30th.

The impression now prevailed that the Indians could be overtaken, and we pressed onward the following morning with a renewed determination. Before night Granger's grove had been reached, and it was there learned that troops from Fort Ridgely had already scouted the country from Springfield to the lakes and that the Indians had fled.

The battalion was now one hundred miles from the nearest source of supplies, and had only three day's rations on hand. It was conceded that it was useless to further pursue the Indians, and inadvisable for the entire command to go to the lakes to bury the dead. Major Williams decided to send on this latter errand every fourth man, and that the main body should immediately return.

#### THE RETURN, CYLINDER CREEK.

"It fell to my lot to return, and the experiences of the march homeward were terrible. The day we passed from Medium lake to Cylinder creek, in Palo Alto county, it rained continually so that the creek, which was ordinarily "a mere thread meandering through a low bottom," had overflowed its banks, and flooding the bottoms one-half mile in width to the depth of three feet, was ten feet deep in the channel. We arrived at the creek about three o'clock in the afternoon, having waded through sloughs and marched twelve miles in the rain. As a matter, of course, there was not a dry thread in the crowd; and what should we do, seeing that we could not cross the creek?

Various experiments were made to devise some method of surmounting this new and unexpected difficulty. It was first decided to calk a wagon-box, two or three to cross in it, and if possible, stretch a rope over the deep channel by the help of which, it was hoped, the wagon-box might be swung back and forth over the channel, and the men and teams reach it by wading

across the bottoms. This experiment was made. Duncombe, Richards and Smith tore up quilts, calked the wagon-box and when they had it sufficiently tight to use as a boat, called for volunteers to cross the creek. All were loath to try it the first time, so I (A. H. Malcolm) joined them and we crossed over, "barely escaping shipwreck in the passage, owing to the swiftness of the current and violence of the wind, which had now veered to the north." We were unable to return with our rude craft, and as our clothes were wet and freezing we journeyed on to Shippey's cabin, two and a half miles south, where we obtained something to eat and spent the night."

"Major Williams\*, seeing we could not return, was urged to take the wounded refugees and the best team, and return to Medium Lake, where there were four or five Irish families, and he acquiesced.

The great body of the men on the north side of the creek began to prepare for protecting themselves, as best they could, for the approaching night. They took the top off the wagon, and, placing the front and hind wheels some distance from each other, stretched over these a wagon sheet and a tent cloth, which they had with them, and pinned them to the ground on the north, east and west. The wind was sweeping down from the north, the rain had turned to snow, a blinding blizzard raged and the cold became intense, freezing the wet clothing on the bodies of the men; in short, it seemed as if the storm king had unlashd all the furies of his Arctic Empire. Thus, without food, without fire, without dry clothing, the men huddled under their improvised shelter for the night. As the snow increased, some of the more resolute went out and banked the shelter on the north, east and west. Here they

\*Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, in Midland

remained not only through the night, but through the next day and the next night, when the storm abated. In the forty-eight hours of its continuance, it had bridged the Cylinder, so that the entire command, including teams and horses, crossed on the ice."

On the first morning after Duncombe, Richards, Smith and A. H. Malcolm had crossed, as the storm was raging fiercer than ever, they had fears that the boys on the bank of the creek had frozen during the night. After breakfast they ventured to their boat and found the ice on the creek sufficient to carry the weight of a man, except over the channel where the current was swift. Any effort to cross the channel was attended with a great deal of risk. As no one could be seen at the camp, and it was impossible to make themselves heard across the stream, they were very much concerned. Being the lightest in the party, it fell to the lot of Malcolm to make the effort to cross over. Taking a board found in the wagon box, he laid it across the channel and carefully crawled over. He found all the men alive, but not one of them willing to risk the ice, so he re-crossed and they returned to Shippey's cabin.

On the second morning the stream was frozen hard, the ice was strong and the entire command, that had lain forty hours on the open prairie without food or fire, crossing over, proceeded to Shippey's cabin, where they were fed and otherwise cared for. Here they remained to follow at their leisure, while Duncombe, Richards, Smith and Malcolm passed on to the cabin of Mr. Evans, at McNight's Point, where they arrived some time after dinner and received some baked potatoes that were greatly enjoyed. Leaving Captain Duncombe at this place, the other three proceeded homeward, reaching Dakota City about nine o'clock in the evening and Fort Dodge the next day; and the

main party arrived two days later, after an absence of seventeen days.

#### THE BURIAL PARTY.

Although the hardships and sufferings of the main command were severe, they were not equal to those of the other party, that went to the lakes to bury the dead. This detachment, having proceeded to the East and West Okobojis, buried twenty-nine bodies of the dead, marking the resting place of some with piles of stone that still remain, and were ready to return on Saturday, April 4, the morning it began to rain. The majority were in favor of returning that day and started in the early morning, leaving behind R. A. Smith, Messrs. Howe, Wheelock, Parmenter and one or two others.

The party that left found a difficult and wearisome journey before them. They met the same impediments, only more difficult to overcome, that the main command met on its march from Medium Lake to Cylinder Creek. They had to wade through sloughs full of snow and slush, and cross streams on which the ice was breaking and the water overflowing their banks. In picking their way around sloughs and looking for crossings over streams, they were greatly delayed and wearied. When the mild weather of the morning turned to a pitiless blizzard, they were still on the prairie between the lakes and the Des Moines. The darkness and the storm were so intense that they knew it would be impossible to keep the right course if they proceeded, so they stopped on the prairie about eight o'clock in the evening. The stronger and more resolute kept their feet all night and constantly aroused those who were becoming drowsy. When morning came, some who had pulled off their water-soaked boots the night before, finding it impossible to get them on, had to cut their blankets and wrap their feet so they could travel.



SAD FATE OF CAPTAIN J. C. JOHNSON  
AND WM. E. BURKHOLDER.

They could see the timber in the distance and started on their way toward it, but coming to a slough too deep to wade, they differed as to the best route around it, and unfortunately while some went one way, others took the opposite direction. Mr. Laughlin, who first reached the timber, gathered some dry leaves from under the trunk of an old tree, loaded his musket with some paper wadding, fired it into the leaves and started a fire. The others came straggling in, one after the other, until all had reached the timber but two—Captain J. C. Johnson, of Webster City, who commanded the detachment, and William E. Burkholder, the newly elected treasurer of Webster county, who, going by themselves, were last seen about five o'clock that day two miles distant from their companions, traveling in a southerly direction. Every effort was made to find them, but without success, and their sad fate, as they were special favorites, threw a gloom over the whole company. They perished in a slough, west of the Des Moines river, in Palo Alto county, where in August, 1868, eleven years later, their remains and the remnants of their guns were found.

After the lapse of nineteen days the remainder of the burial party arrived at Fort Dodge, having suffered greatly from exposure and fatigue. Fourteen were so badly frozen that they did not recover for nearly a year, and some were maimed for life.

THE CAPTIVES.

Those who would know the whole, sad story of the captives, will turn with interest to the "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre," by Mrs. Abbie Gardner Sharp, at present, the only survivor of their number.

When the Indians fled at the approach of the troops from Fort Ridgely, the captives were made to carry heavy burdens the same as the squaws, and, after six weeks' marching through snow and slush, oftentimes waist-deep, they arrived at the Big Sioux river. While crossing this river on a bridge of drift, that consisted of a single log a part of the way, an inhuman monster, who had previously relieved her of her burden, thrust Mrs. Thatcher into the deep, seething current of the river. By a superhuman effort, she swam to the bank, and clung to the root of a tree, a short distance down stream. From this slender refuge she was thrust back with clubs and a little later perished in the swollen current. She was only nineteen years of age.

Early in May, while they were encamped at Skunk Lake, thirty miles west of the Big Sioux, two Indians from the Yellow Medicine Agency, in Minnesota, came to the camp of Ink-pa-du-ta, and, with a ransom, secured possession of Mrs. Marble, and took her with them to be, as it seemed, an adopted daughter to their chief, but a few days later she was delivered to Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, of Minnesota, for \$1,000. Subsequently she became the wife of S. M. Silbaugh, and in 1885 they resided at Sidell, Napa county, California.

About four weeks after the departure of Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Noble and Abbie Gardner were purchased by a party of Yanktons, who fell in with Ink-pa-du-ta and journeyed with him further westward. But one night, when she was about to retire, roaring Cloud, son of Ink-pa-du-ta, came to the tepee, or wigwam, where she and Abbie Gardner were together, and, seizing Mrs. Noble by the arm with one hand and a stick of wood with the other, he dragged her from the tent in a fit of madness and ruthlessly killed her in front of it:

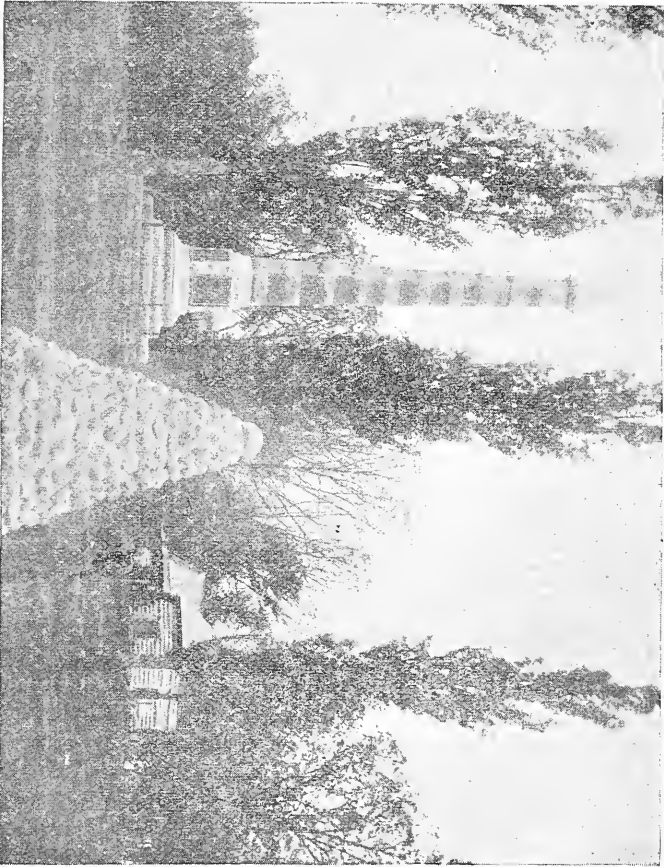
A few days later they reached the west bank of the James river, where now is situated the town of Old Ash-ton, in Spink county, South Dakota, where there was an encampment of one hundred and ninety lodges of Yanktons, a powerful branch of the Sioux nation.

Mrs. Marble and her purchasers gave full information in regard to the captivity of Mrs. Noble and Abbie Gardner. Governor Medary, of Min-nesota, Hon. Charles E. Flandreau the government agent, and Colonel Alexander in command at Fort Ridge-ly, assisted by the missionaries, Rev. Messrs. Riggs and Williamson, now put forth every effort to get some of the more friendly and intelligent Indians to go to the camp and rescue them.

On the morning of May 30th, only a few days after the death of Mrs. Noble, three Indians sent by them arrived at the Yankton camp, and by means of a ransom gained possession of Abbie Gardner, conveyed her to St. Paul, from whence she passed to Dubuque, then to Fort Dodge and later to her friends, at Hampton, Iowa, where she became the wife of Mr. Cassville Sharp. She now resides at her father's cabin, on the southeast bank of Lake Okoboji.

A magnificent monument of granite, fifty-five feet in height and of graceful proportions, has been erected upon the site of the massacre, by the state of Iowa, at a cost of \$5,000, to mark this interesting spot. It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies July 26, 1895.





**THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE MONUMENT.**

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF IOWA AND DEDICATED JULY 26, 1895.

The spot where Mr. Gardner and his family were buried, is marked by the pile of stones in the foreground, and the place where they lay, by the monument. The Gardner cabin is on the right.

## V.

**LAST INDIAN TROUBLES IN IOWA.**

"But hark! the heavy sound breaks in once more,  
As if the clouds its echo would repeat;  
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!"



SOON after the commencement of our civil war, in the spring of 1861, marauding bands of Indians from southwestern Minnesota, Dakota and northern Nebraska began to cross over into Iowa and commit depredations upon the settlers along the Sioux and Floyd rivers, in Monona and Woodbury counties. Horses were stolen, cattle and other stock killed, gardens and fields were robbed.

- On July 9, 1861, two citizens, Thomas Roberts and Henry Cardua, were killed by the savages, within three miles of Sioux City. They had left the town that morning for the purpose of working a patch of potatoes, three miles distant, and when found the day following, the circumstances indicated they had been fired upon by the Indians in ambush, while returning to their team from a spring in a wooded ravine, where they had eaten their dinner. Both men had families, and the tragedy awakened fear over that portion of the frontier. After this occurrence, the Frontier Guards of Sioux City, a company of citizens of that place, who had organized for the better protection of the counties of Northwest Iowa, made an expedition up the Big Sioux river, nearly 100 miles, and crossing thence to Spirit

Lake, returned down the Little Sioux river to Cherokee and Sioux City. Although no punishment was inflicted upon the Indians, this expedition inspired a feeling of greater security among the scattered settlements of that region.

**LATER TROUBLES IN MINNESOTA.**

On August 18, 1862, the Sioux Indians in Minnesota, under Little Crow and other chiefs, attacked the settlers at New Ulm, Mankato and other portions of that state, killing indiscriminately, the unsuspecting men, women and children. Not less than 800 persons were the victims of savage ferocity, and a vast amount of property was destroyed. This sudden and unexpected outbreak depopulated a large portion of Minnesota and spread consternation throughout the northwestern counties of Iowa.

Two small volunteer companies of armed settlers from Spirit Lake and Estherville, going twenty miles north of Jackson, Minnesota, found and buried fifteen bodies. Returning the next day to Estherville, they constructed a high stockade of heavy, sawed timber set on its end in the ground, around the court house at a distance of twenty feet, and occupying it as a military station, it continued to be so used until 1865. The first troops that occupied it was a de-

tachment of the Sioux City cavalry, and the last a detachment of Brackett's battalion of Minnesota, but in the meantime it had also been occupied by detachments of the Sixth and Seventh Iowa cavalry. During this summer (1862) a similar stockade was erected at Cherokee, and Captain A. J. Millard, of Sioux City, occupied it as headquarters for the detachments located at Sioux City, Spirit Lake, Estherville and that place.

Gen. Henry H. Sibley, ex-governor of Minnesota, raising and commanding a volunteer force, pursued, overtook and on September 23d, 1862, won a decisive victory over Little Crow and his combined force of Indian warriors, at Wood Lake. The defeated chief, accompanied by 300 of his followers and their families, fled westward, to the protection of other powerful bands of their kindred, and left their camp, occupied by more than 2000 souls and 120 white female prisoners, to be captured by Gen. Sibley, two days later. Among the captured were 500 warriors, of whom 300 having been court-martialed and sentenced to be executed, 39 of them suffered the death penalty at Mankato, Minnesota, Friday, December 19, 1862.

#### LATER INDIAN TROUBLES IN THE NORTHWEST.

In May, 1863, Gen. Alfred Sully was assigned to the command of the Department of Dakota, for the better protection of the frontier. His command consisted of six companies of the 6th Iowa cavalry, under the command of Col. David S. Wilson, of Dubuque; Brackett's and Hatchet's battalions, six companies each; and the 2d Minnesota cavalry, a full regiment, making altogether about 2,500 men.

The company of cavalry, known as the 'Frontier Guards,' of Sioux City,\* became his body guard, accompa-

\*Red Men of Iowa, by A. R. Fulton.

nied the command in the expedition of that year, and on September 3, 1863, participated in the battle of White-stone Hill, where 136 prisoners were captured. After this battle they were consolidated with the Seventh Iowa Cavalry as Company I. On their return to Sioux City, Captain Millard, commanding the company, was assigned by General Sully to the command of a sub-district, embracing north-western Iowa and eastern Dakota, with headquarters at Sioux City. They continued in the service until November 22, 1864, when their term of enlistment expired.

#### FRONTIER SOLDIERS.

The following residents of Pocahontas county participated in this frontier warfare against the Indians: William Fitzgerald and A. F. Burdick, of Dover township; Chas. Whitney and Hou. James Mercer, of Cedar; Henry Schoenthal, formerly of Colfax; Henry Hayward, of Des Moines, and Col. John B. Kent, of Rolfe.

William Fitzgerald, September 29, 1862, in Allamakee county, enlisted for three years and became a member of Co. F., 6th Iowa Cavalry under Captain Scott Shattuck and Col. David S. Wilson, of Dubuque. He participated in the engagement at White Stone Hill, September 3, 1863, when they encountered 3000 Indian warriors, and in the engagement that ensued, 300 warriors and 80 soldiers were killed or wounded, and 136 warriors taken captive. In the fall of 1864, he was with a detachment of 1,500 soldiers, that met about 2,500 Indians at Killed Deer, and in a skirmish that lasted all day, many were wounded. He participated also in the battle in the Bad Lands where the Indians made an attack on the troops while on their way to Fort Union, located near the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. He was mustered out at Sioux City in October, 1865.

Henry Schoenthal enlisted at Du-

buque October 16, 1862, for three years as a member of Co. M., 6th Iowa Cavalry under Captain V. J. Williams and continued in the service until Oct. 15, 1865, when he was mustered out at Sioux City, having served three years, lacking only one day, and participated in the battles with the Indians at White Stone Hill, Hart Mound and the Black Hills.

The 6th Iowa Cavalry, which Messrs. Fitzgerald and Schoenthal joined at the time of its organization, was recruited about the first of October, Co. A. from Scott and Clinton counties; Co. B. and Co. M., Dubuque county; Co. C., Fayette; Co. D., Winneshiak; Co. E., Pottawattamie; Companies F., I. and K., Johnson and contiguous counties; Co. G., Delaware; Co. H., Linn; Co. L., Clayton county. The regiment went into camp at Camp Hendershott, Harrison street, Davenport, about the last days of November, 1862, and was mustered into the United States service January 31 and February 3, 1863.

Colonel David S. Wilson was in command until June, 1864, when he resigned and Lieut. Col. Samuel M. Pollock, of Dubuque, was promoted. Rev. David N. Mitchell, of Cedar Rapids, was chaplain.

There was a romantic idea\* existing among a number of the men, that the great majority of the Indians were the real nobility of the country; that the few who had been committing the diabolical outrages at Spirit Lake, New Ulm and other places, were the off-scourings of that noble race. But the first sight of a camp of friendly Indians—at the Yankton Agency on the Missouri river—dispelled that romance and every subsequent acquaintance with 'the noble red' went to emphasize the idea that "the good Indian was the dead one."

The regiment left Davenport March

\*J. H. Tripp in "Three Years Among the Indians in Dakota."

16, 1863, with an equipment consisting of one wagon, drawn by six mules, for each company, and several additional ones loaded with supplies. They were to join the command of Gen. Sully at Fort Randall, D. T., make an expedition against the hostile Indians and subjugate them.

On the route through Iowa they passed Iowa City, Marengo, Des Moines, Grove City Cass county, Council Bluffs and Sioux City, where they arrived April 25th. Here they crossed the Missouri river and arrived at Yankton on May 20th, opposite Fort Randall two days later, and at Fort Pierre June 4th, where they found a detachment of the 7th Iowa Cavalry on guard.

The discovery of the camp of Sioux Indians under the command of Little Crow and Big Head, September 3, 1863, where the White Stone Hill battle was fought, was made by the Third Battalion of this regiment, consisting of companies C., F., I. and M., under command of Major A. E. House. The savages were camped on a little lake surrounded by hills that were covered with white stones. On reaching the summit of one of the surrounding hills, this band of 300 men suddenly discovered, that in front of them and only a short distance away, were hundreds of tepees and about 3,000 Indians. They deemed it unwise to precipitate an attack until the arrival of Gen. Sully with his command, twelve miles distant.

When Gen. Sully was discovered by them in the distance, near sunset, the squaws and old men began to take down the wigwams and load the ponies with tent poles, one on each side, with a strap over the back. The papooses were put in baskets and strapped on the poles that extended from the ponies to the ground. The wolf dogs were loaded the same as the ponies, only the loads were lighter. The young warriors, who on the arriv

al of the battalion, with a wild yell never to be forgotten, rushed to the lake and taking some blue clay marked themselves hideously for the fray, now, fully aware of their danger, undertook to retreat toward the James river. The battalion moved to the east of them to hold them in check. Then they raised their war-song and when it ceased, one of the chiefs fired the first shot, and it struck Caspar Wagner, one of the best young men of Co. F., in the forehead, killing him instantly. Wm. Fitzgerald, who stood next to him in the ranks, received at the same time a severe wound in the side.

At a signal given by their chief, the Indians rushed forth from the ravine shouting, "Get away! get away!" and throwing their buffalo robes over their heads, stamped the horses of the battalion. By this means, and under the cover of night, many of the warriors made their escape, leaving the old men, the squaws, papposes and dogs, all of whom, including fifty warriors, were captured and taken to Fort Sully.

This defeat was severely felt by the Indians, since they had made this camp to catch and cure their winter's meat, and the season being pretty well advanced they had a large quantity on hand, all of which was destroyed.

Charles Whitney, residing at that time in Moore county, Minnesota, at Fort Snelling, near the Falls of St. Anthony, enlisted December 28, 1862, in Co. B., 2d Minnesota. He passed first to Fort Ripley, Minnesota, where they spent the first winter, and thence in the spring of 1863 to Fort Rice, where, under the command of Gen. Sully, they tarried until the arrival of the 6th Iowa cavalry. Then they crossed the Missouri river and went through the nameless regions beyond, until they arrived at the large Indian camp in the Bad Lands, (White Stone

Hill.) This camp was protected on each side by a rocky bluff, and a short distance above it was a large spring of water which, flowing out of a sand-rock, formed a large basin and thence flowed in a strong stream through the center of the Indian camp. On the approach of the Minnesota troops to which Whitney belonged, the Indians deserted their camp. Their tepees, or wigwams, were made of tamarack poles covered with dried buffalo hides. Most beautiful robes were found here and many other desirable and valuable things, but no soldier was permitted to take anything away with him. Explicit orders were given that everything must be destroyed or burned, and when after two days they departed, every wagon was searched and all contraband goods found concealed, were destroyed. Thence they moved northwest to Fort Berthold, on the north bank of the Missouri, within thirty miles of British America, and later westward to Fort Union, at the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers.

From Fort Union they returned to Crow creek, a tributary of the Missouri, and began the erection of a fort and winter quarters, afterwards known as Fort Wardworth, where there seemed to be no materials at hand suited to their needs. They began by digging a three-foot trench and throwing up an embankment around a square that was about thirty rods in length on each side, and when that was completed the men built sod shanties for themselves, covering them over with brush and earth. In these sod shanties six companies of the 2d Minnesota regiment spent the winter of 1863 and 1864. In these rude winter quarters, Charles Whitney experienced the severest blizzard of his life; one that prevented the soldiers from going out of their shanties for food during its continuance, and caused the loss of seventeen

mules and thirty horses belonging to the command at the Fort.

Henry Hayward, formerly of Des Moines township, now a resident of Rolfe, in September, 1864, became a member of Co. G., 6th Iowa cavalry, under Captain A. B. Moreland, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Berthold, within thirty miles of British America. In June, 1865, this company returned to Fort Rice where, together with four companies of the First and three companies of the Fourth U. S. V. infantry, it was left to guard the Fort during the months of July and August, while the command under Gen. Sully was at Devil's Lake.

On July 28, (1865) the Indians in that vicinity undertook to destroy the Fort and plunder the premises. Their plan of battle covered a field two miles in extent from right to left, and the attack was made simultaneously at all points, indicating preconcerted action, and preventing the troops in one part from knowing what was transpiring in another. The operations on the field were directed by Lieut. Col. Pattee, of the 7th cavalry. Company G., of the 6th Iowa cavalry, occupied the left wing, and twelve Indians were found dead in that part of the field. The Indians were repulsed with fatal effect at all points of the line, and it was said "There is many a squaw that will bewail the brave killed on the 28th of July, 1865." A large number were killed and wounded. After one year's service on the frontier, Henry Hayward was mustered out with the 6th Iowa cavalry, October 17, 1865, at Sioux City.

A. F. Burdick, of Dover township, on October 11, 1864, became a member of Co. K., 6th Iowa cavalry, under Captain John Logan, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Sully, Dakota territory, and accompanied the command under Gen. Sully, to the Devil's

Lake region, in July and August.

Hon. James Mercer, of Cedar township, on October 28, 1864, in Dubuque county, became a member of Co. M., 6th Iowa cavalry, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Randall, Dakota territory, and accompanied the command under Gen. Sully in the expedition to the Devil's Lake region, during the summer of 1865. Later, he spent some time at Fort Berthold and Yankton, and on October 17th, following, at Sioux City, was mustered out with his regiment, having spent one year in the service.

Col. John B. Kent, of Rolfe, in 1879, in Minnesota, enlisted in the regular army of the United States for service on the frontier, and spent the first two years in the military school at St. Paul. As a member of the 7th U. S. infantry, he served three years, 1881 to 1884, under Gen. John Gibbon, and participated in several expeditions in the northwest, traversing the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the territories of Colorado and Wyoming. At the time of his discharge, March 10, 1884, at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, he held the rank of First Sergeant.

On February 1, 1894, by Gov. Frank D. Jackson, he was appointed an aide-camp to the commander-in-chief of the Iowa National Guard, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

#### SITTING BULL.

Little Crow, (Tah-o-ah-ta-du-ta) the Sioux chief who directed the Minnesota Massacre of 1862, met his richly merited death while making a raid with a small party in 1863, and his successor, Sitting Bull, the Bad, (Tatun-ka E-yo-tun-ka) became one of the most famous of the warrior chiefs of the Indians of this country, taking rank with Te-cum-seh and Black Hawk.

In 1864, when Red Cloud and Spotted Tail accepted terms of peace, Sitting Bull refused to meet the



peace commissioners and, making war on the steamboats and commerce of the upper Missouri, massacred several boatloads of returning miners and captured large quantities of gold-dust that he traded with the northern half-breeds for arms and ammunition.

In 1867 he threatened the Gallatin Valley, in Montana, and in 1868 attacked the settlement of Muscleshell, but suffered defeat and the loss of thirty-six warriors. In 1869 and 1870, he devoted his attention to the slaughter of the Crows, Shoshones and other tribes that were friendly to the whites. In 1872, one of his bands made a raid through the Gallatin Valley, massacring a number of farmers and capturing 500 horses. In 1873, he made a night attack on Col. Baker, and the year following drove the Crows from their agency and reservation. In 1875, he captured a government wagon train on the Carroll road, and killed a number of recruits who were on their way to the Montana military posts.

He defied the government and indulged the hope he could get the entire Sioux nation to join him and he would then drive the whites back into the sea, out of which they came.

#### GEN. CUSTER'S SAD FATE.

On June 25, 1876, Gen. Custer's expedition against him was literally annihilated. Gen. Custer marched up the Rosebud and thence to the Little

Big Horn river, where there was an Indian village or encampment of 2,000 lodges, and immediately attacked it. With five companies he made a charge into the camp, and in a very short time every man was killed. Nothing is known of the operations of this battalion except that which was indicated by their dead bodies. The Indians received them with a murderous fire from all directions, while the greater portion of them fought on horseback. Custer, his two brothers, a nephew and brother-in-law were all killed, and not one of his detachment of 200 escaped. Major Reno, who commanded the other seven companies of his army, attacked another portion of the camp and when the Indians retreated, the battle-field which was a narrow ravine, looked like a slaughter pen. Three hundred and fifteen of the troops had fallen, and fully twice the number of Indians.

No opportunity presented itself for chastising the Indians until in May, 1877, when Gen. Miles met a force under Sitting Bull, routed them and killed fourteen of their number. After this battle, Sitting Bull and his warriors crossed to the British possessions where they remained until the summer of 1881, when he and his followers, disheartened and greatly reduced in numbers, surrendered to the military authorities of the United States.

## VI.

## SPANISH GRANTS AND IOWA INDIAN TREATIES.

“The better part of valor is—discretion.”

## THE LOUISIANA PROVINCE.



THE treaty of peace between France and England at the close of the Seven Years' war, which was identical in time with the French and Indian war in America, was signed at Paris, February 10, 1763. By this treaty France relinquished her claim to the territory east of the Mississippi, and that river became the western boundary of the British Colonial possessions. When this treaty had been signed, England assigned the valley of the Ohio and the adjacent region as Indian domain, and by proclamation dated October 7, 1763, prohibited the intrusion of white settlers upon these lands. This measure, however, came too late, for a few settlements had already been made and the tide of emigration was moving rapidly to that part of the frontier.

The territory within the limits of Iowa prior to 1763 was claimed by France by virtue of the right of discovery, but in that year, with a vast extent of other territory known as the Province of Louisiana, and which included all the country from the Gulf of Mexico on the south to the British possessions on the north and from the Mississippi river on the east to the Sabine river and range of the Rocky Mountains on the west, was ceded to

Spain, and in that year French power disappeared from North America. Added to her other North American Colonies, this Province gave to Spain control of more than half the continent at that time. Spain held the Sovereignty of the Province of Louisiana until Oct. 1, 1800, when it was ceded back to France. In 1803 it was sold to the United States by Napoleon for 60,000,000 francs, to prevent it from falling into the hands of Great Britain.

During the thirty-seven years that Spain held possession of it, several grants of land within the limits of the present state of Iowa were made.

## DUBUQUE'S TREATY.

September 22, 1788, at Prairie du Chien, the chiefs of the Fox tribe of Indians, who had a village on the west side of the Mississippi, near where the city of Dubuque is now located, signed an article by which they conveyed to Dubuque, who was called by them "Little Knight," a tract described in the conveyance as "147,176 acres of land situated at a place called the Spanish Mines on the river Mississippi at a distance of 440 miles from St. Louis, forming in superficies about twenty-one leagues, beginning at the heights of the little Maquoketa to the heights of the Mesquatic Manque, being in front of said river seven

leagues, by depth three leagues; the whole forming the said tract of the the Spanish Mines."

This was the first conveyance of any title to Iowa soil by the Indians to the whites, and here Julien Dubuque became the founder of the white man's first settlement in Iowa. The conveyance, however, comprehended only the right to occupy and work the mines within the limits specified.

Dubuque was regarded by the neighboring Indian tribes with great favor, and especially by the Sacs and Foxes, he having taken as a wife a maiden of the latter tribe, named Po-to-a.

#### DUBUQUE GRANT.

Julien Dubuque, having in 1788 obtained from the Fox tribe of Indians, permission to work the lead mines where the present city that bears his name is situated, found his claim so valuable that he began to desire a more complete title. Therefore, in 1796, he filed a petition with Corondelet, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana and received a grant of a tract that embraced more than 20,000 acres on which the lead mines were located, and which he continued to work until his death in 1810, when they reverted again to the Indians. The latter continued to hold possession of the country in this part of Iowa until 1832, when the "Black Hawk Purchase," which included the "Dubuque Claim" with their "Mines of Spain," was made by the United States government.

#### GIRARD GRANT.

In 1795, the lieutenant-governor of Louisiana granted to Basil Girard, a tract of 5,760 acres situated within the limits of the present county of Clayton. Girard was a French trader, and had been the companion of Dubuque at Prairie du Chien. He continued to occupy the land so granted during the time the country passed from Spain, and later from France to the United

States. In consideration of this occupancy, the United States, July 3, 1814, issued a patent for the land to Girard in his own right. His heirs subsequently sold the entire tract for \$300. The present city of McGregor is situated on the "Girard Tract."

#### THE HONORI GRANT.

On March 20th, 1799, the lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana granted Louis Honori-Tesson a tract of land one league square where the present town of Montrose, in Lee county, is situated. On this claim apple trees had been planted by a half-breed Indian named Red Bird, as early as 1798.

#### ST. LOUIS TREATY.

On November, 3, 1804, at St. Louis, four Indian chiefs and head men who were, as Black Hawk affirmed, without authority to act for their nation, entered into a treaty with the United States, by which they sold all the claim of the united nations of the Sacs and Foxes to the immense tract of country lying between the Mississippi, Illinois, Fox river of Illinois and Wisconsin rivers, comprising about 50,000,000 acres. The consideration given was the protection of the United States and goods delivered to the value of \$2,234.50 and an annuity of \$1,000 (\$600 to the Sacs and \$400 to the Foxes) forever. An article in this treaty provided that as long as the United States remained the owner of the land, "the Indians belonging to the said tribes shall enjoy the privilege of living and hunting" on said land.

This treaty it was alleged, was violated by those tribes who, in the war of 1814, took sides with the British, and on May 13, 1816, it was renewed and re-enacted with the chiefs and warriors of the Sacs of Rock river and the adjacent country.

#### IOWA INDIAN TREATIES.\*

1. With the Sioux, 1815.—This  
\*Red Men of Iowa, 412.

treaty, made at Portage, Minnesota, July 19, 1815, by William Clark and Ninian Edwards, commissioners, with the chiefs and head men of the Sioux Indians, occupying northern Iowa and Minnesota, was ratified December 26, following. It was made at the close of the war of 1812, and was merely a treaty of peace and friendship on the part of these Indians toward the United States.

2. With the Sacs, 1815.—This treaty was made September 12, 1815, at Portage, by Messrs. Clark, Edwards and Auguste Choteau, commissioners, and the chiefs and head men of the Sac tribe. This was a treaty of peace and friendship, and included a re-affirmation of the general treaty made at St. Louis in 1804.

3. With the Foxes, 1815.—The same commissioners, at Portage, September 14, 1815, concluded a separate treaty with the chiefs and head men of the Fox tribe, of similar import to the one made with the Sac tribe. In this treaty the Foxes agreed to deliver all prisoners held by them, to the officer in command at Fort Clark,—now Peoria, Illinois.

4. With the Iowas, 1815.—The same commissioners at the same place, on September 16, 1815, concluded a treaty of peace and good-will with the Iowa tribe of Indians, that was ratified December 26, following.

5. With the Sacs of Rock River, 1816.—This treaty was concluded by the same commissioners at St. Louis, May 13, 1816, and was ratified December 30th, following. In it the St. Louis treaty of November 3, 1804, was re-affirmed by twenty-two chiefs and head men of the Sacs of Rock River. Black Hawk attached to it his signature, or, as he said, "touched the goose-quill."

6. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1824.—This treaty was concluded at Washington city, August 4, 1824, by William Clark, commissioner, and ten reg-

ularly delegated chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox tribes. By this treaty the latter for a valuable consideration sold all their title to lands in Missouri, which consisted of the northern portion of the state, extending from the Mississippi to its western boundary. By this treaty, 119,000 acres were reserved in southeastern Iowa, for the use of the half-breeds of the Sac and Fox nation, and was called the "Half Breed Tract." This tract occupied the strip of country between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, south of a line drawn from a point on the Des Moines river, about one mile below Farmington, east to the Mississippi river, at the lower end of Fort Madison; including Keokuk and all the land between said line and the junction of the rivers. This reservation was suggested and urged in the council by a half-breed orator of the Fox tribe, named Morgan. This treaty was ratified January 18, 1825.

7. With Various Tribes, 1825.—On August 19, 1825, a treaty was concluded at Prairie du Chien, by William Clark and Lewis Cass, commissioners on the part of the United States, and representatives from the Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Menemonies, Winnebagoes and a portion of the Ottawas and Pottawattamies. The principal object of this treaty was to make and preserve peace between certain contending tribes as to the limits of their respective hunting-grounds in Iowa. It was agreed that the United States should run a boundary line between the Sioux on the north, and the Sacs and Foxes on the south, as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, on the west bank of the Mississippi and ascending said Iowa river to its west fork; thence up the fork to its source; thence crossing the fork of Red Cedar river in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river; thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the

Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that to its junction with the Missouri.

8. With the Sacs and Foxes and Sioux.—On July 12, 1830, the Sacs and Foxes in a council at Prairie du Chien, ceded to the United States a strip of country twenty miles in width, lying south of the line established in the treaty of August 19, 1825, and extending along on the south side of said line from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. In the same treaty the Sioux, whose possessions were north of this line, also ceded to the United States a similar strip twenty miles wide, extending along the north side of said line from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. At the ratification of this treaty, February 24, 1831, the United States came into possession of a portion of Iowa, forty miles in width, extending along the Clark and Cass line of 1825, from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. This was the tract that was known as the "Neutral Ground," and the tribes on either side of the line were allowed to fish and hunt on it unmolested, until it was made a Winnebago reservation, and the Winnebagoes moved to it.

9. With Various Tribes in 1830.—At the same time and place the treaty was made respecting the "Neutral Ground," July 15, 1830, the Sacs and Foxes and other tribes ceded to the United States a portion of the western slope of Iowa, the description of which appears on the 26th page of this volume.

10. With the Winnebagoes, 1832.—This treaty was concluded at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, September 15, 1832, by General Winfield Scott and Governor John Reynolds, of Illinois. The Winnebagoes ceded to the United States all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi, and in part consideration therefor, the United States granted to the Winnebagoes, to be held as other Indian lands were

held, that portion of Iowa known as the "Neutral Ground," the exchange to take place June 1, 1833. The United States was also to give the Winnebagoes, beginning in September, 1833, and continuing for twenty-seven successive years, \$10,000 in specie, establish a school among them with a farm and garden and to provide other facilities for the education of their children, not to exceed in cost \$3,000 a year, for twenty-seven successive years.

11. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1832.—By this treaty, concluded September 21, 1832, the United States came into possession of that portion of Iowa known as the "Black Hawk Purchase." The commissioners on the part of the United States were General Scott and Governor Reynolds, and the council was held on the west bank of the Mississippi, where Davenport is now situated. Keokuk, Powesheik, Pashepah and some thirty other chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox tribes, were in the council, the treaty was ratified February 13, 1833, and took effect June 1st, following.

Although this treaty was not the first by which the Indians relinquished to the United States their title to lands in Iowa, it was the first that opened up any portion of Iowa for settlement by the whites. The limits of the territory ceded in this treaty are thus described: "Beginning on the Mississippi river at a point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, July, 1830, strikes the river; thence up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar, of Iowa, forty miles from the Mississippi; thence in a right line to a point in the northern boundary of the state of Missouri, fifty miles from the Mississippi river; thence by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi

river, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning."

Out of this purchase a reservation of 400 square miles on Iowa river was made for the Sacs and Foxes, including Keokuk's village on its right bank, and it was known as "Keokuk's Reserve." Under this treaty, and in consideration of the lands ceded, the United States agreed to pay the Sacs and Foxes annually, for thirty consecutive years, the sum of \$20,000 in specie, and to pay the debts of the Indians at Rock Island, amounting to \$40,000, the accumulations of seventeen years.

12. With the Sac and Foxes, 1836.—This was the treaty by which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States "Keokuk's Reserve," being 400 square miles on Iowa river. In consideration of this relinquishment, the government stipulated to pay \$30,000 and an annuity of \$10,000 for ten consecutive years, together with some indebtedness of the Indians. This treaty was negotiated by General Henry Dodge, as commissioner, at a council held on the site of the present city of Davenport.

13. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1837.—This treaty was made at the city of Washington, October 21, 1837, and by Carey A. Harris, commissioner. By reference to the map it will be seen that the western boundary of the Black Hawk Purchase of 1832 was very far from a straight line, and in 1837 it was proposed to make it a straight line. By this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a tract of country west and adjoining the Black Hawk Purchase, containing 1,250,000 acres. This treaty was ratified February 21, 1838, and the lands were usually called by the early settlers the "Second Purchase."

At the same time and place the Sacs and Foxes relinquished to the United States all their right and interest in the country lying south of the boundary line between the Sac and Fox tribes and Sioux, as described in the

treaty of August 19, 1825, and between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the United States paying for the same \$160,000.

14. With Sacs and Foxes, 1842.—This treaty was concluded at the Sac and Fox Agency (now Agency City) October 11, 1842, John Chambers, governor of the territory of Iowa, acting as commissioner, and it was ratified March 23, 1843. In this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded all of their lands west of the Mississippi, to which they had any claim or title, and were to be removed from the state at the expiration of three years from October 11, 1842. A part of them were removed to Kansas in the fall of 1845 and the rest in the spring of 1846. The site of the city of Des Moines was included in this treaty.

15. With the Sioux, 1851.—In 1851, a treaty was made with the Sioux, by which they relinquished to the United States their title to all lands within the limits of the state of Iowa, that were not included in previous treaties. Under this treaty were comprised all the lands north of the Neutral Ground, east of the Des Moines river, and west of it all lands not included in the Western Slope treaty of July 15, 1830. That part of Webster county, that is west of the Des Moines river, Pocahontas and other counties of northwest Iowa continued to belong to the Sioux Indians until this treaty of July 23, 1851, when the last Indian title to lands in Iowa was extinguished and possession given two years later.

"The warrior lover woots no more  
His dusky, dark-eyed forest maid,  
Nor wins her heart by counting o'er  
The braves beneath his war-club laid."

The Indian, who possessed the soil at the dawn of civilization, was here in his own right. He believed in the Great Spirit. He worshipped no idols nor bowed to any superior but the great "Manitou." He made no sacrifice of human life to appease the

wrath of an offended Deity. He believed in a future of rewards but not of punishments, and was ever ready and proud to sing the death-song at the stake, that he might enter the elysian fields of the good hunting-ground. He never blasphemed. His home is where the finger of destiny points; yet his sympathies often clustered deeply around the place of his nativity and the scenes of his earlier life.

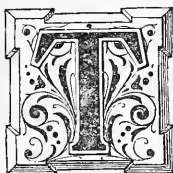


## VII.

## THE TRANSITIONS FROM DISCOVERY TO STATEHOOD.

“Arms and the man I sing,  
Who, first from the shores of Troy sailing,  
Driven by fate, came to Italy and the Lavinian Country;  
Much was he tossed over land and sea, by the powers supernal,  
While he builded his city.”—VIRGIL.

FERNANDO DE SOTO.



THE early history of the Province of Louisiana, of which Iowa formed a part near the center, is one of the most interesting chapters in the annals of our country.

It was first visited in 1541, by Fernando De Soto, a Spanish captain, who had assisted Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, and later had been appointed by the king of Spain, governor of Cuba and president of Florida. This daring explorer, intent on finding gold, in 1539, landing on the west coast of Florida with 600 followers, made his way through pathless forests and almost impassable swamps to the Mississippi river, which he discovered early in 1541. Crossing it he passed many miles up the Washita river and there spent the ensuing winter. On his return to the Mississippi, in May or June, he died and his body was sunk in its waters.

MARQUETTE AND JOLIET.

In May, 1673, James Marquette, a French Jesuit Missionary, and Louis Joliet, a fur trader of Quebec, started from the settlements in Canada, to find a great river that the Indians told them lay west of Lake Michigan. Making their way in birch-bark ca-

noes to the head of Green Bay, they paddled up the Fox river to a place they called Portage—now Portage City—then carrying their canoes across, a distance of two miles, they embarked on the Wisconsin river, and on the 17th of June, 1673, re-discovered the Mississippi, the mighty stream the Indians had called the “Father of Waters.” They and their companions, who consisted of five assistant boatmen, floated down the river without exploring the country or seeing any of its inhabitants, until the 25th of June, when they landed at a place near the mouth of the Des Moines river, now Lee county. Here, going ashore, they were probably the first white men to set foot on the “Beautiful Land,” and, finding fresh traces of men on the sand and a path that led to a prairie, these two heroic pioneers followed the latter until they discovered an Indian village on the bank of the river and two other Indian villages on a neighboring hill. After proceeding southward to the mouth of the Arkansas river, where they were warned not to go farther, they returned, paddling their canoes against the powerful current of the river, feeling well repaid for their voyage of discovery.



## LA SALLE.

Six years later (1679), the French voyager and discoverer La Salle, a man of active brain and iron will, set out from Montreal to complete the work of Marquette and Joliet. To carry the supplies for his expedition, he built on the shores of Lake Erie, not far above Niagara, the first sailing vessel ever launched on the great lakes. In the fall of 1681, landing at the foot of Lake Michigan, where Chicago now stands, he crossed over to the Illinois, and going down that river, entered the Mississippi in February, 1682. On the 19th of April following, he had reached the sunny waters of the Gulf of Mexico. There he set up a rude wooden cross on which he fastened a metal plate, bearing the arms of France. Then with volleys of musketry and loud shouts of "God save the King!" he took possession of the entire vast territory watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. To this region of unknown extent at that time, twice as large as France, Spain and Germany united, he gave the name of Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV, the king of France.

As stated above, this vast province was held by France until 1763, when it was ceded to Spain. In 1800 it was ceded back to France, and in 1803 purchased by the United States, and yet its western boundary was not definitely determined until the treaty of 1819 with Spain, when Florida was included and also ceded to the United States.

## THE LOUISIANA PROVINCE DIVIDED.

The purchase of the Louisiana Province was a great event in American history. It was referred to as "an event so portentous as to defy measurement; it gave a new face to politics and ranked in historical importance next to the Declaration of Independence." As soon as it came into the possession of the United States it

was formed into one territory, that a few months later was divided into Upper and Lower Louisiana; and the occupancy of St. Louis by the United States as a military station, was immediately followed by the important treaty of 1804, in which the Indians relinquished their title to the lands east of the Mississippi river. That year nearly all of what is now the state of Louisiana was erected into a territory under the name of Orleans, and in 1810 this territory was increased with an addition east of the Mississippi, and in 1812 it was admitted as a state under its present name (Louisiana), and with its present boundaries.

"March 20, 1804, congress provided that Upper Louisiana—that part of the province north of the 33d parallel, consisting now of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and southern Minnesota—should be organized into a court district and attached it to the territory of Indiana for governmental and judicial purposes." This arrangement gave rise to the term "District of Louisiana," that occurs in the early history of this part of the country, and extended from the Mississippi river to the range of the Rocky Mountains.

In 1807, for a brief period, Iowa was attached to the territory of Illinois for judicial purposes.

## TERRITORY OF MISSOURI.

The first division of Upper Louisiana, to which Iowa belonged, was in June, 1812, when the territory of Missouri, including Iowa was organized. In 1818, Missouri, applied for admission to the Union as a slave state. Two years of bitter controversy over her request to be received as a slave state, followed in congress, that threatened the dissolution of the Union. This controversy was settled by the adoption of the famous "Missouri Compromise," that forbade slavery in all that portion of the Louisi-

ana Purchase lying north of the parallel of 36 degrees, 30' north latitude—the northern boundary line of Arkansas—except in Missouri.

When, on July 19, 1820, Missouri became a state, Iowa was detached and, with other territory, remained, without a government either political or judicial, until June 28, 1834,—one year after it was opened for settlement,—when, because of unpunished outlawry and crime, it was included in the territory of Michigan.

#### MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, IOWA.

By an act of congress, June 28, 1834, all the country north of Missouri, that was included in the Upper Province of Louisiana “for the purpose of temporary government, was attached to and made a part of the territory of Michigan,” and so continued until the admission of that territory into the Union as a state, June 15, 1836.

July 4, 1836, Iowa became a part of the newly organized territory of Wisconsin, that included the present states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and the eastern part of North and South Dakota.

July 12, 1838, the territory of Iowa, including Minnesota and the eastern part of North and South Dakota, was organized.

December 28, 1846 after eight years of territorial government, Iowa was admitted into the Union as a sovereign state, in succession the twenty-ninth.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

For 113 years after the discovery of Iowa by Marquette and Joliet, it remained virtually an unknown land. In that period of slow transportation and limited reading, but of numerous discoveries of new lands, the discovery of this interior portion of the North American continent, failed to attract public attention. No effort was made to effect any settlement within the borders of what is now the state of

Iowa, until the fall of 1788, when Julien Dubuque secured from the Indians the grant of land containing the lead mines, along the Mississippi, which he occupied until his death, March 24, 1810, when his lease expired.

In 1795, Basil Girard located on the Girard Tract, in Clayton county, and occupied it with others under the Spanish, French and American governments. He was finally granted a patent in his own right, by the land office of the United States.

In March, 1799, Louis Honori established a settlement upon the site of the town of Montrose, in Lee county, which he improved and occupied until 1803. Two years later this property passed to Thomas F. Roddick, and to his heirs the original title to one section of land was confirmed, making this the first and oldest legal title to lands in Iowa.

Various venturesome parties of hunters, trappers and Indian traders made temporary settlements along the Mississippi, within the limits of Iowa, from 1820 to 1830, but did not permanently remain. In 1809 a military post was established at Fort Madison, but inasmuch as it was in violation of a treaty stipulation, it was soon abandoned.

The western border of Iowa was traced in 1805, by Captains Lewis and Clark. They held an important council with the Indians, on the Missouri river bluffs in the northwest corner of what is now Pottawattamie county, and named the place “Council Bluffs.” As they journeyed northward on the east bank of the Missouri, one of their men, Sergeant Floyd, died and was buried on a bluff that has since been known as Floyd’s bluff, and the little river in that section has been called Floyd river.

St. Louis was founded in 1764. In 1807, Robert Fulton made his successful trial trip on the Hudson with

the "Clermont," and steam, as a motive power on American rivers, was demonstrated to be a practical force and soon had large application. In 1817, the first steamboat reached St. Louis. That trading post for Indians and hunters then passed from its primal stage to a growing and important commercial center. Steam navigation being applied on the Ohio and Mississippi brought settlers into southwestern Illinois and northeastern Missouri, and prepared the way for the settlement of Iowa.

In June, 1829, James Lyon Langworthy, resident of Galena, Ill., an energetic pioneer of Welch descent that inherited Puritan hardihood, and who, two years before being employed by the United States Government, had accompanied General Henry Dodge while negotiating the treaty with the Winnebago, Sac and Fox Indians at Portage, Wisconsin, that secured to the United States all northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, crossed the Mississippi, at a point afterward called Dunleith (now East Dubuque) in a canoe, swimming his horse by his side, and, having obtained permission for the space of three weeks, from the Chief of the Indian village at that place, explored the whole region of country lying between the Maquoketa and Turkey rivers.

In June of the next year (1830), accompanied by his brother Lucius (father of Oscar A. Langworthy, hardwareman of Fonda, 1878 to 1883,) and others, he again crossed the Mississippi and, with the consent of the Indians, resumed work in the lead mines of Julien Dubuque, that had not been worked, except by the Indians, from the time of his death in 1810.

The first act resembling legislation in Iowa was drawn up by Mr. James L. Langworthy at this time, and consisted of an agreement regulating the claims of miners and the amount of labor necessary to hold a claim,

They continued to work successfully until the winter of 1831, when the United States Government ordered the miners to desist and remove from the territory west of the Mississippi. They obeyed and returned to Galena. In the spring following, the "Black Hawk War" occurred in that vicinity, and, at its close, Mr. Langworthy and his fellow-miners returned to their claims on the west side of the river. Their stay, however, was of short duration, for in the fall of that year they were again ordered from the west side of the river. This order was enforced by Colonel (afterwards President) Zachary Taylor, commander of the Military Post at Prairie du Chien (Fort Crawford) accompanied by his son-in-law, Lieut. Jefferson Davis, ex-rebel president.

On June 1, 1833, the Rock Island treaty went into effect and the whole eastern portion of Iowa, being thrown open for settlement, became at once the theatre of the white man's enterprise. Mr. Langworthy and his fellow-miners, accompanied by about five hundred other adventurous pioneers, crossed the Mississippi, took possession of their mining and homestead claims, made the first permanent settlement and in the village of Dubuque, near the site of the present Female Seminary, erected that same year, the first school house in Iowa.

On the opening of Iowa for settlement, in 1833, settlers rushed into the territory along the Mississippi, and the city of Dubuque was first founded. Davenport, Burlington, Fort Madison and other cities along the Mississippi were planted, from which the new settlements spread westward and the growth of the Territory and State has been rapid and steady from that time.

In 1836, three years after Iowa was opened for settlement, the population of the territory numbered 10,315. Two years later the population had in-

creased to 22,850. In the census of 1840, seven years after the territory was opened for settlement, the population numbered 43,112. Six years later it numbered 96,088; in 1850, 192,204 and in 1860, 674,913.

The star of Empire was moving westward, the people of the timber-clad east had heard of the beauty and productiveness of this prairie-land, where a farm could be made in a season with a yoke of oxen and a plow, and were coming in by thousands to enjoy the beauty of its broad landscapes, the glory of its sunshine, the purity of its waters and the fertility of its acres. The fame of its wonderful natural meadows and the beauty and fertility of its prairies had spread not only over this country, but had

crossed the seas, and the people of other countries, as well as the states in the east were crowding in to find homes in this richly inviting region of the prairie west.

#### PIONEER LEGISLATION.

The first official publication in which the name "Iowa" appeared was an act passed by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, October 9, 1829, forming the county of "Iowa" of the country south of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers in what is now the state of Wisconsin.\*

The first act of legislation for Iowa was the third act passed at an extra session of the Sixth Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan at Detroit, September 6, 1834, and entitled "An Act to lay off and organize counties west of the Mississippi River." This act created the counties of "Dubuque" and "Demoine"—each consisting of one township named respectively Julien and Flinthill—from the Territory in Iowa then open for settlement, known as the Black Hawk Purchase; the boundary between them being a line running due west from the foot of Rock

Island. Dubuque was named as the seat of justice of the former, while the county seat of the latter was left to be designated by its own county court. Burlington was selected as the seat of justice for Des Moines county and the first court held there was in April, 1835, in a log house on the hill on lot number 384. The laws of "Iowa county (now of the State of Wisconsin) not locally inapplicable," were extended to the two counties thus organized.

Although the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan erected the first two counties west of the Mississippi, September 6, 1834, and they were entitled to representation, no election of members to that body was held in the two Iowa counties that year, the first after settlement.

When on the third day of July, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin, including the Iowa District, came into existence with its organic act providing that all free white male citizens should be entitled to vote, for the first time in the history of this territory was the prerequisite of tax-paying omitted from the qualifications of voters. Hence the first time the people of this section elected their law makers a property qualification to vote was not required. "In no part of the whole country east of the western line of the state of Iowa, except in Iowa and Minnesota, has it been true that the people have always exercised the right of suffrage without the prepayment of some sort of a tax." In 1836, three members of the Legislative Council and twelve members of the House of Representatives of the territory of Wisconsin were chosen by the people of the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines. The names of those first elected were as follows:

County of Dubuque:—

COUNCIL—Thomas McCraney, John Foley, Thomas McNight.

HOUSE—Loring Wheeler, Hardin Nowlin, Hosea T. Camp, Peter Hill,

\*Annals of Iowa, 1897, p. 224.

Engle and Patrick Quigley.  
County of Des Moines:—

COUNCIL—Jeremiah Smith, Jr., Joseph B. Teas, Arthur B. Inghram.

HOUSE—Isaac Leffler, Thomas Blair, John Box, George W. Teas, David R. Chance, Warren L. Jenkins and John Reynolds.

The first session of this body was held at Belmont, Iowa county, (now in Lafayette county, Wisconsin,) and continued from October 25th to December 9th, 1836. Peter Hill Engle, of Dubuque, was chosen Speaker of the House. Congress had provided for the division of the Territory of Wisconsin into three judicial districts and the Legislature at this session constituted the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines into the second district, to be presided over by Hon. David Irvin, one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court.

The first and most noted act of local legislation was "an act to incorporate the stock-holders of the Miners Bank of Dubuque," of date November 30, 1836. The history of this bank was fruitful of incidents in the politics of the subsequent Territory of Iowa. A full set of its notes may be seen framed in the Historical Society at Des Moines.

A second and important act was to provide for "constructing a public road from Farmington, on the Des Moines river, through Burlington (Flint Hills), Wapello (Old Chief's Village) and Dubuque to the Ferry (now McGregor), opposite Prairie du Chien."

The third act divided the county of Des Moines into Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa and Musquitine (Muscatine) counties, and from a strip on the south part of Dubuque county organized the county of Cook (now Scott) and attached it to Musquitine.

The second session of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin was held at Burlington, now in Iowa, November

6, 1837, and continued until January 20, 1838. Arthur B. Inghram was president of the Council and Isaac Leffler speaker of the House. At this session, Alexander McGregor appeared in place of Hosea T. Camp, deceased. A special session of the same Legislature was held at Burlington, June 11th to 25th, 1838, and Lucius H. Langworthy appeared in place of Mr. McGregor, who had resigned. The connection of the people west of the Mississippi with the Territory of Wisconsin terminated July 3d following, when the latter became a State and the former the Territory of Iowa.

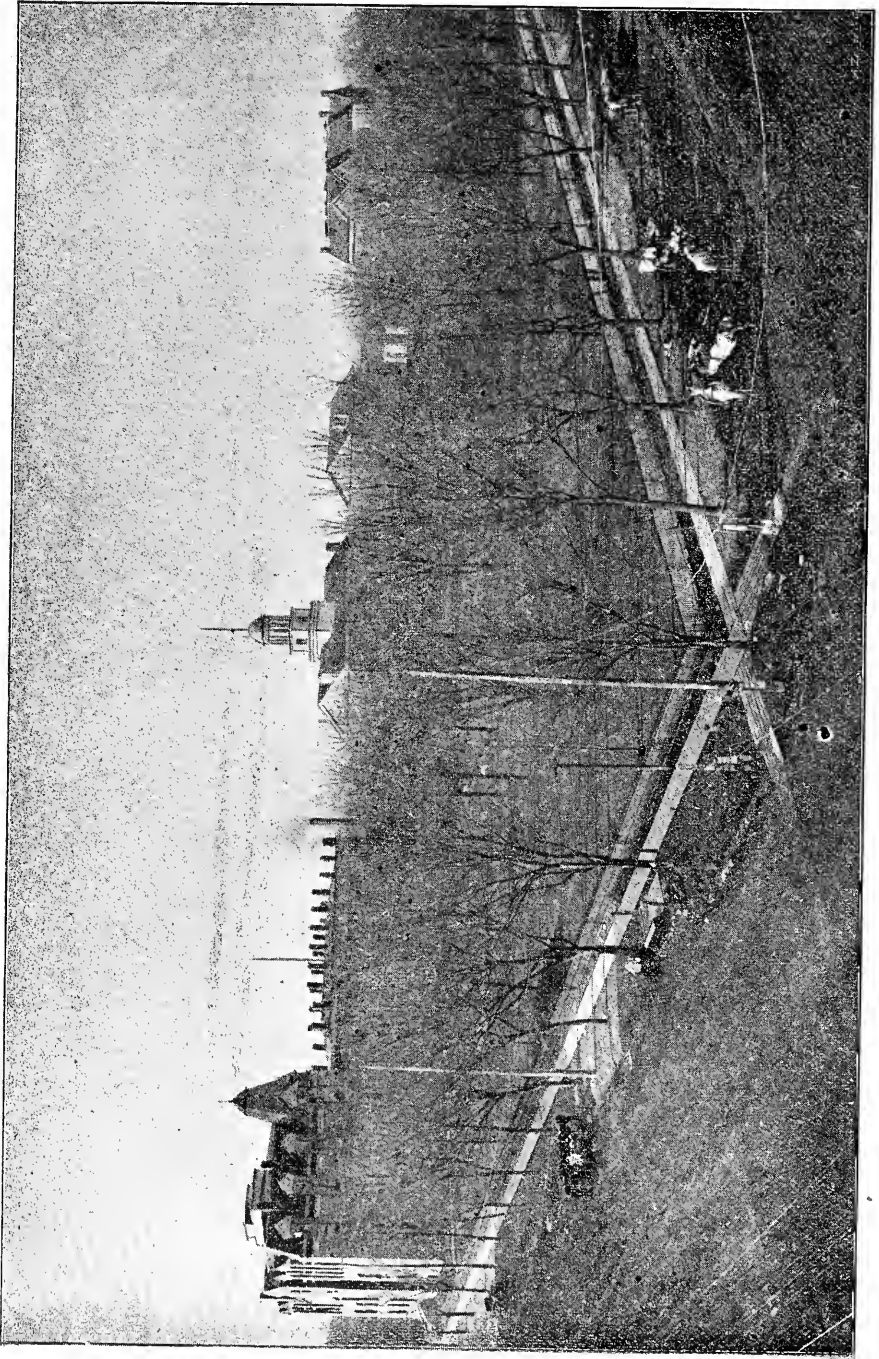
#### TERRITORY NAMED.

In April, 1836, Lieut. A. M. Lea, of the United States Dragoons, published some "Notes on Wisconsin Territory, with a map," that consisted, however, of a sketch of the "Iowa District," a name he gave to the Black Hawk Purchase. In this little volume is found the following prophetic paragraph:

"Though this district may be considered, for a time, as forming a part of this Territory, yet the intelligent readers will have little difficulty in foreseeing that a separate government will soon be required for Iowa."

In three years from the time that section was opened for settlement Dubuque had grown into a village of note and on May 11, 1836, John King, Esq., issued the first number of the Dubuque Visitor, the first newspaper published in Iowa. It had for its motto "Truth our guide—the public good our aim," and for its head-line "Dubuque Lead Mines, Wisconsin Territory."

About this time a bill was introduced in Congress to divide the Territory of Wisconsin, and a writer in the Visitor, referring to this matter in an article entitled "A Vision," fancies that he hears in his slumbers the call, "The Legislature of the State of Iowa," will commence its session. These words



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA. Established February 25, 1847, at Iowa City.

served to direct public attention to the name to be given to the new Territory that was erected July 4, 1838, by the Act of Congress of June 12th, separating from Wisconsin the territory west of the Mississippi.

#### TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION.

On November 6, 1837, Congress passed an act to divide the Territory of Wisconsin and to establish the territorial government of Iowa. This act was approved June 12th and went into effect July 4th, 1838. This act provided for an election that was held September 10, 1838, for a House of representatives, consisting of twenty-six members and a council of thirteen members.

The first territorial officers were appointed by President Van Buren, and were as follows:

GOVERNOR—Robert Lucas, of Ohio.

SECRETARY OF THE TERRITORY—Wm.

B. Conway.

CHIEF JUSTICE—Charles Mason, of Burlington.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES—Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, and Joseph Williams, of Pennsylvania.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—M. Van Allen, of New York.

MARSHAL OF THE TERRITORY—Francis Gehon, of Dubuque.

The first delegate to Congress elected by the people of the Territory was William W. Chapman.

The complexion of the Legislature that was elected on the same date was democratic.

January 25, 1836, Jesse M. Harrison, John S. David and John Claypole were chosen commissioners by the Legislative Assembly to superintend the erection of the penitentiary at Fort Madison.

January 18, 1839, Chauncey Swan, John Rolands and Robert Ralston were appointed commissioners to locate the seat of government at Iowa City.

Feb. 12, 1841, the office of Superin-

tendent of Public Instruction was created and William Reynolds was appointed to that position, but on March 9th of the next year the office was abolished.

The Territory was represented in the 25th and 26th Congresses by Wm. W. Chapman and in the 27th, 28th and 29th by Augustus C. Dodge.

Soon after the organization of the Territory, the question of Statehood became one of discussion. In 1840, the Territorial Legislature passed an act that was approved July 31st, providing for taking the sense of the people on the question of calling a convention for the revision of the Constitution, but a majority of the people were opposed to calling the convention. February 16, 1842, an act was approved, providing for ascertaining by popular vote whether or not the people were in favor of a convention to frame a Constitution for a state government, and at the election, held August 1, 1842, the vote stood, for the convention 4,146; against, 6,868. Every one of the seventeen counties that voted gave a majority against it.

Two years later this subject was again agitated, and on February 16, 1844, an act was passed, providing for submitting the question at the township elections in April, following. At this election the people decided in favor of a convention by a large majority, the vote standing 7,221 for and 4,308 against.

This first Constitutional convention met at Iowa City, Oct. 7, 1844, and continued in session until November 1st, following. It consisted of seventy-two members, representing twenty-three counties. The boundaries of the State, as proposed in this Constitution, included a large part of the present state of Minnesota and excluded a large triangular piece, embracing more than the present counties of Lyon, O'Brien and Plymouth, in the northwest part of the state.

The boundary proposed by Congress was quite different, both on the north and west; and at an election held in April, 1845, the people, on this account, rejected the proposed Constitution. The Legislative Assembly soon afterward passed an act, over Governor Chambers' veto, to resubmit the proposed constitution at an election held August, 1845, and it was again defeated.

January 17, 1846, the legislative assembly passed an act providing for an election, in April following, of delegates to another constitutional convention. This second convention met at Iowa City, May 4th to 19th, 1846, and consisted of 32 delegates, representing 32 counties. The constitution approved by this convention was ratified by the people at an election held August 3, 1846, when 9,492 votes were cast for it, and 9,036 against it. The first election of state officers was held October 26, following, pursuant to proclamation of Gov. James Clarke, when Ansel Briggs, of Jackson county, was elected Governor, (the first of the state); Elisha Cutler, Jr., Secretary of State; Joseph F. Farles, Auditor of Public Accounts and Morgan Reno, Treasurer.

These officers entered upon their respective duties in December following. This constitution was approved by congress, December 28, 1846, and the statehood of Iowa was recognized.

This first constitution continued in force until the year 1857, when a third constitutional convention was held at Iowa City, January 19th to March 5th. The constitution adopted by this convention was sanctioned by the people at an election held August 3d, following, when there were cast "for the constitution" 40,311 votes and "against it" 38,681. It went into effect September 3, 1857.

The seat of government, which had been at Burlington from November 6, 1837, the date of the second session of

the territorial legislature of Wisconsin, and at Iowa City from December 6, 1841, was by this constitution changed to Des Moines, Polk county, and the State University was permanently located at Iowa City.

#### TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS.

During the eight years of Territorial government, 1838-1846, three men served as governors of the Territory, by the appointment of the President of the United States.

Robert Lucas, (1838-1841) of Ohio, who had twice filled the gubernatorial chair of that state, was the first governor. He proved to be a wise selection, and exercised the authority vested in him with good judgment and benefit to the future commonwealth. He established the temporary seat of Territorial government, at Burlington and convened in the Zion church there, the first legislature of Iowa, November 12, 1838. April 30, 1841, he issued a proclamation changing the capital from Burlington to Iowa City, and convening the legislature at that place, December 1, 1841. Iowa City thus became the permanent capital of the Territory and the temporary capital of the State.

After three years, Governor Lucas was succeeded by John Chambers, (1841-1845) of Kentucky, who had been aid-de-camp to General (President) Harrison, by whom he was appointed. He was succeeded by James Clarke, (1845-1846) of Pennsylvania, but at the time of his appointment, editor of the Territorial Gazette at Burlington.

No Territory ever boasted of a more worthy trio of Governors. "Simple and unostentatious in private life, as they were honest and patriotic in the discharge of their public duties, they gave Iowa the stamp of a pure character, and reared for themselves a monument of fame worthy of the highest and most lasting honor of our whole people."



Under their wise rule the Territory rapidly filled with a population of hardy, enterprising pioneers who, acting upon their recommendations, as contained in their annual messages, laid broad and deep the foundations of a free government, of wholesome legislation and the institutions of enlightenment for which her sons have ever shown their warmest regard.

OLD ZION CHURCH. \*

The first church built in Burlington was that known as "Old Zion," on the west side of Third, between Washington and Columbia streets. Other halls have witnessed more important and more tragic scenes, but we may look in vain for those which could they speak, would give a more varied history of what had transpired within them. Here was embodied, for several years, the legislative wisdom of the Territory of Iowa; the *lower* House paradoxically occupying the upper auditorium, and the *upper* House the lower one. From these halls in the "Old Zion" church of Burlington went forth those legislative edicts that for many a year ruled

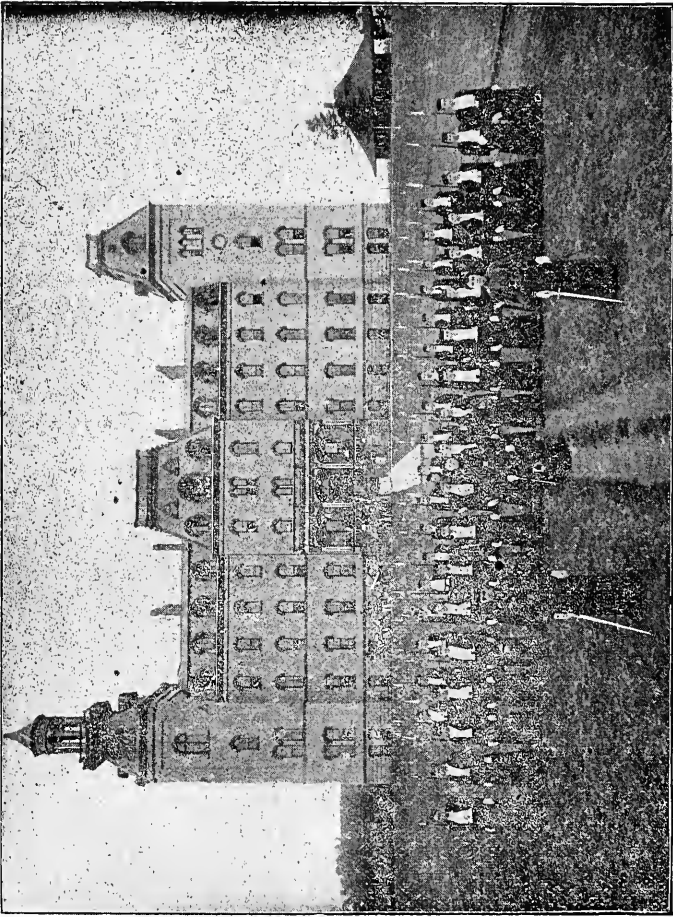
this goodly land of Iowa. Here, the supreme judicial tribunal of the Territory sometimes held its sessions; and here the regular terms of the district court were held for many successive years.

Within these walls the Governor of the Territory met in friendly conference the representatives of some of his dissatisfied red children, to hear their complaints and at least to promise them redress—an easy and oft repeated remedy. Here the citizens listened to the eloquence of the untutored red man and were treated to the exhibition of the song and the war-dance. The wild whoop of the savage, which had so often carried dismay and horror to many a stout heart, failed to make any impression upon the walls of "Old Zion," that looked upon these varied scenes with staid gravity, and seemed to be fully determined not to be surprised at any strange events that might transpire within them.

"Now rose thy walls, "Old Zion," that have stood,  
The dread assault of wasting time and flood.  
Thou wast our Forum, scene of many a sport,  
In Pleasure's drama and Ambition's court.  
Here, too, our village beauty rushed to see  
The motley Indian dance with savage glee."

\* Iowa State Gazetteer, 171.





*The Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa.*

*MOTTO—Science With Practice.*

*Farm 648 Acres. Established 1849.*

*Woman's Battalion in Front.*

## VIII.

## STATEHOOD, A HALF CENTURY'S GROWTH.

"Iowa, the affections of her people, like the rivers within her borders, flow to an inseparable union."—LIEUT. GOV. EASTMAN.

"Midland where mighty torrents run  
With placid brow and modest mien,  
With bosom glowing to the sun,  
Sits the majestic prairie Queen.  
Imperial rivers kiss her feet,  
The free winds through her tresses blow,  
Her breath with unsown flowers is sweet,  
Her cheeks are flushed with morning's glow.

Grand in her beauty, what cares she  
For jeweled cliffs or rills of gold?  
For seats along the sounding sea,  
Or starried monuments of old?  
Her bands are strong, her fame secure,  
Her praise on lips whose praise is dear;  
Her heart, her hope and purpose pure,  
And God in all her landscapes near."

—BYERS.

## IOWA'S GROWTH.



IOWA became a separate Territory with the capital at Burlington, in 1838, and was admitted into the Union in 1846, with a population of 97,000. At the close of the civil war this number had increased to 754,699, and of these about 70,000 were soldiers—a number nearly equal to one-tenth of the population, or one-half the voters of the state. In 1860, the population had increased to 1,194,020; in 1880 to 1,624,615; in 1890 to 1,911,896 and in 1895 to 2,058,069.

The half century and two years that have passed since Iowa became a state, have wrought great changes. Most of the improvements of earth, most of the progress in the arts and sciences and most of the advance in civiliza-

tion have been wrought within the period of our state history. Time and space do not permit us to recount the achievements in the political, industrial, financial, agricultural, mechanical, scientific, educational, religious or moral world, save to note that in all these Iowa has rendered her full measure of blessing; a fact due to the natural resources of the state and the excellent character of her people.

## NATURAL RESOURCES.

The State of Iowa is centrally located in relation to the territory of our nation; the eastern boundary is nearly 1,000 miles from the Atlantic tide at Plymouth Rock, and the western border about 1,500 miles from the surf-beaten shores of the Pacific; from the northern line of the state to the British possessions 400 miles intervene, and from our southern border to

the Gulf 760. It is located in fruitful embrace of two of the mightiest rivers of the earth—the Mississippi and the Missouri—and is bounded on the north and south by the two powerful and growing states of Minnesota and Missouri, respectively. The area of the state embraces 55,000 square miles of the most productive, well-watered, undulating and beautiful land that the sun enriches with its wealth of heat and light in all its yearly journey. There is less waste and a larger proportion of arable land in Iowa than probably in any equal area upon the face of the earth.

“A position so central in the richest, freest and most powerful nation of modern times, central also in the vast system of river navigation connected with the great rivers that form its eastern and western boundaries, and so central that the principal lines of railway, binding ocean to ocean, cross its territory, must ever possess incalculable advantages in the security its location affords, the markets it assures, and the commercial advantages that must ever accrue to its citizens.”

#### THE PRAIRIES.

Iowa has been known as the “Prairie State,” because seven-eighths of its surface was originally prairie or grass land. The charm of a prairie consists in its extension, its green, flowery carpet, its undulating surface and the skirt of forests whereby it is surrounded. A more pleasing view cannot be imagined than that presented in the spring of the year when the young grass has clothed the soil with a carpet of most delicate green and the rays of the sun, rising behind a distant elevation, are reflected by myriads of dew-drops. “The delightful aspect of the virgin prairie and the absence of that sombre awe inspired by forests, contribute to force away that sentiment of loneliness, that

usually steals upon the mind of the solitary wanderer in the wilderness; for though he espies no habitation, sees no human being and knows that he is far away from every settlement of man, he can scarcely defend himself from believing that he is traveling through a landscape embellished by human art. The flowers, so delicate and elegant, that appear to be distributed over the prairie for mere ornament, and the groves and groups of trees that seem to be arranged to enliven the landscape, render it so expressive that one can scarcely prevent the impression invading the imagination, that the whole scene has been flung out and created for the satisfaction of the sentiment of beauty.”\*

The origin of the prairies has been the subject of considerable speculation and the question is probably not yet satisfactorily settled. The soil of the low prairies, in the bottoms along the courses of the larger rivers, is almost a pure silicious sand, different from that of the high prairies which consists of a sub-soil of argillaceous loam covered with rich, black vegetable mould, usually from one to two or more feet thick. This soil is very fertile, producing the greatest yield of the various crops cultivated in this latitude.

“Whatever the origin of the prairies may have been, we have the positive assurance that their present existence in Iowa and its immediate vicinity is not due to the influence of climate, the character or composition of the soil, nor to the character of any of the underlying formations. It now remains to say, without hesitation, that *the real cause of the present existence of the prairies in Iowa is the prevalence of the annual fires.* If these had been prevented fifty years ago Iowa would now be a timbered instead of a prairie

\*Captain Basil Hall, an English traveler.

state."\*

Her broad, treeless prairies have been the glory of Iowa. In their natural condition they were not vast marshes, or great breadths of barren clay, or sterile, unproductive sand, but as they have proved to be, the finest lands that ever awaited the plow to convert them into cultivated and productive farms. Iowa now ranks among the first of the states of the Union in the wonderful aggregate amount of food produced each year. This is not due to the extent of her area, for in this respect, she is twentieth in the list, but to the wonderful and uniform productiveness of her soil.

The fact that the prairies constituted so large a part of her area favored the rapid settlement of Iowa. The first settlers had known something of the slow, toilsome process of making farms with a mattock and axe, in heavily wooded sections. Going to the "raw prairie" with a breaking plow and team, and turning the first furrow, probably one mile in length, without a rock, grub, tree or stump to hinder the plow, they very soon saw the great difference between making a farm on eastern wooded lands and the fertile prairies of Iowa. Infinite wisdom caused seven-eighths of her surface to be prairie, that Iowa might the more easily and speedily be turned into a paradise.

"The prairies of Iowa did not invite settlers merely by the ease by which they were turned into fine farm homes, but the beauty of the views they afforded, the breadth and grandeur of the great natural meadows and pastures they offered and the ease of communication they provided between neighbors and neighborhoods were also potent influences in inducing settlers from the heavily wooded east. In driving across them there was no climbing over stumps and logs. The

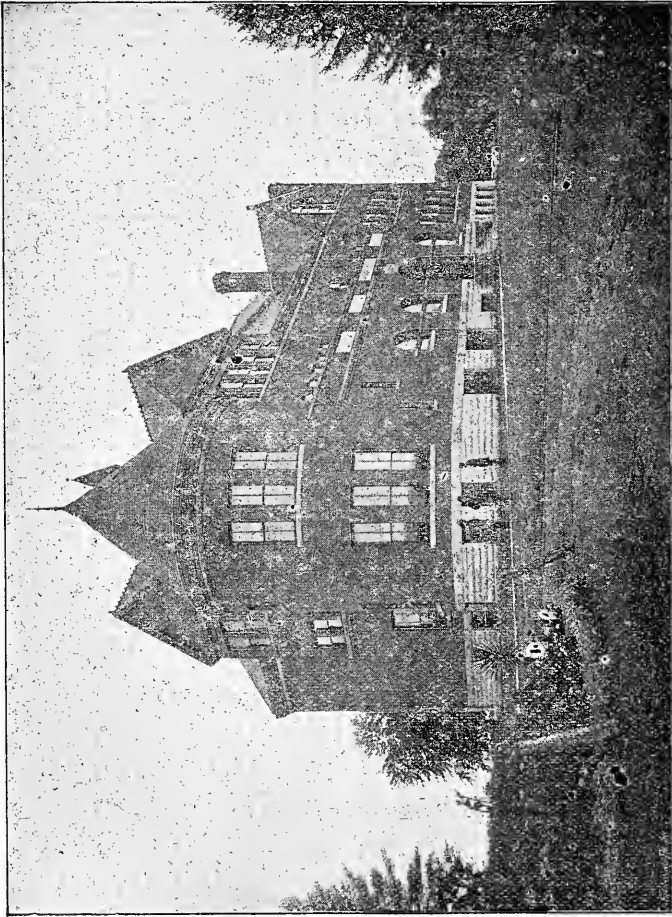
Iowa farmer had use for a carriage from his first settlement on the prairie.

It has been said that there are terrible blizzards and awful cyclones on these Iowa prairies. It is admitted that there are storms in Iowa, just as there are terrible storms and blizzards in timber covered countries. There are tumults in Nature's domain in all regions, and men are helpless before Nature's forces in all places. Destructive tornadoes in Iowa, like destructive earthquakes in California are of but rare occurrence.

There have been severe winters in Iowa, but they have been few in its history. There may have been danger for pioneer settlers in journeying across Iowa prairies, from winter blizzards, in the past, but those dangers are now matters of history. Iowa winters on Iowa prairies are desirable now for the benefits and pleasures they afford.

The prairies, yet beautiful, are not now as they were when the pioneer chased over them the agile deer and the fleeing elk. Their great breadths were then open commons with sloughs and streams unbridged. Fire in the fall swept off their summer vegetation and left naught to hold in place the falling snow. The settlers' cabins, built in grove or sheltered nook, were far apart. The great breadths of open prairie were houseless and many of the pioneer settlers were poor and thinly clad. Then there was nothing to mark the traveled road in the winters' snow storm, and the traveler seeking to cross the broad prairie, may have been in danger when such a storm overtook him, distant from his home or a shelter. But terrible, life destroying blizzards have been of rare occurrence in the history of the state, while mild, beautiful, healthful winters, giving months of delightful sunshine and smoothest possible roads for winter travel, have

\*Charles A. White, State Geologist in 1863, *Geology of Iowa*, Vol. 1, 133.



*Morrill Hall, one of the Buildings of the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa.*

It was named after Senator Morrill, who, on July 2, 1862, secured the passage of an act by the Congress of the United States, donating public lands to the several States and Territories for the establishment and support of State Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

been common. Terrible prairie fires may be read about in our history, but they will probably never more be seen.

Our broad prairies, originally beautiful, have been made more grandly so by human handiwork, directed by cultured mind. They are now broad realms of finely improved, productive and enclosed farms. Good roads are common, and the streams and sloughs are bridged. Thrifty villages, thriving towns and cities have multiplied and the whole breadth of the country has been dotted with beautiful artificial groves and orchards. Now, everywhere over Iowa prairies there are human habitations, and the danger to a traveler in a winter blizzard has passed forever.

But with all this improvement and change made by human intelligence and industry, there are some things pertaining to the prairies of Iowa that are unchanged. The depth, richness and porousness of the soil, qualities that give it superior excellence for agricultural productiveness, are yet unchanged. Proper culture never diminishes but increases its productive power. The perennial streams coursing through these broad prairies, yet flow in the same channels cut deep into the earth, with the same, ever continuing, rapid current yielding untold advantages. The prairies of Iowa, no longer grand in their wild luxuriance, have been made more truly beautiful by the art and industry inspired by our christian civilization and will ever be renowned for their agricultural superiority. Beautiful, fertile and exuberantly productive, their possessors are truly a fortunate people."\*

Iowa is coming to be more generally recognized as the Garden of Eden of all the world. She always has plenty and to spare. Her granaries are never empty, her stock-yards are constantly filled, her meats, fruits, vegetables and dairy products are always

on the market and her manufactured goods are steadily seeking customers. Her cornucopia is always full and there is no reason why her yeomanry should not be the happiest people on this sublunary sphere.

"Ah! grandly in her ample lap,  
Are annual harvests heaped sublime,  
Earth bears not on her proudest map  
A fatter soil, a fairer clime.  
How sing her billowy seas of grain,  
How laugh her fruit on vine and tree,  
How glad her home in plenty's reign  
Where love is lord and worship, free."

No country now affords more graceful landscapes, when clothed in summer's green, or when its groves are dyed in their autumn robes of silver and scarlet, gold and purple. Iowa landscapes are grandly beautiful, and the traveler sees a breadth of farm-houses beautiful in situation and surroundings. The great fields of growing grain, in their season, add beauty to the delighting panoramas, by every shade of green, covering the broad and billowy areas over which the eye extends. In the summer season great herds and flocks feed amid blooming flowers and rich herbage, and add enchanting variety to the inviting picture.

#### RIVERS AND LAKES.

Iowa is a realm of beautiful rivers and smaller streams that for the most part flow in deep channels and with a swift current. The crest or summit forming the watershed between the waters of the Mississippi and the Missouri, extending from Dickinson south to Audubon, and thence southeast to Appanoose county, divides the rivers of the state into two systems. In the eastern system are the Upper Iowa, Turkey, Maquoketa, Wapsipicon, Cedar, Iowa, Skunk and the Des Moines with its branches, the principal of which are South, Middle and North, the Raccoon with its branches, and the Boone. In the western system are found the Floyd, Rock, Little Sioux, Maple, Boyer, Nishnabotna,

\*Iowa at the Columbian Exposition, 242.

Nodaway, Platte, Grand and Chariton.

These are mostly perennial, and many of them furnish power for manufacturing purposes. Along their courses were many fine, natural groves of timber that attracted the early settlers. All flow in fertile valleys bordered by sloping uplands, and are sources of pleasure as well as utility and add beauty by giving variety to the luxuriant landscapes through their course.

The lakes of Iowa all lie in the central third of the northern half of the state upon its most elevated portion, where the watersheds are developed into broad tablelands, and are principally bodies of clear, pure water. None of them are large enough to be of value for commercial purposes, but in the hunting season they have been very inviting to the sportsman, since immense numbers of migrating waterfowls, consisting of geese, ducks, brants, swans, cranes, etc., have been accustomed to visit them annually; they have also furnished large quantities of fine fish. On the shores of many of them are beautiful groves of native timber, located in breadths that give a charm to the scenery and make them specially inviting to those seeking rest or health giving recreation.

Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo county, and Storm Lake, in Buena Vista, are each about five miles in length and two in breadth. Large gatherings of people annually assemble in the capacious auditoriums, erected upon the banks of these charming and beautiful lakes, for Chautauquas, camp meetings, courses of lectures, musical conventions and other purposes.

There are three lakes in the state that are called Wall Lake, from the stone walls that girt a portion of their shores. They are located in Sac, Wright and Hamilton counties. Some have entertained the idea that a

strange people built these walls in the prehistoric period; but the scientist assures us "that when the vast icebergs or ponderous glaciers were exerting their mighty forces in forming the wonderful drift coverings of this region, great numbers of boulders were borne by these forces from the north country, and being deposited about these bodies of fresh water, the forces of winter frosts and ice have lifted them, in the shallow portions of these lakes, and piled them in courses upon their shores."

Spirit Lake and Lake Okoboji, in Dickinson county, are the two largest lakes in the state. They are located upon the summit of the great watershed of the state near the Minnesota line, and have become very popular summer resorts.

Serene and sweet and smiling as a bride,  
Nestles Okoboji on the green divide;  
The groves around it, the blue sky above,  
The summer sunshine bathing it in love;  
Fair as the lochs that lie in Scotia's glens,  
Worthy the praise that comes from poet's pen  
Its sparkling waters in the sunshine gleam  
Full of the glamour of the sweetest dream.

#### MINERAL WEALTH, BUILDING ROCK.

Chas. R. Keyes, Assistant State Geologist, has very truly observed that "Iowa is so pre-eminently an agricultural state that usually her mineral resources are almost entirely overlooked. Yet, her geological features are none the less interesting scientifically and none the less important from an economic standpoint."

There is spread everywhere over the state a mantle of drift, the debris left by the retreat of the great ice sheets or glaciers, and this surface deposit is so deep that the older rocks are hidden from view throughout large areas except where the streams, cutting their channels through the drift, have exposed sections of the rocks or hardened clays.

The Sioux quartzite or red granite, a massive crystalline rock that is found upon the surface in the northwest



part of the state, is one of the most compact and durable building rocks of the northwest, and some of the leading churches and office buildings in Sioux City, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Des Moines and other places have been erected from this rock with very pleasing effect.

Abundant supplies of good building rock are found in the Trenton and Galena limestone formations. The former is a very compact rock of bluish tint, interesting to an observer on account of the large number and beauty of the fossil remains enclosed in some of the strata and is widely distributed along the Mississippi and the eastern part of the state. The Galena limestone, a heavily bedded rock of brownish tint overlying the Trenton in the northeast part of the state, has proved the greatest source of wealth to Dubuque county where the principal quarries are located. The high bluffs at the city of Dubuque are of this rock. It contains no fossils, but is the formation in which the lead is found that has been so extensively and profitably mined since the days of Julien Dubuque. It makes a superior quality of lime, which is used, like the rock, for building purposes, no one as yet thinking of applying it to the land as a fertilizer.

Other valuable rock formations are the Niagara limestone (upper Silurian) along Turkey river and the Mississippi south of it, massive dolomites, yellowish or brown in color; the Devonian limestone of Cedar Valley, which is highly charged with fossils of many kinds; the Montpelier limestone of Muscatine county; the St. Louis limestone of southeastern and Nishnabotna sandstone of southwestern Iowa.

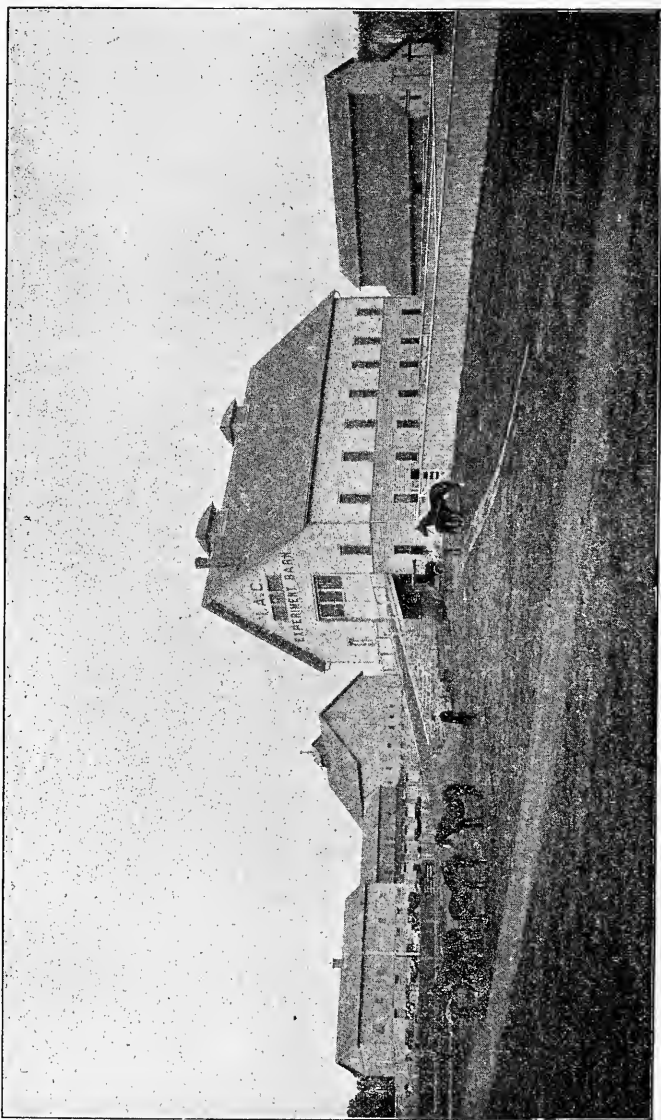
#### SOFT COAL.

Of all sources of mineral wealth in Iowa the deposits of soft coal are the most important. The coal area of the

state is the north part of the great interior coal field of the American continent, and it includes about 20,000 square miles, located principally in the south half of the state. The most productive portion of this area is a broad belt extending in a southeasterly direction from Fort Dodge to Keokuk, along the Valley of the Des Moines river. The coal in this belt is of excellent quality and the supply inexhaustible.

"Coal," says Newberry, "is entitled to be considered as the mainspring of civilization. By the power developed in its combustion, all the wheels of industry are kept in motion, commerce is carried on with rapidity and certainty over all portions of the earth's surface, and the useful metals are brought from the deep caves in which they have hidden themselves, are purified and wrought to serve the purposes of man. By coal, night is, in one sense, converted into day, winter into summer, and the life of man, measured by its fruits, greatly prolonged. Wealth with all the comforts, the luxuries and triumphs it brings, is its gift. Though black, sooty and often repulsive in its aspect, it is the embodiment of a power more potent than that attributed to the genii in oriental tales. Its possession, is therefore, the highest material boon that can be craved by a community or nation. Coal is also not without its poetry. It has been formed under the stimulus of the sunshine of long past ages, and the light and power it holds are nothing else than such sunshine stored in the black casket, to await the coming, and serve the purposes of man. In the process of formation it composed the tissues of those strange trees that lifted up their scaled trunks and waved their feathery foliage over the marshy shores of the carboniferous continent, where not only no man was, but gigantic salamanders and mail clad fishes were the monarchs of the animated

“Commend me to the barn-yard, and the corn-mou man.”—ROBERT BURNS.



THE FARM, BARNS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AMES, IC WA.

world." \*

Filling a place of so great importance in the material advancement of our modern civilization coal must long rank first among the mineral resources to be desired in a country.

Being one of the prairie states, having a surface with no marked contrasts of altitude, and possessing a soil unrivaled in fertility by any country on the face of the earth, it has been customary to regard Iowa as a strictly agricultural province. Comparisons are made with sister states, and the fact is noted that as a producer of corn, oats and potatoes, Iowa stands first on the list, and second in the production of flax, barley and hay. The conclusion that Iowa is a great farming country is irresistible, and this is true.

It must not, however, be forgotten that Iowa has other resources as boundless as her agricultural productions—resources which half the nations of the globe would consider of priceless worth if they only possessed them—untold wealth that Nature has bestowed with lavish hand and that is destined to contribute to the onward progress of humanity. These are her mineral resources, the inherited possessions bound up in the coals, the clays and the metallic ores.

In the production of coal, Iowa ranks first among the states west of the Mississippi and fifth among the states of the Union. The only states surpassing Iowa in the annual production of coal are Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia.

England, the richest and most powerful of European countries, owes her high position almost entirely to her

\*The coals of Iowa often contain iron pyrites and occasionally small flakes of lime or gypsum, along the line of fracture. The coal beds, almost without exception, are underlain with a stratum of soft, white clay, which is excellent for the manufacture of fire brick. The roots of lepidodendrous are usually found abundantly in this under clay.

manufactures, and from her little isle has extended her possessions around the globe. The area of England is about the same as that of Iowa and her coal fields approximately 10,000 square miles, which is the estimated extent of Iowa's coal bearing territory.

The coal fields of Germany embrace not more than 3,000 square miles, those of Belgium and France together only 2,500; Spain has about the same area of coal lands and other countries of Europe, less.

The coal fields of Iowa, therefore, are as extensive as those of the greatest of European nations, and several times greater than those of the other great nations of that continent.

#### IRON, ZINC, LEAD.

The production of iron in Iowa has not attracted public attention, owing to the fact that it is an industry as yet undeveloped. There is, however, a bed of excellent iron ore, of brown hematite, a short distance northeast of Waukon, in Allamakee county, that covers more than three hundred acres of land. This bed is found under a surface soil ranging from one to four feet in depth, is itself more than thirty feet in depth and is described as being "an almost solid mass of iron ore." of which hundreds of tons have already been mined. It has been estimated that 500 tons daily could be mined here for 100 years.

Zinc in the form of the sulphuret, has been found in very small quantities in the sub-carboniferous and lower coal measures of Wapello, Webster and several other counties. In the lead mines of Dubuque this ore is found both in the form of the carbonate and sulphuret, and quite extensive works have been recently erected in that city for the preparation of this metal for commerce.

The productive lead region of the Upper Mississippi occupies the larger portion of the territory along that river from the Apple river in Illinois,

northward to the Wisconsin river. The Mississippi runs near the western edge of the district, but there is a considerable area of productive territory on the west side of that river. The mines in the vicinity of Dubuque, on the west side of the river, are among the most interesting and profitable of this region. They are found upon a belt about four miles in width, extending from Catfish creek in a northwesterly direction as far as the middle fork of the Little Maquoketa, in Dubuque county. This belt includes about fifteen square miles, and there is probably no district of equal extent in the Mississippi Valley that has produced so large an amount of ore. The ore is found in the vertical sheets or upright crevices of the galena limestone formation forming the high river bluffs of this section. The great softness and purity of the lead of this locality, attracted adventurers to this section many years before the territory of Iowa was opened for settlement, and has since secured for it a higher price than for the imported article.

#### SAND, CLAY AND GYPSUM.

Sand is an essential element in our industries. Many important mechanical and manufacturing operations demand its use. Although upon the prairies and other upland surfaces, there are no accumulations of it where it would impair the fertility of the soil, yet nature has provided numerous banks or deposits of sand for these purposes, along the shallows, shores and flood-plains, wherever the streams have cut their channels or valleys through the surface drift. These accumulations are of sufficient purity for all practical purposes and, as the streams are numerous, furnish nearly all the sand used in the state. The builder, brick-maker and iron-moulder readily find sand suited to their respective needs, while the manufacturers of glass, and proprietors of smelt-

ing furnaces import it, in large quantities for their work, from this state. The silica or quartz sand found in Clayton county is of exceeding fineness and whiteness and is returned to us from Missouri manufactured into the finest plate glass.

Clay has come to be an essential element in manufactures. "The savage may build his wigwam frame of poles and cover it with grass, skins or bark. The pioneer may build his cabin of logs or sod, but by industry and economy he soon provides the means for better things. The services of the brick-maker and mason are soon needed, openings invite the pottery and tile factory, and search is made for clays suitable for these manufactories."

The clays of Iowa have been moved to their present positions by glacial action, and may be divided into the impure drift and those more or less pure; the latter having been softened and modified by exposure to the atmosphere and frost. Pure clay (silicate of alumina) alone, does not make good brick, and ordinarily the clay of no one spot contains the proper proportions of ingredients to insure the production of the best quality of brick, but ordinarily the ingredients that are lacking in the Iowa clays may be obtained in the same vicinity. These clays are found near the surface, and there is no large part of the state destitute of the materials for the successful manufacture of good brick and tile.

"The day of building cheap, perishable shanties for residences and structures, of cheap, combustible and perishable material for business uses, has been outgrown in this state. Our cities and towns have their 'fire-limits' and the erection of cheap, unattractive, combustible structures in our business centers is largely prohibited. This wise provision encourages improved architecture and the use of

building material of substantial quality, and so the brick-maker's art is encouraged and his business enlarged. No better clays can be found for the manufacture of the finest quality of pressed brick than are now obtained in numerous places in this state." Superior clay for the manufacture of stoneware and the finer forms of pottery is found in numerous places.

Gypsum is found along the Des Moines river in the vicinity of Fort Dodge, Webster county. About three miles south of Fort Dodge, including the bluffs on both sides of the river, is the largest and most important deposit of gypsum yet discovered in the United States. It is found here not in "heaps" or "nests," as in the states farther east, but in the form of a "regularly stratified, continuous formation as uniform in texture, color and quality throughout the entire region from top to bottom of the deposit (about thirty feet,) as is the granite of the Quincy quarries in New England."\*

This bed of gypsum extends about seven miles along the river and is apparently inexhaustible. The rock is of a gray color, but becomes quite white by grinding and still whiter by the calcining process necessary in the preparation of plaster of Paris. It is used as a building rock, a fertilizer and for the manufacture of stucco. In the latter form it was very largely used in the manufacture of "staff," that formed the external covering of the World's Fair buildings in Chicago in 1893. This gypsum industry gives employment to about sixty men and the annual production is about \$55,000.

#### CHALK.

There is a deposit of chalk in the vicinity of the Big Sioux river, in

\*This bed of gypsum is found under the drift and over the coal measures; it is therefore older than the former and newer than the latter. It contains no fossils and seems to be a formation of the Mesozoic age.

Northwest Iowa, especially in Sac, Woodbury and Sioux counties, that is as valuable as any in England and that, in the not distant future, will doubtless furnish the raw material for a number of important manufacturing industries.

This chalk formation consists of fine calcareous layers not unlike clay, and has a thickness of 25 feet along the Sioux river in Iowa, 50 feet at Ponca, Nebraska, 130 at Yankton, South Dakota, and 200 feet at the mouth of the Niobrara river. This rock, wherever it is exposed, is of a pure white or yellowish color, soft in texture and may be quarried in great blocks that are easily cut with a common saw into any required dimension. It is composed of the more or less broken skeletons of the little shell creatures called Foraminifera and of minute coralline plants known as Coccoliths. It is formed only in the bottom of a clear, open sea, remote from land, flood deposits or other disturbances.

This chalk deposit, found only in the cretaceous series of this section, is intensely interesting to the student of Nature, since it proves beyond a doubt that this whole region was once the bottom of a wide and deep sea. It rests upon a bed of Dakota limestone, an accumulation that was doubtless formed when the region about Sioux City was covered with shallow, brackish water. "The sand composing this deposit was carried into the sea from land that was not very far away, probably only a few miles eastward. The sea between was not stationary, but was slowly subsiding, the rate of subsidence being greater, however than the rate at which the sandstone accumulated.

"As a result of the subsidence, the sea became deeper over the given area, as at Sioux City, and for the same reason encroached gradually upon the land, and the shore line became more and more remote. With increasing depth of sea and increasing distance of the shore, the coarser sand failed to reach Sioux City. Only the finer mechanical sediments were carried so far seaward. \* \* \* The waters deepened still more over the site of Sioux City until the bottom was no longer affected by waves and currents, and the shore line, now east

of the middle of the state, was so remote that practically no flood material from the land found its way to the area we are considering. Neither sand nor clay was deposited in any appreciable amount as far west as Yankton, St. Helena or even Sioux City.

Now it was in this clear, open, quiet sea that the Niobrara chalk was slowly deposited. The little shell creatures called Foraminifera, flourished upon the bottom of it or serenely floated in its depths. And either floating or resting upon the bottom, were the peculiar coralline plants of which the bodies called Coccoliths and Rhabdoliths were constituent parts.

All these organisms secrete carbonate of lime, and it was the dead skeletons of successive generations of such organisms, accumulating under the conditions described, that made the entire bulk of our American chalk, the region of which extends from Iowa to the Rocky Mountains, and from Texas to the Arctic Sea. It was about the time that the subsidence reached its maximum that the chalk was deposited near Auburn, in Sac county."\*

#### FOREST AND SHADE TREES.

Wood, for many years, was the principal and preferred fuel of the people of this state. Forest trees can be cultivated upon all varieties of the soil of the state as successfully as a crop of corn. The principal kinds of native trees that have been used as fuel, before the general use of coal, are the following, their order indicating their estimated relative abundance: Oaks, several varieties, including white, laurel, burr and black; cottonwood, elm, white maple, linden, hickory, sugar maple and black walnut. Other native trees, such as the hackberry, ash, honey-locust, slippery elm and butternut, have also been used, but their number has been more limited.

Experience and observation indicate that the following named forest trees give good results under cultivation, their order indicating their rapidity

\*Samuel Calvin in *Geology of Iowa*. Vol. 3, 218.

of growth, and their inverse order their relative value for fuel: Cottonwood, white maple, box-elder, black walnut, oak, sugar maple and hickory.

The black walnut and hickory succeed well upon the prairie by artificial propagation from the seed and with very little labor. So rapid is the growth of the cottonwood that, it is estimated, ten acres planted, at the end of five years, will supply a large family continually with all the necessary fuel. For rapidity of growth the white maple ranks next to the cottonwood and makes better fuel. It succeeds well upon all varieties of soil and is readily propagated from the seed. These facts indicate that in a prairie region the farmer may not only determine "the location of his fields and woodlands, but also the kinds of crop, whether of grain or trees, that shall be grown upon each."

#### WATER.

It would be difficult to find a region more bountifully watered than the state of Iowa, and so general is the drainage through its numerous rivers, creeks and rivulets, that almost its entire surface is available for agricultural purposes. Valuable springs are frequent in the valleys, and even upon the highest prairies no difficulty has been experienced in obtaining excellent water a few feet beneath the surface.

All the water of Iowa is hard, holding in solution more or less carbonate of lime. It is nevertheless pure and wholesome, giving vigor to youth, strength to manhood and solace to age. In the moonlight fountains and the sunny rills, in the warbling brook and the giant river, the water of Iowa is clear, beautiful and invigorating. "The beneficent Creator gave to Iowa a wealth of resources of more priceless value than mountains of precious metals. In her ever recurring showers, her numerous springs and perennial streams."

"Merry laughing, sparkling water,  
O'er the prairies flowing free;  
Making all so bright and happy,  
In the vale and on the lea,  
How I love thee!"

Waters of medicinal value are also found here. There are streams that flow from fountains that give strength to the weak and restore health to the sick.

The mineral springs at Colfax have become so famous that that health resort has been designated the "Saratoga of the West." This fountain flows from a boring sunk for coal four hundred and fifteen feet in depth. Other medicinal wells are found at Des Moines, Cherokee, Lineville and other places. On the western shore of Wall Lake, Sac county, there is a natural spring known as the Lake View Mineral Spring, that has a considerable reputation for the cure of many of the ills to which our mortal nature is subject.

#### CLIMATE. \*

Of the two essential elements of agricultural prosperity, a fertile soil and a favorable climate, the latter may be said to be the more important, for nothing can fully compensate for the lack of rainfall during the growing season. Only a small portion of any arid region can be made productive by irrigation.

The claim may be made that in respect to these two essentials, soil and climate, Iowa stands foremost among the agricultural states of the Union. There is no question as to the exceeding richness and depth of the soil, for it has maintained a large measure of its original fertility under a system of continuous cropping that would have reduced to barrenness the thinner soils of less favored sections. And its climate has served as a fit complement of its soil in the production of those vast crops that have figured so con-

\*Gleaned from *Climatology*, by John R. Sage, Director of the Iowa Weather and Crop Service.

spicuously in the agricultural statistics of the country.

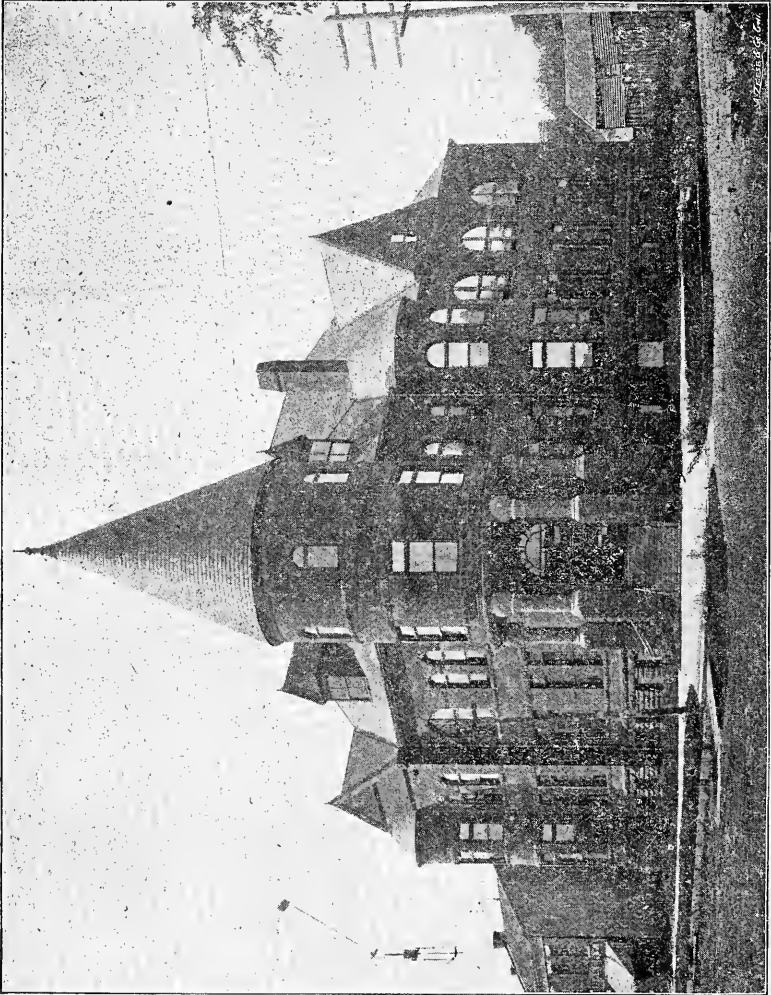
Situated midway between the oceans the climate of Iowa is strictly continental. Its altitude ranges from four hundred and forty-four feet above the sea level at the confluence of the Des Moines and Mississippi, to one thousand six hundred and fifty feet at a point near Spirit Lake; and as there are no mountain ranges nor extensive forests the physical conditions give to the state a climate very similar throughout.

The moisture precipitated over Iowa comes almost entirely, either directly or indirectly, from the Gulf of Mexico. And as the gulf is permanent there is no danger that this region will ever become arid or unproductive.

Blodget's rain chart for the continent shows the average annual rainfall in the eastern and southeastern counties is forty-two inches, through the central belt from southwest to northeast it is thirty, and in the extreme northwestern section twenty-five inches.

The annual precipitation in Iowa is equal to that of any of the Atlantic or Middle states in the same latitude, with the exception of points along the sea-coast or in mountainous districts.

Dr. Gustavus Hinrichs, who originated the Iowa Weather Service and served over twelve years as its director, said in his last annual report: "While Iowa has a continental climate in regard to temperature, it enjoys the fertilizing advantages of a high and well distributed rainfall usually restricted to the coast only. In fact, there is no region in the interior of any continent that has a climate like that of Iowa, in which the extremes of temperature are coupled with an abundance of fertilizing moisture. Right close to the south the immense boiler of the gulf is furnishing vapor; the heated continental expanse north causes the southerly current prevailing throughout the



CLOSE HALL, ONE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, IOWA CITY.



summer. These southerly winds carry the moisture of the gulf all over the Mississippi valley, where it descends normally in great abundance, making it the best watered valley in the world."

In Iowa the summers are decidedly warmer and the winters slightly colder, though marked by a diminution in the amount of snow, than in the eastern states on the same parallels. The relatively dry atmosphere during the winter months has a favorable effect upon the health and comfort of the inhabitants of this region, enabling them to easily withstand the low temperature of that season of the year.

#### AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

The following exhibit will serve to show the marvellous development of the agricultural resources and the industrial condition of the state of Iowa in the years 1850, 1880 and 1895, respectively:

	1850	1880	1895
Wheat, bus.....	1,530,381	31,151,205	14,612,054*
Oats " .....	1,524,315	50,610,591	201,600,000
Corn " .....	8,656,799	275,024,247	285,000,000
Potatoes .....	282,368	10,084,915	16,700,000*
Butter, lbs. ....	2,171,188	55,481,958	45,245,627
Cheese " .....	209,840	1,075,988	449,416
Horses .....	38,536	792,322	1,333,302
Cows.....	45,704	854,857	1,087,279
Hogs.....	323,247	6,034,336	5,044,577
Sheep.....	149,960	455,359	492,875
Other cattle.....	91,000	1,755,343	2,110,305

\*1896.

In 1897, the aggregate value of farm products amounted to \$130,934,-328.00.

In the year 1891, the estimated value of all the agricultural products of Iowa, including the crops and stock of all kinds, was \$464,219,308.

The Iowa corn crop alone brings annually more gold and silver than the products of all the mines in all of the states of the Union, combined.

In the great staples, that together make up the food of the country, Iowa ranks out of all proportion to her population. In the year 1879, the

yield of corn equaled a production of 9,480 pounds for every inhabitant of the state; of wheat 1156 pounds; of oats 997 pounds and of all cereals 11,809 pounds. There was also raised that year 371 pounds of potatoes for each inhabitant. The production of these elements of food that year in Iowa reached the enormous aggregate of 12,180 pounds, or six tons and one hundred and eighty pounds for every man, woman and child within her borders. The state thus produced nearly four times as much of these elements of food, proportionately, as did the country at large. It is believed this aggregate of production in proportion to population, is without a parallel anywhere or at any time.

The live stock interests of the state have also grown to immense proportions. In 1870, Iowa ranked seventh in the number of horses, but ten years later only Illinois and Texas had more.

In 1870, there were seven states that had more milch cows, but ten years later Iowa ranked next to New York and Illinois.

In 1880, Iowa ranked fourth in the production of butter, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio producing a larger quantity; but in the manufacture of creamery butter, Iowa stood first, making nearly one-third of the creamery product in the United States. In 1897, there were in the state 773 creameries, 118 skim stations and 76 cheese factories. The value of the butter products shipped by the railroads was \$13,936,680.17.

In 1870, six states raised more swine, but ten years later Iowa had nearly a million head more than any other state and more than one-eighth of the whole number throughout the country. Iowa can beat the world in raising cheap pork, because there are here the finest clover pastures and as cheap corn as can be produced anywhere. The Iowa farmer, by judi-

cious management and careful handling, can double his capital invested in hogs every few years, if not in a single year, raising his own grain and milk for the pigs, and fattening them for the fall or early winter market.

During all the years of the general financial depression—from 1892 to 1896—when the price of nearly every commodity went constantly downward, the value of Iowa farms steadily mounted higher. Her people rank among the most intelligent, thrifty and public-spirited of any state. They do not live in Iowa as they do in some places, “merely because they have to do so.” Here they build fine houses and live to enjoy life.

The late Stephen A. Douglass, who, as a member of the Committee on Territories, in 1846, presented to congress the bill for the admission of Iowa into the Union, said: “Vermont is a good place to be born in, if one should emigrate quite young, but Iowa is a good place to be born in and a good place to stay in.”

This observation reminds one of an interesting incident that occurred at a certain revival meeting held in the early days:

“All persons in the congregation,” said the evangelist, “who want to go to Heaven will please rise to their feet.” Every person in the house rose, but one godless granger sitting on the back seat.

“Now,” continued the evangelist, “if there is any person in the congregation who desires to go to the ‘bad place’ let him stand up,” looking hard at the granger, who still kept his seat. The evangelist descended from the pulpit and, approaching the case-hardened sinner who refused to testify in the way proposed, said, “My perishing friend, you seem to have no desire to reach Heaven, nor to plunge into perdition; where do you want to go?” “I don’t want to go any where,” replied the man, “I

want to stay right here in Iowa.”

It is quite probable that he was the only one in the house who told the whole truth.

#### COMMERCIAL FACILITIES—RAILROADS.

The position of Iowa enables her to command the advantages of 20,000 miles of inland water navigation, the cheapest of all forms of transportation. Her great rivers are permanent fixtures, and as the years roll on and population and wealth increase, public interest will demand that these great channels of interior communication and transportation be maintained in the most perfect condition, and their benefit will increase with each succeeding generation. These divinely formed channels of trade and transportation were the first to be utilized and will be indispensable to Iowa. They will yet bear a large proportion of the products of her farms, orchards, dairies, mines and manufactories to distant markets and bring in return immense supplies of commodities and material that her industries and people will demand.

The first settlers of Iowa came from the east by teams. When they crossed the Mississippi the only means of interior transportation in the aid of trade were the shoulders of the dusky squaw, the Indian pony, canoe or an occasional pack-horse of a venturesome hunter. These were supplemented by the ox teams and horses brought by the settlers, which constituted the only means of interior transportation, until the closing years of the sixties. There were then no wagon roads or bridges, and the sloughs and streams had to be walled through or forded. How changed the scene today! Now there are in this state 110,000 miles of well constructed highways provided with innumerable culverts and thousands of well constructed bridges.

In 1847 a meeting was held at Dubuque for the purpose of securing a

railroad connection with Chicago. In the winter of 1848, just fifty years ago, a convention was held at Iowa City that projected two railroads, one to extend from Dubuque to Keokuk and the other to span the state from Davenport, via Iowa City, to some point on the Missouri, at or near Council Bluffs. The first of these roads was never built. The first railroad company organized within the state was the one formed at this time to build the latter road from Davenport to Council Bluffs. The congress of the United States was asked to aid in its construction, and in 1850 that body adopted the policy of making land grants to encourage the building of western railroads.

The year 1856 marked a new era in the history of Iowa. In 1854, the Chicago and Rock Island had been completed to the east bank of the Mississippi, opposite Davenport, and in the same year the corner-stone of the railroad bridge that was to be the first that spanned the "Father of Waters," was laid with appropriate ceremonies at this point. January 1, 1856, this railroad, the first in Iowa, was completed to Iowa City. In the meantime, two other railroads had reached the east bank of the Mississippi—the Burlington and Quincy opposite Burlington, and the Illinois Central opposite Dubuque.

On May 15th, that year, (1856) congress passed an act, approved by President Pierce, that made the first grant of land in aid of railroad building in the state of Iowa. This act provided for the grant of the alternate, or odd numbered sections, for a distance of six miles on each side of four main lines of railway across the state.

On August 8, 1846, congress had granted to the Territory of Iowa, for the purpose of improving the navigation of the Des Moines river from its mouth to the Raccoon fork, the alternate sections, remaining unsold, in a

strip five miles in width, on each side of that river. This grant proved a fruitful source of legislation and corruption, the river, unsatisfactory for navigation, and the grant was finally utilized for the construction of a railroad up the valley of the river to Des Moines.

Under these two grants, and others that followed soon after, the railroads in Iowa received land as follows:

	Acres
Burlington & Missouri river (C. B. & Q.)	287,095
Miss. & Missouri river (C. R. I. & P.)	550,194
Ia. Cent. Air Line (Chicago & N.W.)	775,454
Dubuque & Pacific (Ill. Cent.)	1,226,558
McGregor & Missouri (C. M. & St. Paul)	372,293
Sioux City & St. Paul	407,879
Des Moines River Improvement Co.	1,105,968

Total.....4,674,745

This was a princely donation, but the settlers asked for it and expected the benefits derived therefrom would be commensurate. The few settlers in the interior counties were laboring in privation, difficulty and poverty, and were unable to convey their surplus to market. Lands were then taken slowly at \$1.25 per acre and there was not sufficient wealth in the state to provide the transportation facilities that were needed.

Although this land was granted and the surveys made, the railroads were not immediately constructed. The financial crisis of 1857 stopped all railroad enterprise, and before the country had sufficiently recovered to justify new and great undertakings, the civil war began, and railroad construction was suspended until after the collapse of the rebellion.

At the close of the war, there followed a period of great activity in railroad building in Iowa. The Chicago and Northwestern, first to cross the state, reached Council Bluffs in 1867. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy reached that city early in 1869; and during the following summer the Illinois Central reached

Sioux City. Other roads soon followed, and today the state is crossed by five great railways and covered with a network of steel tracks, that extend into all the 99 counties and bring to her people commercial advantages unsurpassed by those of any other state. There are now 8,600 miles of railway within the boundaries of the state that, together with the rolling stock, depots and terminals, represent a cost of \$25,000 per mile and a total cost of \$212,500,000. They give employment to 30,192 men, whose annual salaries amount to \$17,807,915.89.



## IX.

## THE STATE INSTITUTIONS AND BUILDINGS OF IOWA.

"Education is the cheap defense of nations."—GARFIELD.

IOWA'S CAPITOL, DES MOINES.

"Peerless Iowa, 'tis of thee,  
Fair state of industry,  
Of thee I sing."—H. P. BRANCH.



THE present capitol building, of which a cut appears on page 14, is a fine specimen of modern architecture. It is an object of beauty and a source of pride to every citizen of the state.

The first act for the erection of this building was passed by the 12th General Assembly and approved April 6, 1868. The first Board of Commissioners, appointed in 1870, to determine its plan and superintend its construction, consisted of Governor Samuel Merrill, chairman ex-officio; Gen. G. M. Dodge, Hon. James F. Wilson, of Fairfield, and six other members chosen by the senate and house of representatives in joint convention, viz: James Dawson, of Washington county; Simon G. Stein, of Muscatine; James O. Crosby, of Clayton; Charles Dudley, of Wapello; Col. J. N. Dewey, of Des Moines, and William L. Joy, of Woodbury county. A. R. Fulton was chosen secretary of this Board. The plans approved were prepared by Messrs. Cochrane and Piquenard, of Chicago, Ill. In 1872, when this Board was reorganized, the following persons became members of it, namely: John G. Foote, of Des Moines

county; M. L. Fisher, of Clayton; R. S. Finkbine and Peter A. Dey, of Johnson county.

Its construction was begun in June, 1871, the first stone being laid August 1st and the corner-stone, November 23d following. On this last occasion the following distinguished citizens delivered addresses: Hon. James F. Wilson, Hon. Samuel Merrill and Hon. John A. Kasson; and a poem was read by Hon. John B. Grinnell.

The corner-stone, 7x3x3 feet, was cut from granite obtained in Buchanan county, and presented for that purpose by David Armstrong, of that county. The stone for the foundation was obtained from the Madison county quarries near Winterset, and for the basement from the old Capitol quarry in Johnson county, near Iowa City. The outside steps and platform are of the "Forest City" stone, from near Cleveland, Ohio, and the rails of granite from Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. All the columns, piers and pilasters in the corridors of the first story, are from Lemont, Illinois; most of those in the basement, from Anamosa, and the red granite columns of the second story, from Iron Mountain, Missouri.

The statuary, beginning north of



THE NATURAL SCIENCE BUILDING OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY .  
It is constructed of brick, 114 by 74 feet, and contains four large lecture rooms, four laboratories, a large museum and professors' rooms.

the library door, represent History, Science, Law, Fame, Literature, Industry, Peace, Commerce, Agriculture, Victory, Truth and Progress.

The four pictures on the ceiling of the supreme court room, are of the type of Greek mythology, and represent Justice, Columbia, Justice and Peace ruling over the land and bringing prosperity, culture and happiness, and Ceres, the goddess of agriculture.

Its general dimensions are: length north and south, 363 feet; breadth, 246 feet, and height to top of finial, 275 feet. The height of the first story is 23 feet; of the second, 22 feet, and of the third, 20 feet. The diameter of the rotunda is 66 feet and of the dome, 80 feet. The senate chamber is 58x91 feet, the house of representatives 74x91 feet and the library 52x108 feet. It is lighted by an electric light that requires an engine of eighty-horse power.

The last stone was laid June 18, 1881, and the interior was completed two years later. The work was all done by the day, the structure was paid for as completed and the cost was nearly \$3,000,000.

"From spire and from dome,  
From shop, school house and home,  
Ring a glad chime;  
Sing of her constant gain,  
Her wealth of brawn and brain,  
Noble, sublime."

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY.

(See group of buildings, p. 60.)

"Blessings on Science and her hand-  
maid Steam!  
They make Utopia only half a dream;  
And show the fervent of capacious  
souls,  
Who watch the ball of Progress as it  
rolls."—MACKAY.

In the year 1840, the congress of the United States passed an act setting apart two townships for the use and support of a University within the Territory of Iowa, whenever it should become a state. This gift was accepted, as set forth in the constitu-

tion of the state, and in 1847, the University of Iowa was organized by an act of the legislature of Iowa, approved February 25, 1847. The General Assembly at this session granted the capitol building at Iowa City, together with the ten acres of land on which it was situated, for the University. It also donated at the same time, two townships or seventy-two sections of land, to constitute a permanent fund for the endowment of the institution and such branches as might be later established.

The organization was completed by the appointment of a Board of fifteen trustees, who held their first session July 15, 1847. In January, 1849, two branches of the University were established—one at Fairfield and the other at Dubuque. The latter gained only a nominal existence. At Fairfield, the board of directors organized and erected a building at a cost of \$2,500. This was nearly destroyed by a hurricane the following year, but was rebuilt by the citizens of Fairfield. This branch never received any aid from the state, and January 24, 1853, its relation to the state was terminated. In February, 1854, the Medical College located at Keokuk, was recognized and established as the medical department of the University.

Very little, however, was accomplished until 1855, when the institution at Iowa City was first opened for the reception of students.

In April, 1858, the University was suspended in all its departments, in order that the productive fund might accumulate so as to enable the institution to be established upon a more liberal basis. The University was subsequently reorganized, and under the new organization reopened on September 19, 1860, and this may fairly be regarded as the date of the beginning of the existing institution.

The control of the University is in-

trusted to a Board of Regents, consisting of the Governor of the state and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, ex-officio, and one member from each congressional district, who are elected by the General Assembly to serve six years.

The University comprises the following six departments: Collegiate, Law, Medical, Homeopathic Medical, Dental and Pharmacy.

The Collegiate Department embraces four general courses of study—one classical, two philosophical and one general scientific; and two technical courses—civil engineering and electrical engineering.

The growth of the University has been very encouraging. The last catalogue issued (1898) shows an enrollment of 1313 students in the various departments. With the progress of years, new buildings have been erected until there are now twelve fine, large buildings, costing \$424,000, supplied with apparatus costing \$150,000, all available for the various uses of the University.

The central building in the group that appears on page 60, is the former state capitol. It is built of stone, 120x60 feet, and is two stories in height. At the right of it are the Medical and West buildings, and on the left the Dental building. Cuts of Close Hall, the Natural Science building, the Chemical Laboratory and the Medical Hospital may also be seen in this volume.

Prof. A. N. Currier is acting-president of this institution; President Charles A. Schaeffer having died September 23, 1898.

THE IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS, AMES, IOWA.

WM. BEARDSHEAR, LL. D., PRESIDENT.

"The farmer's trade is one of worth;  
He's partner with the sky and earth;  
He's partner with the sun and rain;  
And no man loses for his gain;

And men may rise, and men may fall;  
The farmer he must feed them all."

The Iowa Agricultural College, erected in 1868, occupies a delightful and healthful location upon high, rolling land just west of Ames, Story county, thirty-seven miles north of Des Moines. The college domain includes 860 acres, of which about 120 acres in the southwest part, have been set apart for the college buildings and grounds. Fifteen commodious buildings, heated mainly by steam and lighted by electricity, have been erected by the state at a cost of \$500,000, for the exclusive use of the various departments of the college. These buildings are clustered around an attractive and beautiful campus, that affords delightful scenery and a most healthful environment.

The entire equipment of this institution, in buildings, lands and endowment provided by the state and nation, represent an investment of \$1,250,000. It is the pride of those in authority, to equip each department with the tools, apparatus and facilities that will most wisely and thoroughly furnish a suitable outfit for the efficient work of the students and faculty. Tuition is free to students of Iowa; those outside the state are charged \$30 a year, though this is usually remitted to worthy students by the faculty or trustees. The college library contains 11,500 volumes, catalogued by the Dewey system. The Museum of Natural History is comprehensive, and the cabinet of Mineral Specimens furnishes material from many parts of the globe, for the study of geology.

The curriculum provides for a short course in Agriculture and Dairying; a three years' course in Veterinary Science, and four-year courses in Agriculture, Science, Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and Mining Engineering; and a Special course for ladies. For the study of Horticulture the fields,



gardens, green-house and grounds afford exceptional advantages. The national government gives the college annually about \$35,000, for original investigation and experimentation in agriculture and the sciences related to the industries. This enables those in authority to make the fields and the barns veritable laboratories of extensive and most practical investigation and observation. After this year (1898) the college commencement will be held in June instead of November, and the college year will open the last of July instead of February.

The history of this institution begins with the year 1858, when the legislature passed an act appropriating \$10,000 for the purchase of a farm on which to locate an Agricultural College. In 1859, a tract of 648 acres in Story county was purchased, and that county made a donation of \$10,000 towards it, that was supplemented by \$7,000 contributed by citizens of Story and Boone counties.

In July, 1862, congress appropriated to the several states in the Union, for agricultural colleges, 30,000 acres of land, for each senator and representative in congress. Every state accepting this grant was required to erect the necessary college buildings within five years from the acceptance of the grant, and without using any of the proceeds of the lands for that purpose. The state of Iowa, at the special session held in September, 1862, accepted this grant and received 240,000 acres. These lands were selected, from those that had not been previously homesteaded or sold in the various counties of the state, and they were designated "Agricultural College" land. The income from these lands is intended to meet the annual expenditures of this institution, although a part was used for the purchase of additional land as a suitable site for the college buildings and grounds.

In 1890, a bill for the more complete endowment and support of these colleges, was approved by President Harrison. It appropriated \$15,000 for the year ending June 30th, that year, and provided for an annual increase of the amount of each appropriation thereafter for ten years, by an additional sum of \$1,000 over the preceding year.

The object of this institution is "to advance and conserve the interests of agriculture and the mechanic arts," with the practice of agriculture, and to seek to make use of this intelligence in developing the agricultural and industrial resources of the state. Its aim is to make the student familiar with the things immediately around him, the powers of nature he employs and the material, through which under the blessings of Providence, he lives and moves and has his being; and since Agriculture, "the great mother science and industry of the ages," more than any other of the industrial arts is important to man, it follows that this should receive the highest degree of attention. Whatever is necessary for man to have done is honorable for man to do, and the grade of honor ensuing is dependent upon the talent and fidelity exhibited in performing it. All students, without regard to pecuniary circumstances, are therefore required, at this institution, to perform manual labor as an essential part of the college education, discipline and training.

"He that by the plough would thrive Himself must either hold or drive."

The Iowa Experiment Station, in connection with this institution, was established in accordance with an act of congress, approved March 2, 1887, for the purpose of aiding "in acquiring and diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects connected with agriculture, and to promote scientific investigation and ex-

periments respecting the principles and applications of agricultural science." It is subject to the regulations of the United States department of agriculture. The results of all agricultural investigations and experiments, including those relating to live stock, are published in bulletins that are issued quarterly, and sent free to all farmers of the state applying for them.

Views of the Main building, Morrill Hall and the Farm Barns may be seen on pages 64, 68 and 72.

THE IOWA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,  
CEDAR FALLS,

HOMER H. SEERLEY, A. M., PRESIDENT.

"Study to show thyself approved;  
\* \* \* apt to teach."—PAUL.

The public belief in the special education of teachers as a necessity, existed before the year 1876, when the legislature of Iowa decided to found a Normal school and maintain it thereafter as one of the necessary state institutions. The Normal school graduate from New York, Pennsylvania and other states, had already proved the practical advantage of such education and had created a public demand for professional teachers, before there was any local supply.

Hon. T. S. Parvin, of Cedar Rapids, at the very beginning of the school system in Muscatine, had sent to New York to obtain a trained teacher, in the person of D. Franklin Wells, and had introduced the spirit and methods of Normal work among the teachers. In the year 1849, by an act of the legislature, the state was divided into three Normal districts, and a Normal school located in each as follows: One at Andrew in Jackson county, one at Mt. Pleasant in Henry county and one at Oskaloosa in Mahaska county. Of the three schools thus located, only one—that at Andrew—was opened; and it was maintained only for a few years, the state

in 1855, ceasing to make the annual appropriation towards its support. In the same year a Normal department was added to the State University, that was maintained for seventeen years. Prof. D. F. Wells became principal of this Normal Department of the State University and by his instruction to the advanced students in the "science and art of teaching," made it the most prominent department of that institution. In 1873 this Normal Department of the University was abolished and in its place there was established a chair of Didactics—the first professorship of teaching, established, it is said, in any college or university in the United States.

The founding of a Normal school was now advocated by state superintendents, by the state teachers' association and by leading teachers and citizens, so that the demand was prominent in public opinion. In the year 1876, Hon. H. C. Hemenway, the representative in the General Assembly, from Black Hawk county, supported energetically the measure and secured the passage of a bill, with a majority of one vote, that gave to the present institution at Cedar Falls, a legal existence.

The Board of Regents, appointed by Governor Kirkwood, did a wise act in the selection of Prof. J. C. Gilchrist as the first president of the faculty, as he was the best informed man in Iowa at that time, to undertake the great task, and he probably accomplished a work, during his ten years of public service, at this institution that is rarely equaled for permanency and efficiency. The other members of the first faculty, M. W. Bartlett, D. S. Wright and Miss Frances L. Webster, were also wisely chosen.

This institution, established for the special training of teachers for the common schools of the state, was opened for the reception of students,

September 6, 1876. It has now an equipment consisting of six buildings and forty acres of ground, estimated at \$167,500, that are used exclusively for the work of the school and residences of its officers. North Hall, previously one of the soldiers' orphans' homes, was transferred March 5, 1876, and became the original home of the school. The superintendent's home was transferred at the same time and both buildings were reconstructed to adapt them to their new uses. South Hall, in which are the chapel and laboratories of physics and chemistry, was erected in 1882, at a cost of \$30,000. Central Hall, containing the president's offices, the library and the museum, was erected in 1895, at a cost of \$35,000. The steam plant that heats the entire institution was erected in 1896. The library, which is free to all students, contains more than 8,000 volumes.

The students are charged an expense fee of \$5.00, a term of twelve weeks. To secure entrance as a teacher-student, it is necessary for each applicant to sign the following declaration. "I hereby declare that, in becoming a student of the Iowa State Normal School, it is my intention, in good faith to follow the business of teaching in the state of Iowa."

The moral and religious influences of this institution are very excellent. There is, perhaps, no school in the state that has more religious work in progress or that is more successful in influencing students to undertake and maintain a life of high moral and religious culture.

The use of tobacco, being a hindrance to intellectual progress and unbecoming in a teacher, is not allowed in any form at this institution. Games of chance and other amusements that hinder study, are also prohibited, and indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors is regarded as a very serious offense.

Two members of the first faculty, Prof. M. W. Bartlett and Prof. D. S. Wright, continue in charge of their respective departments; Miss Anna E. McGovern since 1880, and Prof. Seerley since 1886.

New departments have been added as follows: Music in 1878; Special Training in 1884, discontinued two years later and reorganized in 1891; Latin in 1897 and the Military in 1892. The latter is in charge of a retired U. S. army officer, Major W. A. Dinwiddie.

In the year 1878, the first graduating class numbered four persons, and in 1898, there were 186 graduates, making the whole number in twenty-two years, 1325. The number of students in attendance last year was 1318.

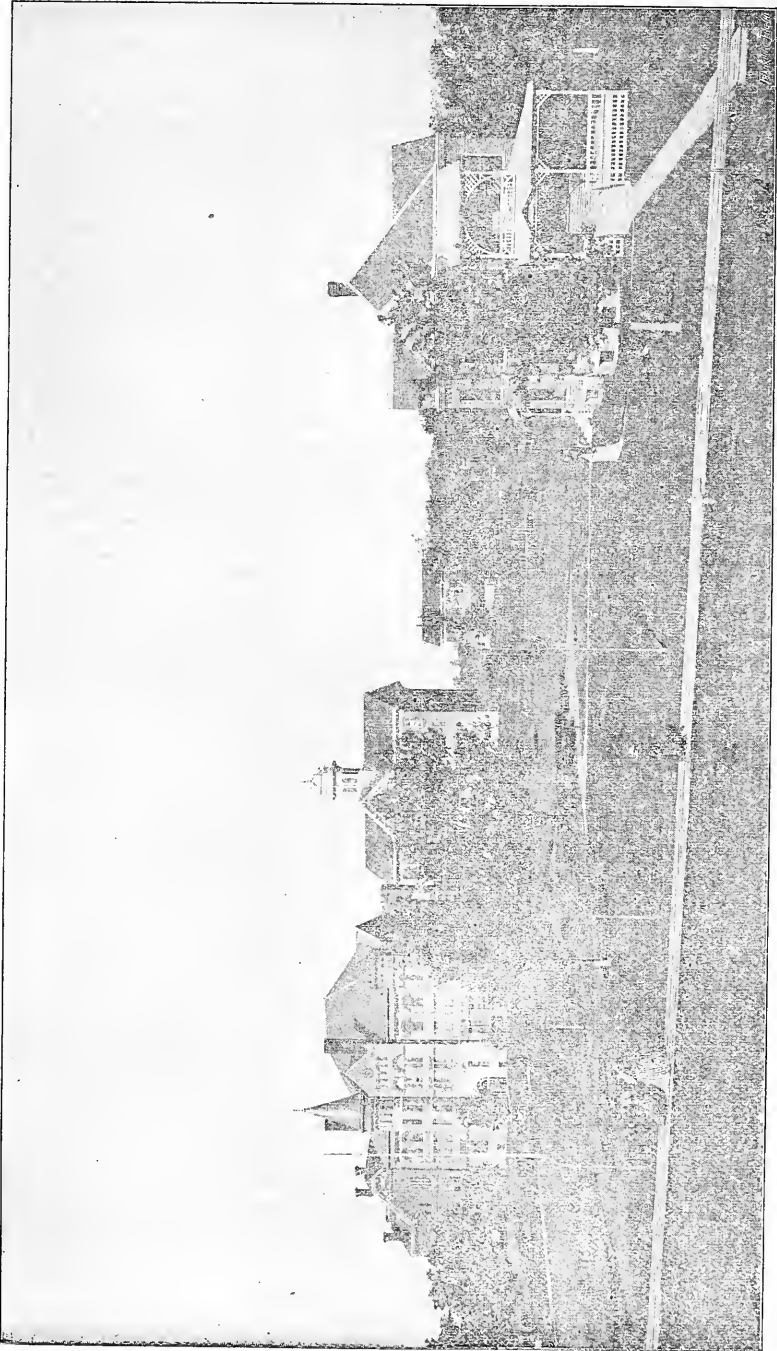
THE IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND,  
VINTON.

THOMAS F. MCCUNE, A. M., PRIN.

"I will bring the blind,  
By a way they knew not;  
I will lead them in paths  
They have not known."—ISAIAH.

The Iowa College for the Blind, established at Iowa City in 1852, and opened for students the year following, was transferred to its present location at Vinton, Benton county, in 1862. The college, as its name indicates, is a school, not a home, and the annual session begins on the first Wednesday of September and ends on the second Wednesday of June, following. During the summer vacation the students are required to return to their homes, and all officers and employes are then discharged, except those necessary for the care, cleaning and repair of the buildings.

The biennial report of 1897 shows that 186 pupils were in attendance that year, and 208 the year previous. During the forty-five years of the existence of this institution, 1007 students have been enrolled, of whom fifteen per cent make their own living and forty per cent are educated and



South Hall.  
Central Hall.  
North Hall.  
Superintendent's Residence.  
President's Cottage.

respectable members of society. Of the whole enrollment, ten per cent have completed the literary course and received their diplomas. Four have become successful ministers of the gospel; one is an evangelist of more than ordinary power; one is rapidly rising into prominence as a writer of stories for children, and another, as author and lawyer, has attained a marked standing in one of the largest cities of the land.

The main building, 108x70 feet, is located near the center of the grounds that comprise forty acres. These are beautifully arranged and ornamented with all kinds of trees and shrubs. The estimated value of the buildings, grounds, machinery, etc., represented by this institution, is \$313,650.

Its design is to furnish to the blind children of the state equal educational advantages with children who enjoy the boon of sight. The branches taught are raised print, point system, arithmetic, spelling, geography, history, grammar, natural philosophy, civil government, political economy, geometry, English and American literature.

The department of music is supplied with twenty-three pianos, one pipe organ, three cabinet organs and a sufficient number of violins, guitars, bass viols and brass instruments. Every student capable of receiving it is given a complete course in this branch.

In the industrial department the girls are required to learn knitting, crocheting, fancy work, hand and machine sewing; the boys, netting, mattress making and cane seating. Those of either sex who desire, may learn carpet weaving and broom making.

Several years ago, congress appropriated \$250,000 as a permanent fund, the interest of which, \$10,000, was to be paid semi-annually to the trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind, a corporate body, in Louisville, Ky., to be expended in publish-

ing embossed books and manufacturing apparatus for the blind. These books and apparatus are supplied to the thirty-seven institutions for the blind in the United States, in proportion to the number of pupils in attendance at each.

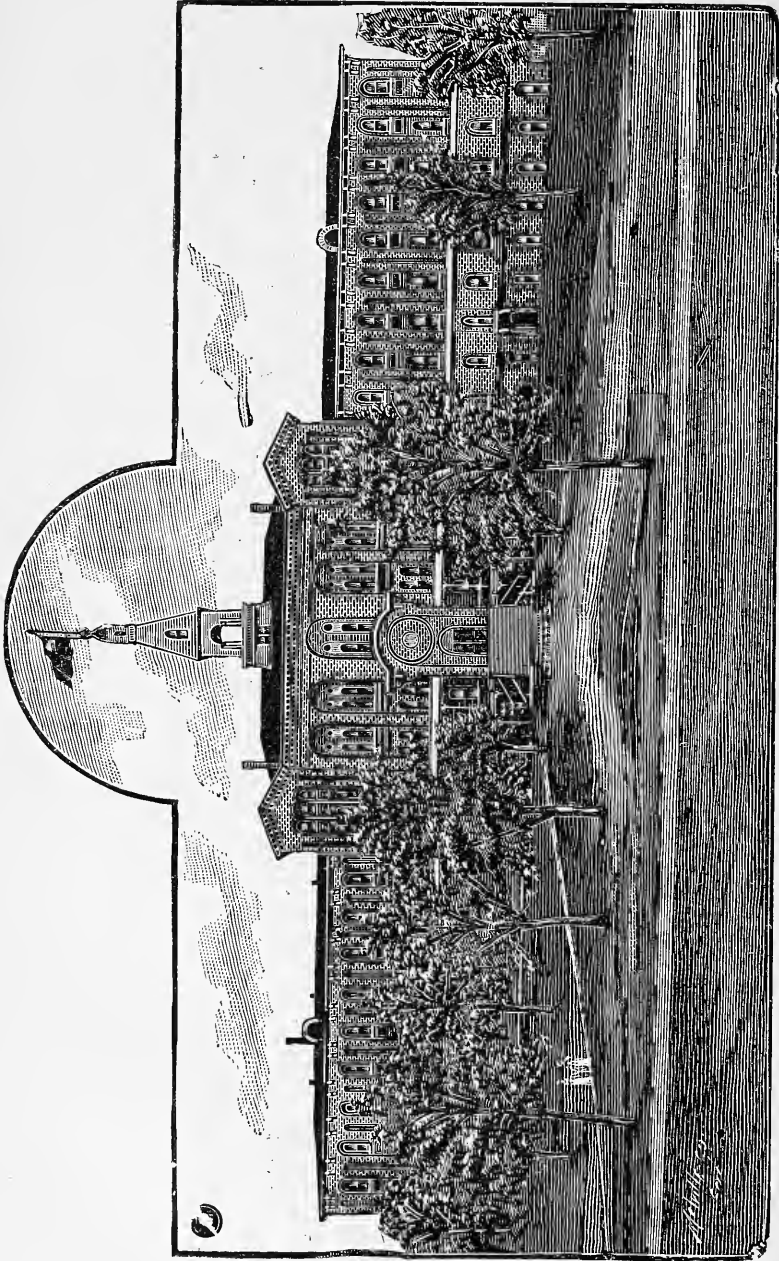
No work presents more complex problems than that of educating the blind, yet no work has made greater progress than this during the last quarter of a century.

#### INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR THE BLIND, KNOXVILLE.

The Industrial Home for the Blind was established in 1890, by the Twenty-third General Assembly, which appropriated \$40,000 for the purchase of grounds and the erection of buildings. Under the provisions of this act, the governor appointed a board of commissioners to select a location and superintend the construction of the buildings. They selected Knoxville, Marion county, as the site for the Home, and by January 1, 1892, had it ready for the admission of inmates, with accommodations for two hundred.

The object of this institution is the instruction of the adult blind of the state in some suitable trade or vocation, and to furnish a working home for the blind, who have learned a trade or vocation and desire to be employed therein. It is open to every blind person who has a legal residence in the state and is physically and mentally able to perform such labor as may be required in the trade or vocation carried on therein. Broom making is the principal industry. Hammocks and nets are also made. All assignments of work are made on the basis of adaptation. Each works at that for which he is specially fitted and is paid what he earns, according to a schedule of wages.

The legislature makes biennial appropriations for its support, those last made for the years 1898 and 1899, amounting to \$18,000.



IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, COUNCIL BLUFFS.

Center of building is five stories high, wings four stories each. Entire length is 320 feet, width 60 feet. Established in 1855.

During the first five years of its existence, or the period ending June 30, 1897, ninety-one inmates had been received and they had made 26,966 dozens of brooms, 8,411½ dozens of whisks, 1,071 hammocks and 330 nets.

The value of the property represented by this institution is estimated at \$30,000, and it is in charge of three trustees who are elected by the legislature for a term of six years. Cam. Culbertson is the present superintendent.

IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,  
COUNCIL BLUFFS.

HON. HENRY W. ROTHERT, SUPT.  
G. L. WYCKOFF, PRINCIPAL.

“Education is a capital to a poor man, and an interest to a rich man.”  
—HORACE MANN.

The Iowa School for the Deaf is located in Pottawattamie county, three miles east of the city of Council Bluffs. Arrangements were made for the establishment of this institution by the General Assembly of Iowa, in January, 1855. It was located first at Iowa City, where Mr. W. E. Ijams, a gentleman of liberal education and considerable experience in the instruction of the deaf, had established a private school for their benefit. In December, 1870, it was transferred to Council Bluffs, where permanent and commodious buildings have been provided for its use. It was first called a “State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb,” but this name was changed to its present form in 1892.

The main building is one of the largest structures in the state, being 350 feet long, 60 feet wide and five stories high in the central part. The wings of this building are used chiefly for sleeping apartments, while in the central part provision is made for study, the care of the sick and the reception of friends. The school house, two stories in height, contains twenty large, well ventilated recitation rooms. The center building of the Industrial

Schools was erected in 1889, to meet the growing and urgent requirements of the Industrial Department of this institution. It contains a large steam cylinder press, on which a weekly paper, The Deaf Hawkeye, is printed. The south wing of this building was erected in 1875, and at that time it was considered ample to provide for the wants of this school. The Chapel and Dining Hall are in the same building, 70x85 feet, two stories in height. All of these buildings are of brick, and together with grounds, apparatus, etc., represent an investment by the state of \$400,000.

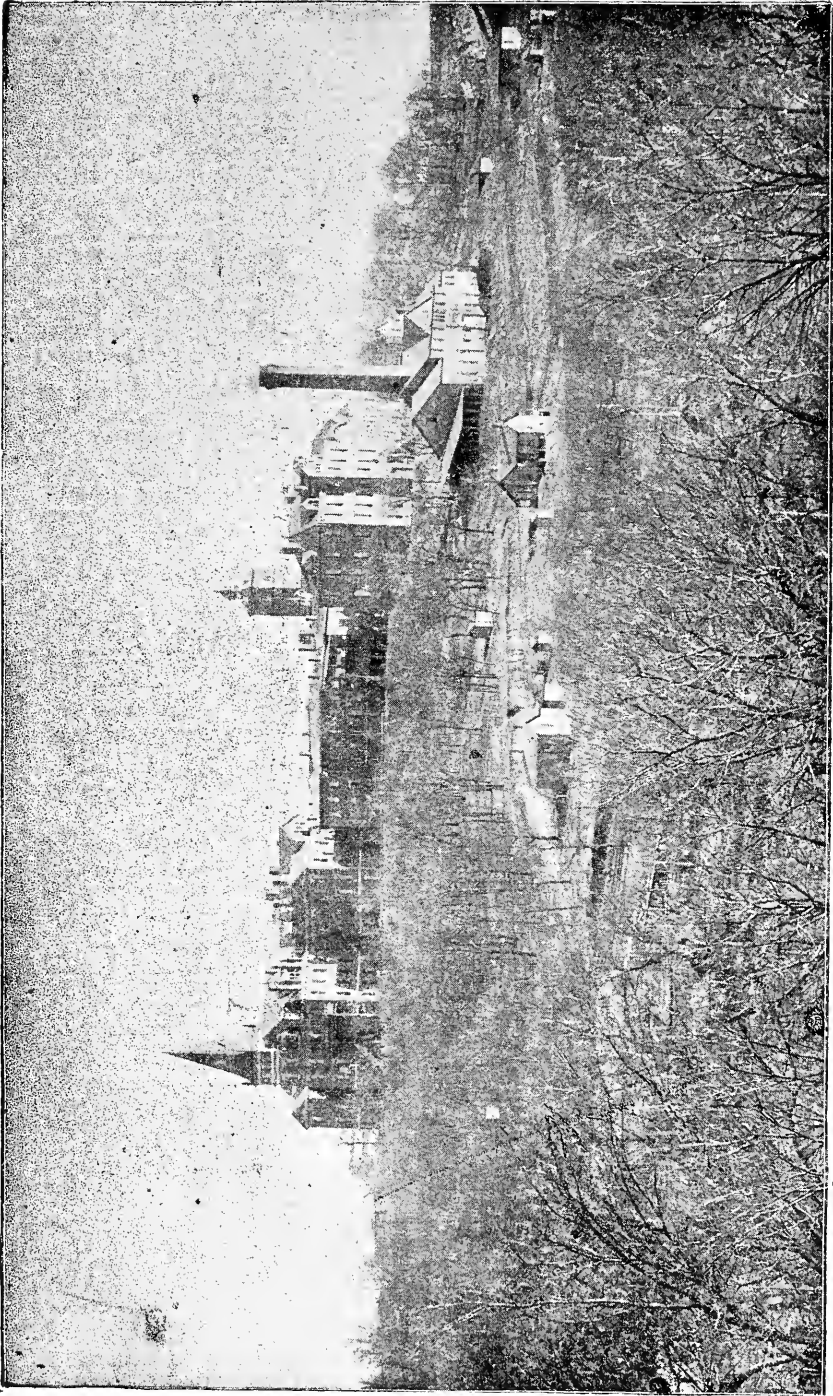
This institution is free to all from the age of nine to twenty-five, who are too deaf to be educated in the common schools, but who are sound in mind, free from immoral habits and free from contagious or offensive diseases. A competent corps of instructors of long and successful experience is employed in every department. The trades taught in this institution are printing, shoe-making, carpentering, dress-making, farming and gardening, drawing and painting; light housework, plain sewing and knitting are also taught. The session of the school begins the 1st day of October and continues until the last day in June of each year.

IOWA INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE MINDED  
CHILDREN.

“The secret of life—it is giving;  
To minister and to serve.”

—LUCY LARCOM.

This worthy institution is located at Glenwood, Mills county. Three homes for orphan children had been founded during the war of 1861-1865, and maintained by the state until 1876, when the number of dependent children having greatly diminished, it was decided to unite them in the present institution at Davenport. This closed the homes at Cedar Falls and Glenwood, and the former became the State Normal School and



IOWA INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN, GLENWOOD. (Before the Fire.) Established 1876. F. M. POWELL, Supt.



the latter the Institution for Feeble Minded Children. The first child was admitted, September, 1876. For a time there was an unwillingness on the part of parents of this class of children to turn them over to its care, but now that diffidence has been largely outgrown. The present buildings cost \$350,000, the furnishings and machinery \$35,000 and together with the 300 acres of land on which they are located, represent an investment of \$405,000.

The aim of this institution is to provide special methods of training for that class of children, who are deficient in mind or marked with such peculiarities as may deprive them of the benefits and privileges provided for children with normal faculties. It aims to make the children as nearly self-supporting as practicable and enable them to approach as nearly as possible the actions of normal people. It further aims to provide a home for those who are not susceptible of mental culture, but must rely wholly on others to supply their simple wants.

In the school department, lessons are imparted in the simple elements of instruction taught in the public schools, as well as in the industries suited to their capacities. Children are admitted between the ages of five and eighteen years.

THE IOWA SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME  
AND HOME FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN,  
DAVENPORT.

At the outbreak of the rebellion, in 1861, the state of Iowa was settled chiefly by young men of limited means, who were maintaining their families, to a great extent, by agricultural pursuits. The call for volunteers was answered patriotically. Large numbers went to the front and many, falling in the defense of their country and homes, left their families in destitute circumstances. Some of the benevolent people of Davenport, among them Hon. Hiram Price, Hon.

John L. Davies, Mrs. P. V. Newcomb and many others, conceived the plan of founding a home for the orphan children of Iowa soldiers, to be supported by the charity of Iowa people, assisted by the comrades of the fallen heroes. Similar enterprises were undertaken at Farmington, Glenwood and Cedar Falls.

The Davenport Home was first organized December 1, 1863, as a private charitable institution, and was opened for the reception of children, July 13, 1864, utilizing the old barracks, known as Camp Roberts.

In June, 1866, it became a state institution, under the name of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, the legislature assuming control of it and providing a special fund for its maintenance and for its permanent location at that place. In 1876 it became the only home for soldiers' orphans, in Iowa, by the transfer of those at Cedar Falls and Glenwood. The sphere of its usefulness was widened the same year by opening its doors to other dependent children of the state. Two classes of children are therefore now received; first, soldiers' orphans, who are maintained by the state, and second, county orphans, who are maintained by the counties sending them.

Only children healthy in body and mind are admitted, and these for no period less than one year. None are received under the age of one year, and the boys are not kept beyond fifteen, nor the girls after sixteen. Homes in families are then solicited for them.

This institution now consists of eighteen well equipped cottages, accommodating from twenty-five to thirty-five children each, a school-house with seating capacity for 500 children, a large, two-story hospital, a laundry and engine house, a manual training building and a barn with a storage capacity for 100 tons of hay and stable room for twenty-five cows

and six horses. These buildings are located on a beautiful plot of ground containing 57 acres, in the east suburban part of the city, and represent an investment of \$180,595. The average number in the home the last year (1897) was 487.

**THE SOLDIERS' HOME, MARSHALLTOWN.**

The legislature made provision for the establishment of the Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, in 1886, and the main building was opened with proper ceremonies, November 30, 1887. Since that time enlargements and improvements have been made so that the estimated value of the buildings is \$183,200; the grounds, over 400 acres, \$25,000, and miscellaneous property, \$16,000; total value, \$224,200.

This institution is maintained for dependent, honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors and marines, their dependent widows, wives and mothers and dependent army nurses. It is a worthy monument of the grateful patriotism of the people of the state towards its defenders, who, broken in health, or suffering from wounds received in their country's dangerous service, now need its care. Women were first received in 1893, when four were enrolled. The annual enrollment shows that the number of persons at this home has been as follows:

1888.....140	1893.....376
1889.....258	1894.....404
1890.....349	1895.....516
1891.....432	1896.....605
1892.....426	1897.....632

A number of cottages have been erected for the accommodation of married veterans needing the advantages of this home.

**INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS, ELDORA AND MITCHELLVILLE.**

Two industrial or reformatory schools, one for boys, at Eldora, Hardin county, and one for girls, at Mitchellville, Polk county, have been founded by this state, and are maintained for the purpose of reforming youthful

offenders or those who, through lack of proper home control, promise to become criminals.

The school at Eldora was opened September 1, 1868. The improvements consist of a main building, costing \$50,000, five family buildings costing the same amount, a hospital, shop, chapel, barn, electric and steam heating plants and other necessary improvements, on 760 acres of land that altogether represent an investment of \$201,500. About 450 boys are now cared for at this institution.

The school for girls was opened at Mitchellville in 1879, as a branch of the former. The improvements consist of a main building, two family buildings, hospital, barn, electric plant, steam heating apparatus, etc., located on 160 acres of land, all valued at \$90,125.

The children who are committed to these schools are not the hardened, irredeemable criminals, but those who are young in years—eight to sixteen—and whose natures are still susceptible to the influence of kindness, moral training and proper discipline. These beneficent influences could never accomplish the desired results amid the environments of prisons and penitentiaries.

Our state has wisely taken these facts into consideration, and no less in self-defense than in charity, has established these institutions as homes for our unfortunate youth. It has enjoined upon those who have the supervision of these schools the duty of having the boys and girls instructed in morality, such branches of useful knowledge as are adapted to their age and capacity and in some regular course of labor. The results of the work done by these schools prove beyond a doubt the possibility to reclaim wayward youth and make good citizens of them when they are put under proper control.

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE, MOUNT PLEASANT, INDEPENDENCE, CLARINDA AND CHEROKEE.

Liberal provision has been made by the people of this state for the care of the insane, by the erection of four large and commodious hospitals or asylums.

The one at Mount Pleasant, Henry county, was established January 24, 1855, by an appropriation of \$44,425 for 160 acres of land and buildings. It was formally opened March 6, 1861. The development of this institution is expressed in the following estimates of value: Buildings \$800,000; grounds, including farm, \$58,000; miscellaneous property \$100,000; total value \$958,000.

The second, located at Independence, Buchanan county, was opened May 1, 1873. The investment here is as follows: Real estate \$26,400; buildings \$1,015,950, making with other improvements, \$1,112,020.

The third, located at Clarinda, Page county, was opened December 15, 1888. This institution has 513 acres of land and accommodations for 1000 patients. The inventory shows value of land \$38,475 and of buildings \$821,000, making with other permanent improvements and fixtures, \$923,356.

The fourth, located at Cherokee, Cherokee county, in 1894, is not yet completed. The appropriations have been \$24,000 for 640 acres of land and \$400,000 for the erection of buildings.

PENITENTIARIES, FORT MADISON AND ANAMOSA.

This state has now two penitentiaries, one at Fort Madison, in Lee county, and the other at Anamosa, Jones county.

The one at Fort Madison was established by an act of the territorial legislature, January 25, 1839. In the act of congress, establishing the territory of Iowa, provision was made for the government to appropriate money for

the erection of public buildings, and under this provision the old Capitol at Iowa City (now used by the State University) and the main building of the penitentiary at Fort Madison were built. The latter was completed in 1841, and is probably the only building of the kind provided for any state at the expense of the national government. The value of the present buildings and wall is \$500,000; other property additional, \$45,000.

In 1872, an additional penitentiary was built, mainly by convict labor, at Anamosa. It is a very fine structure and has a library of more than 3300 volumes. The present value of buildings and grounds is estimated at \$2,650,000; machinery and supplies additional, \$32,000.

The criminal statistics show that the number of inmates in these institutions during the past ten years has been, in December, as follows:

1886.....	666	1892.....	662
1887.....	638	1893.....	806
1888.....	588	1894.....	898
1889.....	599	1895.....	999
1890.....	603	1896.....	1086
1891.....	668	1897.....	1145

OTHER STATE ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES.

The State Library, established in 1860, and the State Historical Department, organized July 1, 1892, have their location in the Capitol, at Des Moines. Though separate and distinct institutions, they are managed by the same board of trustees, consisting of the Governor, the Supreme Judges, the Secretary of State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The State Library was founded for the special benefit of the Supreme Court, but afterwards there were added other books useful to the members of the legislature and other state officers. In 1895, it contained 45,000 volumes, of which 21,000 were in the law department. It has grown until it has become known as one of the best libraries in the United States, and is,

therefore, a great institution for reference and study.

The Historical Department, commonly known as the Aldrich collection, was established for the purpose of promoting the collection and preservation of historical materials relating to Iowa, and the territory from which it was established. Three rooms located in the southeast basement story of the Capitol have been set apart for this collection and they are in charge of Hon. Charles Aldrich, curator, the founder of the collection.

In 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Aldrich, residents of Webster City, through the trustees of the State Library, presented the state their autograph collection, on the condition it should be kept by itself, in suitable cases, in the library, and that they should be permitted to make additions to it from time to time thereafter. From this beginning, through the personal efforts of Mr. Aldrich, has grown the "Historical Department of Iowa," with its wealth of facts, curios and collection—a veritable depository of varied and valuable historical matter—perhaps the most elaborate possessed by any state in the Union. This collection is always open to the free inspection of the people, to whom it now belongs.

The Historical Society, organized in 1857, for the purpose of collecting, arranging and preserving a library of books, pamphlets, statuary and other material, illustrative of the history of Iowa, has its headquarters at the State University, Iowa City. It publishes quarterly a periodical of 80 pages entitled, *The Annals of Iowa*.

The Agricultural Society, organized in 1854, held the first state fair in October of that year. Previous to 1885, the annual exhibitions of the products of the state were held in different localities, but that year large and valuable grounds were purchased at Des Moines, and the official

headquarters of the society were located permanently in the Capitol.

The Horticultural Society, organized in 1864, has for its object the promotion and encouragement of horticulture and arboriculture in Iowa, by the collection and dissemination of practical information regarding the cultivation of such fruits, flowers and trees as are best adapted to the soil and climate of the state. It publishes lists of fruits, as well as trees for timber or ornament, that may be successfully grown in this state. In order to facilitate this work the state is divided into twelve districts, each having its own director, and holding its own yearly meeting. It has now established twenty experimental stations in different parts of the state for the purpose of testing trees, shrubs, plants and fruits before recommending them for cultivation.

It is a voluntary association, the annual membership fee being \$1.00, and a life membership \$5.00. The annual meetings, since 1892, are ordinarily held at their rooms in the Capitol, on the second Tuesday of December, and the proceedings are published in an annual report that is usually full of interesting and valuable papers. This is sent free to all the members of the society.

The Improved Stock Breeders' Association, organized in 1874, has for its object the improvement of Iowa live stock and the promotion of that industry.

The Iowa State Teachers' Association is a voluntary organization of educators from the various departments of that work in the state. This association was formed at Muscatine, May 10, 1854, and holds an annual convention during the holidays.

The Iowa Academy of Sciences, organized in 1886, has for its object the encouragement of scientific work and the collection of a library for the state, consisting of the publications of

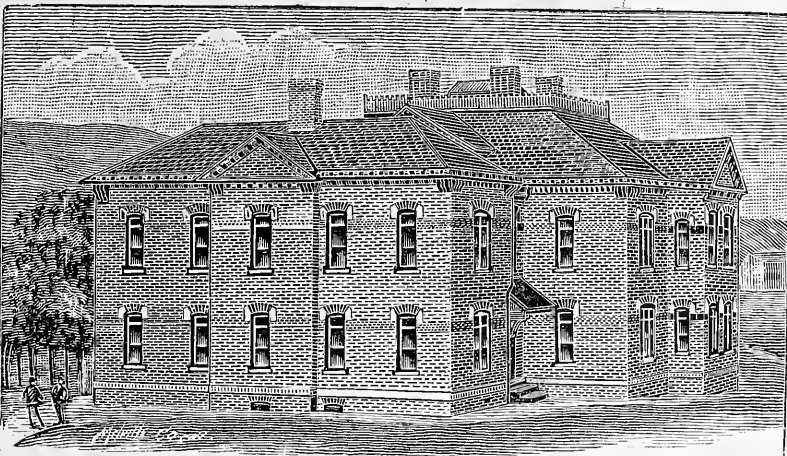
the scientific societies of the world. It holds an annual meeting at the same time and place as the State Teachers' Association.

The Educational Board of Examiners was created in 1882, to encourage training in the science and art of teaching, and consists of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Presidents of the State University and State Normal School and two additional persons, one of whom must be a woman, appointed by the governor. This Board holds at least two examinations annually, and issues state certificates for five years and state diplomas for life, to competent, experienced teachers who are examined by it.

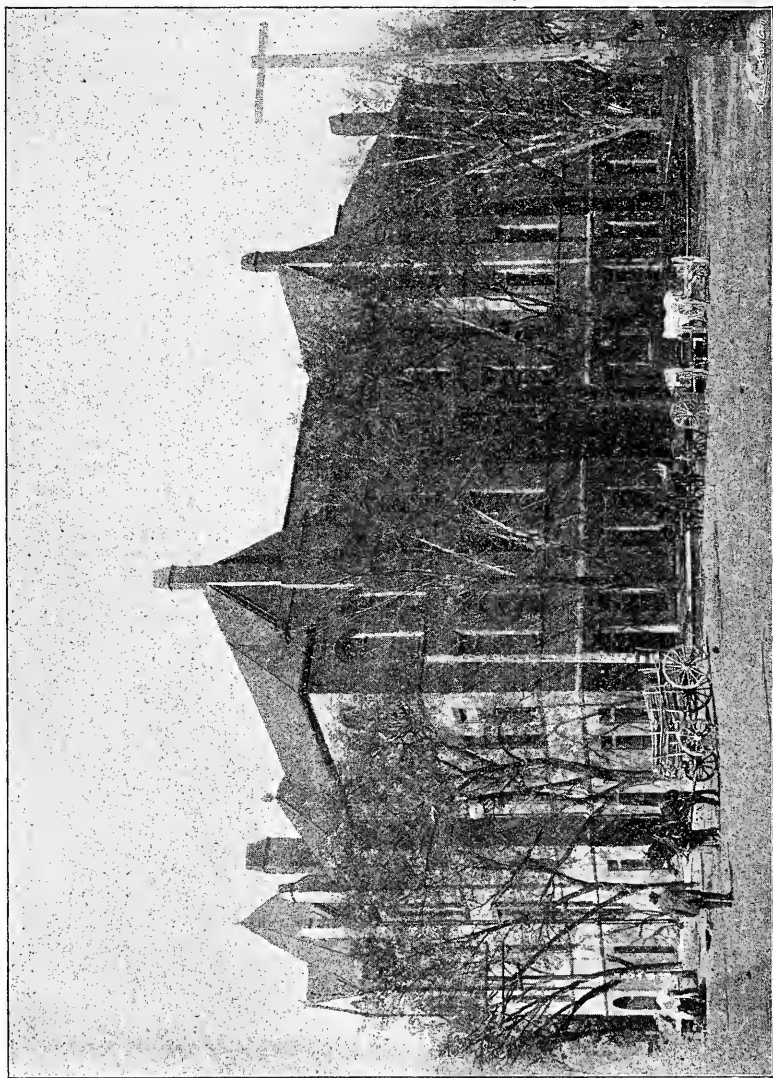
There are three State Boards of Control that issue certificates to those entering their respective fields of effort, namely: The Commissioners of Pharmacy, created in 1880; the Board of Dental Examiners 1882, and the Board of Health, in 1886.

The members of the latter are appointed by the governor, one each year, and they hold office for a term of seven years. To regulate the practice of medicine, a State Board of Medical Examiners was created in 1886, to consist of the physicians of the State Board of Health and its Secretary. Every person practicing medicine in the state of Iowa is required to procure a certificate from this Board.

The first geological survey of the state was instituted January 31, 1855, by the appointment of James Hall, of New York, as State Geologist. The second was authorized April 2, 1866, by the appointment of Charles A. White, of Iowa City, as State Geologist, and he published two volumes of valuable information. The third survey was authorized in 1892, when the Geological Board appointed Samuel Calvin, of Iowa City, as State Geologist. Three valuable volumes have been prepared by him and the survey is still in progress.



SCHOOL HOUSE OF SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, COUNCIL BLUFFS.



THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY, STATE UNIVERSITY, IOWA CITY.

## X.

## EDUCATION, RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

"The rewards of Heaven are to be the development of something within us, rather than the addition of something from without."—STINSON.

## EDUCATION.

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."



THE first school in the present limits of Iowa was taught by Berryman Jennings, at Nashville, Lee county, in the last months of the year 1830. In December of the same year, J. K. Robinson began a term of school at Keokuk. In the winter of 1833-4, Geo. Cabbage taught a school in a log church in Dubuque. The first lady teacher was Mrs. Rebecca Palmer at Fort Madison in 1834. In 1837, Louisa King opened a school for young ladies, at Dubuque, and conducted it for several years. In 1839, Alonzo Phelps established in the same city a classical school for both sexes, that was afterwards continued by Thomas H. Benton, Jr.

The first building used chiefly as a public school house, was erected of roughly hewn logs, donated by the patrons, at Burlington in 1833. The school house built at Dubuque in 1844 was the first one erected from funds derived by taxation under the law of January 1, 1839, which granted the voters of any school district the power to levy a tax, select a place and build a school house.

The constitution under which Iowa entered the Union in 1846, declared: "The General Assembly shall encour-

age by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral and agricultural improvement." It also required that every school district support a school at least three months each year. The right and duty of a state to maintain a general system of popular education and generously to support the same by a uniform levy of taxes, became thus clearly recognized and permanently established as the policy of the new state.

The school law of 1849, authorized the electors of any district to determine whether a school of higher grade should be maintained, and several of the more populous districts, availing themselves of this favorable enactment, very early began to classify and grade their schools.

During the fifties, the increase in population became very rapid and there was a corresponding development of school facilities. Rural communities and villages multiplied as if by magic, towns put on the air of cities, larger school-houses were demanded and supplied, and the need of graded and high schools became more keenly felt. Before 1860, the cities of Dubuque, Davenport and Tipton had made provision for a systematic organization and the selection of a city superintendent.

Previous to 1857, the money raised by general taxation proved insufficient to maintain the schools as long a period each year as the people desired, and the term of school was supplemented by subscriptions on the part of the parents or guardians of the pupils in attendance. An enlightened public sentiment at this time demanded that the schools be free and wholly supported by general taxation.

In 1858, the General Assembly of Iowa passed a comprehensive act, creating a State Board of Education, providing for the examination of teachers and, in general, embodying the essential features of the admirable system of education in this state, of which, including recent modifications, we append a brief summary.

1. Each civil township forms a school district and it is divided into as many sub-districts as there are neighborhoods requiring separate schools. When it is fully settled, the township will ordinarily consist of nine sub-districts, each embracing the families residing on four sections of land. Each sub-district elects annually, on the second Monday in March, a sub-director. These sub-directors compose the Board of Directors for the township, and meet regularly on the third Monday in March and September. In rural independent sub-districts,\* the Board consists of three members, one of whom is elected annually to serve a term of three years. In the independent districts of cities of the first class, the Board consists of seven members and in other independent city or incorporated town districts, of five members all of whom are elected for a term of three years. It is the duty of these Boards of Directors to select sites and make contracts for the erection of school houses, to employ teachers, to determine the amount of tax necessary to be

\*Lizard Township, Pocahontas County.

raised in the district in addition to the state and county apportionment and to maintain a free school in each sub-district, at least six months in each year.

\* 2. Each county elects biennially a Superintendent of Public Schools, who examines teachers, issues and revokes certificates, visits schools, and hears and determines cases appealed from the board of directors, has general oversight of the public schools of the county and makes an annual report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

3. A State Superintendent of Public Instruction is elected biennially by the people, who has general supervision of the County Superintendents and of the public schools of the state. He renders written opinions on the administration of the school laws, determines cases appealed from the decisions of County Superintendents, appoints Teachers' Institutes in the various counties, prepares and distributes school laws and blanks to the County Superintendents and makes a biennial report to the General Assembly.

4. The public schools are maintained chiefly by funds derived from the following sources:

First, By the interest on the Permanent School Fund. This fund, now amounting to several millions of dollars, and constantly increasing, is derived from the sale of public lands donated by Congress, being section number sixteen in each township, the additional grant of 500,000 acres in the Act of December 28, 1846, admitting Iowa into the Union and from five per cent on the sale of government lands within the state.

Second, By a county tax of not less than one mill nor more than two and one-half mills on the dollar, on the assessed value of all taxable property in each county.

Third, By a district tax—amount unlimited—on all the taxable property



in each district township.

5. In addition to the provisions made for the support of common schools, the state appropriates fifty dollars annually to each county holding a teachers' institute.

The bible shall not be excluded from any public school or institution in the state, but no child shall be required to read it contrary to the wishes of his parent or guardian.

"Four things a man must learn to do  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow-men sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely."

—HENRY J. VANDYKE.

The pioneer log school house increased in numbers until 1861, when 893 were reported out of a total of 3,479. As population and wealth increased school houses were built larger, of better material, more inviting in appearance and more frequently supplied with the facilities necessary for the attainment of the highest degree of success in school work.

In 1849, the average value of each of the 387 school houses was about \$100; in 1850 the average of the 3,208 buildings was \$376; in 1874 of the 9,228 \$802; and in 1891 of the 13,273, \$1,040. The gradual and continued improvement in the school houses and their surroundings is an index of the great advancement in all valuable and desirable particulars.

If natural shade does not already exist on the school grounds, the law directs that trees for shade and ornament shall be planted. This enactment of 1882 prepared the way for the state-wide observance of tree planting and since May 4, 1887, Arbor Day has been designated for this annual festival and the floating of the flag from the school house.

In 1850, seventy teachers out of every hundred employed were men. This difference gradually diminished until 1862, when the number of the

gentler sex employed became the greater, and in 1897 they numbered 22,208 and the men only 5,824. The eminent fitness of women for the office of teacher has thus been favorably recognized in Iowa.

The constant and rapid increase in the amount expended for educational purposes is indisputable evidence that the public schools are appreciated by the people. The amount paid in 1897 for school purposes was \$11,910,706.58—all raised by voluntary taxation except the semi-annual apportionment of \$816,044.27, a part of which is derived from the interest on the permanent fund.

The census of 1880 credited Iowa with a lower percentage of illiteracy than any other state of the Union. The interest the people of Iowa have always manifested in all that pertains to education furnishes abundant ground for confidence in the continued growth and development of their matchless system of free schools. Intelligent labor insures prosperity, and the public schools of Iowa afford the humblest boy an opportunity to acquire the intelligence necessary to enable him to fill high positions with credit and honor.

The higher education is provided for in the State University, State Normal School, Agricultural College and the 275 other educational institutions established throughout the state by the churches or by individual enterprise, employing, in 1895, 1,391 instructors, and representing an investment in buildings and grounds of \$4,179,250, with an additional permanent endowment fund of \$1,157,000.

#### THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

After the adoption of the constitution of 1857, the system of education in Iowa was modified by the creation of a State Board of Education that was continued until March 23, 1864. On December 24, 1858, this Board abolished the office of State Superin-

tendent of Public Instruction, and the secretary of this Board performed the usual duties of that public officer, from December 29, 1858, to March 23, 1864, when the Board of Education was abolished and the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was restored.

#### THE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL.

There are sixteen State Institutions in Iowa, established by the legislature. As they were founded provision was made for their management by the appointment of a separate board of trustees for each institution. This system of administration proved a source of considerable trouble to the several state officers in making their biennial reports to the Governor and was unsatisfactory from the economic standpoint. For these reasons the legislature in 1898 abolished the several separate systems of independent management and organized a new system under one management, called "The State Board of Control." This Board, consisting of three members, appointed by the Governor with the approval of two-thirds of the senate in executive session, assumed control July 1, 1898. It has been assigned complete authority over thirteen of the State Institutions, which includes all of them except the University, the Agricultural College and the Normal School. Over these three it exerts supervisory control only so far as the management of their financial affairs is concerned. This Board has its office in Des Moines, and its first or present members consist of Hon. William Larrabee, Hon. L. G. Kinne and Hon. John Cownie.

#### CHURCHES AND CHURCH WORK.

Walk about Zion,  
Mark ye well her bulwarks;  
Consider her palaces,  
That ye may tell it to the generation following.—DAVID.

If the people of Iowa have shown great interest in securing for their

youth the means of an intellectual culture essential to useful and honorable life, they have also recognized the importance of the proper culture of the moral faculties, and, desiring the prevalence of sobriety, piety and good order, they have not only taxed themselves to provide facilities for public education, but have contributed voluntarily large gifts to promote religious instruction, moral culture and the public worship of God.

Devoted christian men and women came with the first immigration in the permanent settlement of this territory. Loyal to their God, their christian profession and the moral interests of the communities they were establishing, they soon invited the services of the ministers of religion, and in their humble circumstances generously planned and labored to secure this beautiful region to the dominion of their Lord. They endured privations, worshiped in lowly cabins, often in the shady groves, "God's first Temples," and by their fidelity to christian principles, made the religious freedom, privileges and moral excellence we now enjoy, a gracious possibility.

Enthusiasm in religious work led to the discovery of Iowa. The settlement of the territory did not immediately follow its discovery. One hundred and sixty years passed before the first settlers came to found homes in the area now constituting this state. In that period of time, through the leadings of Divine Providence, great intellectual and political changes occurred. Inventive genius evolved new agencies of moral as well as intellectual, mechanical and military power, that resulted in vast changes, not only in their geography, but also in the social condition and the religious ideas pervading christian nations. Under divine guidance this fertile and divinely favored region was reserved for settlement until these forces

were in effective operation and an intelligent, liberal christian citizenship, hating oppression and loving righteousness, should bring to this beautiful land the highest type of christian civilization ever enjoyed by men.

The country east of the Mississippi river was thrown open for settlement in 1828, and Galena, in the vicinity of the lead mines, became an active frontier town, with a resident minister. In 1833, the permanent settlement of Iowa began and on the 8th of August that year, a Congregational minister from Galena, held religious services at the home of Mrs. Willoughby, in the settlement at Dubuque. So far as known, this was the first religious service held within the boundaries of the state. Soon thereafter, in the same settlement, Father McMahon, a Catholic clergyman, celebrated mass in the home of Patrick Quigley.

On the 6th of November the same year, Rev. Barton Randle, a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal church, visited Dubuque and held services in a private house. Early in the following year, he organized a class\* in the town and this appears to have been the first religious society formed in Iowa. During that season this society built a small church of logs, 20x26 feet, and this was the first church building erected in the state. In the winter of 1835-6, Rev. Cyrus Watson, a Presbyterian minister, preached about three months in this log building, alternatnig with the Methodists. A Presbyterian church was organized and at his instigation measures were taken for securing a house of worship that resulted in the erection of a stone church, that after the lapse of some years, was transferred to the Christian church. The corner-stone of this building was laid July 1, 1836, in the presence of Judge Dunn, Chief Justice of the Territory of Wisconsin that embraced at that time the whole vast

section west of Lake Michigan to the Missouri river and north of the states of Illinois and Missouri. This was the first Presbyterian church erected in all this territory. The Catholics erected their first church in Iowa at this place the same year.

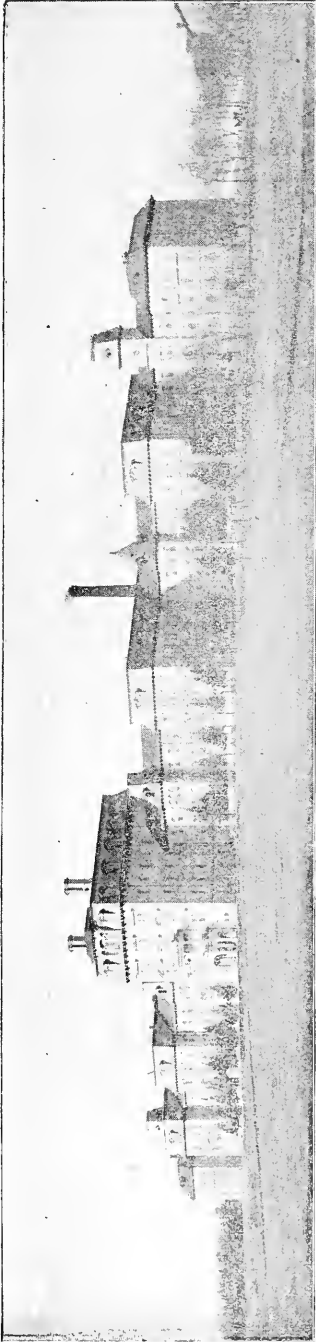
From these small beginnings, that but dimly suggested speedy enlargement, have grown the great religious organizations that now flourish with richness of blessing, in all parts of the state and yield their rich fruitage of cultured christian beneficence to carry the tidings of grace to other communities. Many of the three score and four years, that have passed since the first church was built in Iowa, were years of privation and hardship, nevertheless the progress of the churches has been wonderful. Beautiful and substantial church edifices have been erected in every center of population and in addition thereto 206 colleges, academies and other ecclesiastical institutions of learning have been erected through their instrumentality. These religious educational institutions represent a benevolent investment of more than \$5,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 is in the form of a permanent endowment for their support. Thousands have devised liberal things for the establishment and maintenance of the church and her handmaid christian education, in Iowa.

EXHIBIT OF CHURCH GROWTH IN IOWA.

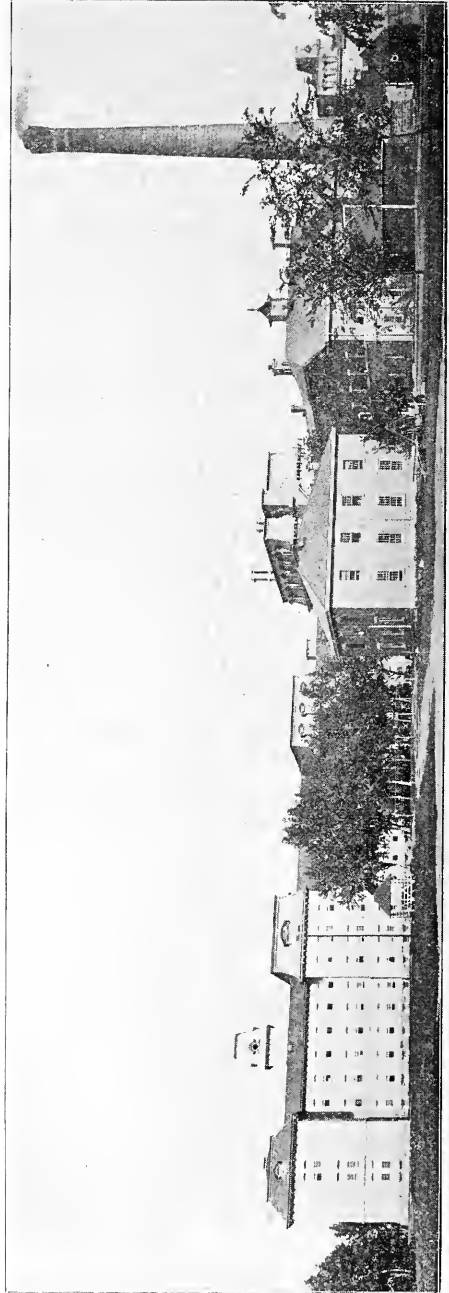
	1850	1870	1895
Church buildings,	207	1446	4480
Value of b'dgs,	\$177,425	\$5,730,352	\$15,105,085
Average of "	\$809	\$3,963	\$3,375
Seating capacity,	43,529	431,709	1,305,804
Denominations rep.,	13	—	43
Meth. church b'dgs,	76	492	1,382
Pres. " "	38	222	454
Luth. " "	5	45	124
Cath. " "	18	195	411
Bap. " "	23	165	398
Christ. " "	11	48	255
Cong. " "	14	125	251
U. B. " "	"	28	156
Friends " "	5	60	82
Ref'd " "	4	17	66
Epis. " "	5	36	65
Other denominations	17	148	536
Population,	192,214	1,194,020	2,958,069

The statistics for the year 1895 show

\*Four members.



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, INDEPENDENCE.—Front View of Main Building. Opened May 1, 1873.



HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE—Rear View of Main Building and Central Heating Plant.

that the communicant membership of the church was at that time, 571,264 and the Sunday School membership was 365,441. The voluntary offerings of the people for the support of the church that year, which was one of "hard times," were as follows:

Salary of clergy.....	\$2,076,055
Contingent Expenses paid.....	806,779
Paid for new buildings in 1894.....	816,555
Paid for support of Sunday Schools....	172,442
<b>Making annual support of church.....</b>	<b>\$3,901,831</b>
Value of Church buildings was.....	\$15,105,085
Value of Parsonages was.....	2,492,906
<b>Making churches and parsonages....</b>	<b>\$17,597,991</b>
Amount Invested in Christian Educational Institutions was..	5,000,000
<b>Making the amount of.....</b>	<b>\$22,598,091</b>

Permanently invested in buildings and property belonging to the church in Iowa, and freely donated during the first half century of her history.

It will be perceived this exhibit does not show the missionary offerings of the churches which now amount to nearly half a million dollars annually. It should also be noted that the voluntary offerings for the support of the church in 1892, before the hard times set in, were more than \$5,000,000, instead of the \$3,901,831 of 1895.

The work of the church in every community is a vital factor in promoting its best interests. The work done by those devoted, godly men and women who laid the foundations for these grand results in the formative years of this commonwealth, did much to insure and accomplish its prosperity. This liberality demonstrates, not only that the christian people of Iowa are of a progressive disposition, but also that they are in prosperous circumstances and have regard for their religious convictions and privileges.

Iowa has an active working State Sabbath School Association that holds an annual convention. In 1895, there were nearly 5,000 Sunday Schools, rep-

resenting a membership of 365,441 persons, and the amount contributed for their support was \$172,442. Mrs. Mattie M. Bailey, for many years the efficient secretary of this association, reported that 75 per cent of the Sunday Schools of the state are continued throughout the year; that at least one million copies of Sabbath School papers are distributed through them and that their libraries of religious books contain at least 100,000 volumes. These facts show that the people of Iowa are earnestly and generously engaged in the work of training the rising generation in the principles of morality and religion.

PATRIOTISM.

When Iowa was opened for permanent settlement, after the Black Hawk Indian war of 1832, the contentions regarding the limitation or extension of Negro slavery that culminated in the civil war, had begun to agitate the country. The Missouri Compromise, adopted in 1820, as a settlement of this troublesome question, was in its most vital force, when in 1833 the pioneers crossed the Mississippi to found permanent settlements in Iowa. By the provisions of this compromise the area forming this state was consecrated to freedom. Although, according to the census of 1840, sixteen slaves were held within its borders, under its territorial government, ultimate freedom from slavery was fully assured to this region. "Immigrants from the New England states flocked to this new field, bringing with them as one of their chief possessions, an intelligent patriotism—a legacy of patriotic sires, who stood bravely for freedom at Lexington, Bennington and Bunker Hill. Other settlers coming from the Central and Eastern states to this free western country to establish a new commonwealth, brought with them a hearty affinity with that spirit. Others coming from the slave-cursed South, came to enjoy

a deliverance from the scenes and associations of that oppression. They believed that all men were endowed equally by the Creator, with the right to their own muscle, bone and natural powers, and with equal rights to freedom of thought and action in the pursuit of happiness."\*

When there was a manifest tendency to extend the baneful institution of slavery by the repeal of the famous Missouri Compromise of 1820, that from the time of its enactment had been regarded as a perpetual guaranty of freedom, to the great north-western portion of this country, the people of Iowa cast a decisive majority vote on the platform, declaring "We most unqualifiedly and emphatically disapprove of the efforts now made in congress to legislate slavery into the territory of Nebraska."

They then believed that the broadest possible freedom was essential to the true happiness of the people and real prosperity of the state. They claimed civic freedom for themselves and their posterity and patriotically gave voice and vote that others settling new territories throughout this broad West, should enjoy these same heaven-bequeathed advantages. Inspirations of the noblest patriotism determined the lines of development that have made Iowa, in her brief history, not only one of the freest and most progressive but also one of the most orderly states of the Union.

When in April, 1861, the stirring message that rebel hosts assailing Fort Sumpter had made necessary the proclamation of President Lincoln, summoning the states to send armed men to maintain the national authority, the citizens of no other of the twenty-four loyal states were more earnest in patriotic determination and deed than were the people of this state. The patriotism of the people of Iowa had its expression in the fact

that more men volunteered for service at their country's call than were required from this state. Her citizen soldiery toiled in almost every march, fought in almost every battle and bravely fell everywhere at the front. Her generals from hamlet and farm, made honorable history, earning renown on many fields and no foul stain tarnished the honor of Iowa in that terrible hour.

Forty-nine regiments of infantry (forty-eight of white troops and one of colored), nine regiments and two extra companies of cavalry, and four batteries of artillery were enrolled in the patriotic force, making 56,364 men in duty organized and reported Iowa troops, while there were 19,155 enlistments of Iowa men in other states, that made the grand army of 75,519 men enrolled, or one for each ten persons of her population at the close of the struggle. Of those reported in Iowa organizations, 3,360 were killed or died of wounds received in battle and 8,810 died of disease or fell by accident, making a total loss of 12,170 men.

"Sleep sacred dust of noble dead,  
Spring's brightest bloom shall deck  
your head."

Iowa's part in the conflict for perpetual, national unity in a redeemed country was costly in precious lives. Her homes were made sad by the sorrows of war, but her people faltered not when called to patriotic duty.

A beautiful monument, costing \$150,000, was erected in 1895, by the State of Iowa, south of the Capitol in Des Moines, to commemorate the heroism of the Iowa soldiers and sailors of 1861 to 1865. It is an upright shaft surmounted with the statue of victory.

"Situated in the central region of the grand constellation of states, Iowa favors their perpetual union. Her intelligent citizens regard each star with equal respect. In the na-

\*Hand book of Iowa, 355.



IOWA SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT.

Erected in 1895 at a cost of \$150,000, south of the Capitol, Des Moines.

tional parliamentary halls her citizens have won fame and honor; in the highest judicial chambers her citizens have gained honored name; in the high duties of cabinet councils and diplomatic offices her representatives have rendered distinguished service. Exalting the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, she recognizes each of her citizens as having equal rights to life, liberty, the advantages of her schools and the protection of her government.'

"Land of the noble heart and brave!  
How leaped thy men in the thickest fray,  
When died our noblest sons, to save  
Our mighty realm to freedom's sway;  
Thy children know where honor lies,  
The deeds that greatness consecrates:  
And on their matchless virtues, rise  
The pillars of a peerless state."

—HORATIO N. POWERS,

SUCCESSION OF GOVERNORS.

The following gentlemen have filled the executive chair of the state since the admission of Iowa into the Union:

	Date Of Service.	County Represented.
Ansel Briggs.....	1846-1850,	Jackson.
Stephen Hempstead...	1850-1854,	Dubuque.
Jas. W. Grimes.....	1854-1858,	Des Moines.
Ralph P. Lowe.....	1858-1860.	Lee.
Samuel J. Kirkwood....	1860-1864,	Johnson.
William M. Stone.....	1864-1868,	Marion.
Samuel Merrill.....	1868-1872,	Clayton.
Cyrus Carpenter.....	1872-1876,	Webster.
Samuel J. Kirkwood....	1876-1877,	Johnson.
Joshua G. Newbold....	1877-1878,	Henry
John H. Gear.....	1878-1882,	Des Moines.
Buren R. Sherman.....	1882-1886,	Benton.
William Larrabee.....	1886-1890,	Fayette.
Horace Boies.....	1890-1894,	Black Hawk
Frank D. Jackson.....	1894-1896,	Polk.
Francis M. Drake.....	1896-1898,	Appanoose.
Leslie M. Shaw.....	1898 to pres.	Crawford

Joshua G. Newbold was elected Lieutenant-Governor, but became Governor on the resignation of Sam-

uel J. Kirkwood upon his election as United States senator.

CABINET OFFICERS.

Six citizens of Iowa have held positions in the cabinet of the President of the United States, as follows:

JAMES HARLAN was Secretary of the Interior in the second administration of Abraham Lincoln.

W. W. BELKNAP was Secretary of War in Gen. Grant's administration.

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD was Secretary of the Department of the Interior, under Presidents Garfield and Arthur.

GEORGE W. MCCRARY was Secretary of War under President Hayes.

FRANK HATTON was Postmaster-General during part of President Arthur's administration.

JAMES WILSON is now Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, under the administration of President McKinley.

SUCCESSION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Iowa has been represented in the United States Senate by the following citizens:

Geo. W. Jones, of Dubuque.....	1848 to 1859
Augustus C. Dodge, of Burlington.....	1848 to 1855
James Harlan, of Mt. Pleasant.....	1855 to 1865
James W. Grimes, of Burlington.....	1858 to 1870
Samuel J. Kirkwood, of Iowa City....	1866 to 1867
James Harlan, of Mt. Pleasant.....	1867 to 1873
Jas. B. Howell, Keokuk, Jan. 20 to Mch. 4, 1871	(To fill vacancy caused by death of James W. Grimes.)
Geo. G. Wright, of Des Moines.....	1871 to 1877
William B. Allison, of Dubuque.....	1873 to the present time.
Samuel J. Kirkwood, of Iowa City....	1877 to 1881
James W. McDill, of Afton.....	1881 to 1883
(Appointed by the Governor, Mch. 8, 1881, to fill vacancy by resignation of Samuel J. Kirkwood.)	
James F. Wilson, of Fairfield.....	1883 to 1895
John H. Gear, Burlington, 1895 to pres. time.	



# THE HISTORY

—OF—

## Pocahontas County, Iowa,

IN THREE PERIODS.

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### PERIODS.

I—1856-1869—Period of Early Settlement by Pioneers.

II—1870-1882—Period of Organization and Railway Construction.

III—1883-1898—Period of Growth and Development.

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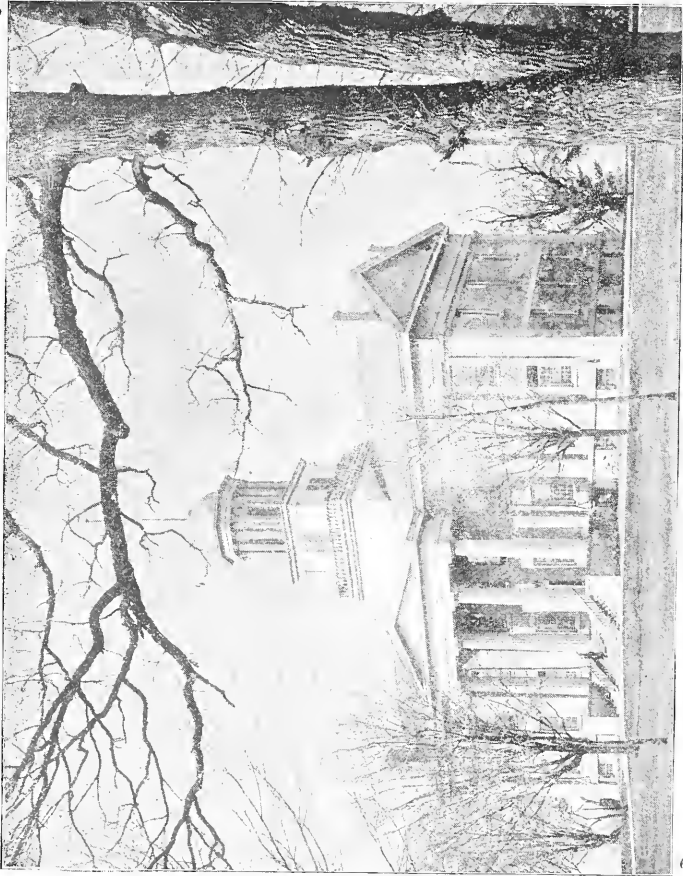
—INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT OF—

The Previous Establishment of the County, Its Survey,

—AND THE STORY OF—

## POCAHONTAS,

*The Indian Princess of Virginia.*



THE OLD CAPITOL AT IOWA CITY.

It was occupied by the General Assembly of Iowa from Dec. 6, 1841, to March 5, 1857. It is now the Central Building of the State University.

# HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, PIONEER PERIOD, 1856-69.

“Behold the new Eden! At last man has found it.”



## I.

### THE COUNTY ESTABLISHED AND STORY OF POCAHONTAS, AFTER WHOM IT WAS NAMED.

“My native country, thee  
Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love.”



THE county of Pocahontas was established and received its present name by an act of the third General Assembly of the state of Iowa, that convened at Iowa City, December 3, 1850. This act was entitled, “An act to establish new counties and to define their boundaries,” and it was approved January 15, 1851.

Section 29 of this act reads as follows: “That the following shall be the boundaries of a new county which shall be called Pocahontas, to wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of township 93 north, range 30 west; thence west on the line dividing town-

ships 93 and 94, to the northwest corner of township 93, range 34; thence south on the line between ranges 34 and 35 to the southwest corner of township 90, north, range 34 west; thence east on the line between townships 89 and 90 to the southwest corner of township 90, range 30; thence north to the place of beginning.”

This act established and defined the boundaries of fifty new counties in northern and western Iowa, as follows:

Union, Adair, Adams, Cass, Montgomery, Mills, Pottawattamie, Bremer, Butler, Grundy, Hardin, Franklin, Wright, Risley (1853 united to Webster, 1857 became Hamilton), Yell (Jan. 22, 1853, Webster), Guthrie, Audubon, Carroll, Fox (Jan. 22, 1853, Calhoun), Greene, Sac, Crawford, Shelby, Harrison, Monona, Ida, Waukaw (1853

Woodbury), Humbolt (1853, extinct, 1857, Humboldt), Pocahontas, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Plymouth, Chickasaw, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Clay, O'Brien, Sioux, Howard, Mitchell, Worth, Winnebago, Bancroft, Emmet, Dickinson, Osceola, Buncombe (1862, Lyon).

When the county of Dubuque was established by the territorial legislature of Michigan, at Detroit, it included the territory contained in Pocahontas county, as appears from the following act, approved September 6, 1834:

An act to lay off and organize counties west of the Mississippi river.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, That all that district of country which was attached to the Territory of Michigan, by the act of congress, entitled "An Act to Attach the Territory of the United States West of the Mississippi River, and North of the State of Missouri to the Territory of Michigan," approved June 28, 1834, and to which the Indian title has been extinguished, which is situated to the north of a line to be drawn due west from the lower end of Rock Island to the Missouri river, shall constitute a county, and be called Dubuque. The said county shall constitute a township, which shall be called Julien. The seat of justice shall be established at the village of Dubuque until the same shall be changed by the Judges of the county court of said county.\*

The territory thus included in the boundaries of Dubuque county, contained all of the northern half of the present state of Iowa, all of the state of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river and all the territory of the states of Dakota, east of the Missouri river, being the largest territory ever included in the boundaries of one county.

In 1837, the lower tier of townships, of what is now Pocahontas county, namely: Lizard, Bellville, Colfax and Cedar, formed a part of Buchanan county, and the remainder, a part of Fayette.

\*See page 58.

When the county was established in 1851, it was first temporarily attached to Polk county, for revenue, election and judicial purposes. On January 22, 1853, it was similarly attached to Boone county and on July 1, 1855, to Webster county.

Pocahontas county was organized by an order of the County Judge of Webster county, who issued an order February 19, 1859, directing an election to be held on the 15th day of March following, when a full Board of county officers was elected.

It is of interest to note that Pocahontas is one of those counties of Iowa that has a name of Indian origin. The names of local tribes of Indians have been preserved in the names of Iowa, Sac, Sioux, Winnebago and Pottawattamie counties; and of southern tribes in the names of Cherokee and Chickasaw counties.

The names of the most noted chiefs of local tribes have been preserved in the names of the following counties of Iowa: Appanoose and Black Hawk, (both of whom were powerful chiefs of the Sac and Fox tribe), Keokuk, (a Sac, sometimes called "The watchful fox," or "He who has been everywhere"), Wapello, (a Fox, "The playing fox"), Mahaska, (a chief of the Iowas, "White Cloud"), Poweshiek, (a Sac, "The roused bear" or "The shedding bear") and Winnesheik, (a Winnebago, "Yellow Thunder" or "Coming Thunder.")

It is also worthy of note that Pocahontas is one of three counties in Iowa that have been named after noted women, the other two being Bremer and Louisa. Bremer county was named in honor of Frederika Bremer, the Swedish traveler and author. Louisa county was named in honor of Louisa Massey, a young lady of Dubuque, who, a few months before the passage of the act of the territorial legislature of Michigan at Belmont, in 1836, creating the county,

had shot a ruffian named Smith, who had threatened the life of her brother and was believed to be making an opportunity to execute the threat, he having previously participated in the murder of an other brother. She was a heroine, and among the early pioneers, heroes and heroines were highly respected and honored whenever an opportunity was presented. The pio-

and who in the writings of John Smith and his contemporaries, was called "King" and "Emperor of Virginia."

The name "Pocahontas" signifies "a rivulet between two hills," and she was so named because she was a peacemaker between two peoples. She was born about 1595, and by her friendly offices toward the colonists, saved them on several occasions from



The Grave of Powhatan, "Emperor of Virginia," 1608-19,  
on the Jamestown river.\*

neer law-makers of Iowa were not unmindful of the claims of women for recognition.

This county was named in honor of Pocahontas, the Virginia Indian princess. She was the daughter of Powhatan, the recognized leader of thirty subordinate chiefs of the powerful Powhatans of the James river valley,

the consequences of her father's hospitality.

#### POCAHONTAS SAVES JOHN SMITH.

The most noted instance of this kind is said to have occurred in 1607, at a place on York river, in what is now Gloucester county, Virginia. John Smith, captain, knight and explorer, in pushing his canoe through

\*This and the three following plates, illustrating this chapter, are inserted through the courtesy of G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y., from "Colonial Homesteads" by Marion Harland, per favor of the Interior, Chicago.

the tortuous creeks of the Chickahominy swamp, fell into an ambush of three hundred Indians. After a desperate defense he was taken prisoner by O-pe-can-chan-ough, the brother of Powhatan, whom he succeeded in 1618, and who carried out the great massacre of the colonists, on Good Friday, 1622. By him he was carried before Powhatan to be tried for killing two of the Indians. At the time of the trial a long consultation was held and then two great stones were brought before Powhatan, when as many as could, laid hands on Smith, dragged him to the stones, placed his head thereon, and, being ready with their clubs to beat out his brains, Pocahontas, "the King's dearest daughter," her entreaties having failed, hastened to his rescue by embracing his head and laying her own head upon his to save him from death. Her father was moved by this unusual act of intercession on the part of Pocahontas, and permitted Smith to live, "to make him hatchets and her bells, beads and copper." About six weeks later, he sent him under escort to Jamestown.

"How could the stern old king deny,  
The angel pleading in her eye?  
How mock the sweet, imploring grace  
That breathed in beauty from her face,  
And to her kneeling action gave  
A power to soothe and still subdue."  
—SIMMS.

The circumstances that led to the capture of Smith were as follows: On December 10, 1607, Captain John Smith, of whom it was said, "The Spaniard never more greedily desired gold than he victual," with nine other men in the barge, left Jamestown to obtain some maize from the Indians and to explore the upper waters of the Chickahominy. At Apocant, he and two of his companions, Jehu Robinson and Thomas Emery, in a canoe, passed twenty miles further up the river, where a brother of Powhatan with about 300 Indians happened to

be on a hunting expedition. The Indians killed his two companions while asleep in their tent, surprised and captured Smith while seeking food.

It will be remembered that the English colony at Jamestown was established June 22, 1607, by the arrival of one hundred and five persons, of whom sixty-seven had died from sickness and starvation by the 8th of January following. Never were Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as these first colonists of Virginia. Their food consisted of barley sodden with water, and their drink, the water from the James river, which at flood was very salt and at low tide, full of slime and filth that proved the destruction of many of them.

The country they had settled in was sparsely populated by numerous tribes of Indians, who owned as their paramount chief, Powhatan, who then lived at We-ro-woc-o-mo-co, a village on the Pamunky river, about twelve miles by land from Jamestown.

Powhatan, who in 1608, by King James I, was crowned "Powhatan I, Emperor of Virginia," as a matter of courtesy, had twenty sons and ten daughters. Whether by beauty and sprightliness, or by force of her dauntless spirit, Pocahontas had a hold upon his savage nature that no other creature ever gained. During his captivity of some six weeks which afforded many opportunities of familiar discourse with those who kept him, the knightly soldier, Captain Smith, made her his friend. The influence upon her character and career of this period and the subsequent intimacy to which it led can hardly be exaggerated. She had inherited with her father's imperiousness, the intellect that made him emperor, while his brothers were but kings. Captain Smith, who had been assigned the duty of pleasing the fancy of the savage maiden, was a soldier, traveler,

dramatist, historian and diplomatist. Pocahontas drew from him the earliest aspirations that led to her conversion to christianity. Referring to the period he himself remarked, "What can a man with faith in relig-

child, intelligent beyond her years, and meeting him at the most impressionable period of her life, fashioned her ideas of his people. Under her providential tutor her mind, heart and ambitions assumed a new com-



POCAHONTAS, the Indian Princess of Virginia, as she appeared in London in 1616.

ion do more agreeable to God than to seek to convert these poor savages to Christ and humanity."

He was the model, without fear and without reproach, upon which the

plexion.

When Powhatan offered him a principality if he would cast in his fortunes with the tribe, his unselfish reply was made in the form of a request

for a safe conduct to Jamestown. This favor he acknowledges was secured through the successful intercession of Pocahontas with her father.

On September 10, 1608, soon after his return to Jamestown, the presidency of the colony was forced upon him. Under his administration Jamestown became a village of nearly five hundred inhabitants, and a church was erected for public worship.

When starvation was staring the colonists in the face, Pocahontas, who was then "a well featured young girl, fleet of foot, black-eyed and brown-skinned," frequently visited Jamestown with her "wild train" following her in single file, each bearing gifts of corn and game. As a King's daughter, she wore a white heron's feather in her hair and bands of coral on her wrists and ankles. Her slender, graceful form was wrapped in a robe of doe skin, lined and edged with the down of pigeons. A queen in miniature, once in every four or five days she and her "wild train" laden with food, visited the colony until the peril from famine had passed.

In 1609, President Smith and eighteen companions, having visited Powhatan at his special request, Pocahontas, on a dark night and traveling alone through the woods to where they were encamped, gave them warning of an intended immediate attack by the Indians. She was not yet fourteen years of age, but showed herself a woman in depth of devotion to her friends, brave even to recklessness, and holding her own life as nothing by comparison with her loyalty. The attack was made as she had predicted and the catastrophe planned by the cunning chieftain was prevented only by the coolness and courage of Captain Smith.

A few months after this visit to Powhatan, Captain Smith was seriously injured while on the river and on October 4, 1609, was obliged to return

to his home in England for surgical aid.

As soon as the savages had learned that Captain Smith had left the colony they decided to make war upon it.

#### POCAHONTAS A CAPTIVE.

Though humbled as a slave,  
To more than queenly sway, she grew.

In the meantime, the secret mission by night of Pocahontas had been discovered to her father, and he wreaked his wrath upon her until existence with him became unendurable and she sought an asylum of refuge in the wigwam of Japazaws, a chief of the Potomac tribe, an old acquaintance of Captain Smith and friendly to the English.

Captain Samuel Argall, a privateersman, being sent up the Potomac for corn and learning that a daughter of Powhatan was the guest of the Indian's squaw, by the gift of a burnished copper kettle succeeded in getting Pocahontas to visit his vessel. When she stepped aboard the vessel, the captain told her before her friends she must go with him and make peace between Powhatan and the colonists before she should see her father. Thus she became a prisoner and was held by the colonists for the purpose of exacting a ransom from her father and as a means of maintaining peace with the Indians.

She was now (1612) nearly eighteen years old, had soft, wistful eyes, delicately arched brows, a mouth at once proud and tender, and slender hands and feet. She was not tall, but erect, and carried herself, as a daughter of a king, with a sort of imperious grace that rebuked familiarity.

When the message had been sent to Powhatan that his daughter, Pocahontas, whom he loved so dearly, must be ransomed by the return of all white prisoners and stolen property it troubled him greatly, but three months passed before he sent any reply or took



any notice of the humiliating intelligence.

He then returned seven white prisoners, each with an unserviceable musket, and sent word that when his daughter was delivered he would make satisfaction for all injuries done, give 500 bushels of corn and forever be a friend of the colonists.

This reply displeased him and nothing more was heard from him for a long time afterward. With a pride equal to his own, Pocahontas brooded over this public insult offered her by his silence and seeming indifference. But if she was branded as an outcast from her father's heart and tribe the people of Jamestown received her



CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.

To these advances the colonists made answer that his daughter would be well used, but that they could not believe that the rest of their arms that had been captured were either lost or stolen from him, and therefore until he sent them they would keep his daughter:

with affectionate hospitality. "The long repressed craving for refinement and knowledge of the great, beautiful world—the echo from which had first thrilled her untaught soul during the golden month passed in her forest-home by the superb stranger with the kind eyes and winning smile—was

now to be gratified." \*

In a subsequent conference with her brothers she remarked: "If my father had loved me he would not value me less than old swords, guns and axes; wherefore, I will still dwell with the Englishmen who love me."

POCAHONTAS WEDS JOHN ROLFE, AS  
"LADY REBECCA."

The separation was now complete, and believing Captain Smith was dead, she fell in love with John Rolfe, "an honest gentleman of good behavior, fairly educated, a staunch churchman possessing a missionary spirit, a well-to-do widower and a protege of Sir Thomas Dale." Renouncing the idolatry of her own people and accepting the christian religion, she presented herself for baptism at the font in the church built at Jamestown, by Lord De la Ware, and was christened "Rebecca." Under this name Pocahontas was wedded to John Rolfe, about April 1, 1613. The tower still stands in which hung the two bells that rang joyfully as bride and groom passed out through the narrow archway.

This marriage cemented a lasting peace between the two nations. Powhatan, true to his purpose of holding no personal communication with the colonists, never visited his daughter after its occurrence, but he frequently sent friendly messages to his "daughter and unknown sonne" and inquired "how they lived, loved and liked."

Varina, the home of Pocahontas after her marriage, on the plantation of her husband, was located on the bank of the James river, near Dutch Gap, a few miles below Richmond; but the particular site of the cabin in which she learned to keep house after the manner of the English, and where her only child, Thomas Rolfe, was

\*Some "Colonial Houses," by Marion Harland.—G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y.

born is unknown. The banks of the beautiful river from Jamestown to Henricus are now gratefully consecrated to her dear memory.

June 12, 1616, in the fourth year after marriage, she, her husband and her little son, crossing the Atlantic ocean, landed in Plymouth, England, and there she became the object of admiring interest in fashionable circles. Before she reached London, Captain Smith petitioned Queen Anne on her behalf, and it is in this petition of June, 1616, that the account of his deliverance by the Indian girl, first appears.

After a pleasant sojourn of about seven months in England, during which time she was well received both by the court and by the people, she became affected with that dread disease, rapid consumption, no doubt due to the effect of a northern winter upon her semi-tropical constitution. Preparations were hastened for her return to Virginia, but she died at Gravesend the day before the one set for their departure, and, according to the popular tradition, "sitting in an easy chair, by an open window, her eyes fixed wistfully upon the western ocean." She was only twenty-two years of age and was buried in the cemetery belonging to the church of St. George, London, according to tradition, or at Gravesend, about thirty miles from London on the Thames, where she died, as is stated by her biographer, John R. Musick. The latter says, "She was buried in the chancel of the church at Gravesend, March 21, 1617, but that afterwards the church was destroyed by fire, and today the exact spot of her grave is unknown." The tradition that she was buried in the northwest corner of St. George's churchyard, London, has been reported successively from age to age through Thomas Turner, the venerable sexton in 1881, and his predecessors, William Nettingham and his father, John Net-

tingham. The former was sexton twenty years and the latter clerk of the parish fifty-two years.

Come to the bridal chamber, Death,  
Come to the mother, when she feels  
For the first time, her first born's breath;  
Come when the blessed seals  
That close the pestilence are broke,  
And crowded cities wail the stroke.  
Come in consumption's ghastly form,  
The earthquake's shock, the ocean's storm,  
Come when the heart beats high and warm,  
And thou art terrible.

—HALLECK.

Other names by which she was known were "Amonate," "Mattoax" and "The Nonparella (having no equal) of Virginia." She was also called the "Rose of England" and the "Totem (emblem) of Virginia."

She was a landscape of mild earth,  
Where all was harmony calm and quiet,  
Luxuriant, budding.—BYRON.

The brief and pathetic career of Pocahontas, (Bright Stream between two Hills) has appealed to the heart of every generation since her story became known. Her services to Virginia had been as great as those to Captain John Smith. She had been the instrument under God to preserve the colony from destruction. Generous, brave and gentle, she was doomed to disappointment and died of a broken heart.

Hon. William Wirt Henry, whose *Life and Letters of Patrick Henry* rank him as one of the foremost writers of our country, has paid the following beautiful tribute to "Our Lady of the James:"

"Our Lady of the James," Pocahontas, born the daughter of a savage King, was endowed with all the graces which became an Indian princess; she was the first of her people to embrace christianity and to unite in marriage with the English race; like a guardian angel she watched over and preserved the infant colony which has developed into a great people, among whom her own descendants have ever been conspicuous for true nobility; her name

will be honored while this great people occupy the land upon which she so signally aided in establishing them."

"There is no story more dear to the heart of the American than that of Pocahontas. It has been narrated so frequently it has become a nursery legend, yet in all history none more dramatic and touching can be found. It has moved hearts since it was first told to civilized ears. Each succeeding generation reads anew the tender tale, narrated, perhaps, by some new author, who in song or story makes of Smith and the twelve-year-old child who rescued him, the incarnation of his own fancy. It has been told in romance, sung to the sweet notes of the harp, performed on the stage and gravely narrated by the historian, yet wherever heard, however told, it loses nothing; the story itself is the same, and never fails to move the heart of the listener."\*

"Rest in peace thou who knew  
So little of peace on earth."

#### THE DESCENDANTS OF POCAHONTAS.

Pocahontas was a princess, whom it was a great presumption on the part of Rolfe, who had no royal blood in his veins, to marry. According to the theory of the time this alliance was one of unusual importance, especially for two reasons. First, their marriage formed a bond of peace and friendship between the two races, and second, if Virginia should descend to Pocahontas, as it might at the death of her father, Powhatan, the government of the kingdom would be vested in Rolfe's posterity.

Thomas Rolfe, the only son of Pocahontas, after the death of his mother was left at Plymouth, England, in charge of Sir Lewis Stukley, at the latter's request. Stukley was his uncle and he was brought up in London. When a young man he went to Virginia and as Lieutenant Rolfe,

\*Pocahontas, by John R. Musick, 112.—Funk & Wagnell, N. Y.

commanded Fort James on the Chickahominy. He married a young lady of England and became a gentleman of note and fortune in Virginia, and some of the most respectable families in the state are descended from him.

Among the conspicuous founders of the planter families that came over to Virginia during the second half of the seventeenth century, was one, a very liberal-minded and energetic man, who had married the granddaughter of Pocahontas; his son, devoting himself to planting and trading on the James river, found the bulk of his income in an immense traffic with his relatives, the Indians, who flocked as one man to his support. From this marriage many existing families in Virginia are directly descended, and they are proud of their Indian blood.

John Rolfe, the husband of the Princess, was of Norman descent, with William the Conqueror, in England, and a graduate of Oxford. The fragments of his writings that have been preserved attest both his scholarship and benevolence. He was the first American historian and deserves mention as such, though his history was short, being confined to a brief description of the colony at Jamestown, and dedicated to the King of England. His fame rests on the fact that he was the first planter of tobacco in Virginia, and the first to demonstrate its value as a vast source of wealth to future planters.

In one of his letters Rolfe declared that his main motive in marrying the Princess was to promote her religious instruction; whatever his motives may have been, his marriage was a success. His wife's descendants are either so numerous or are held in such high honor as to have given rise to the saying outside the state, "Every family in Virginia is descended from Pocahontas." As a matter of fact the genuine descendants were few but the

claimants were many.

From this first alliance of the white and red races sprang the Randolphs, Blands, Blairs and Bollings. The ancestor of the Randolphs went to England with William the Conqueror. William Randolph, of Turkey Island, as he was familiarly called, emigrated to the colony in 1675 and from him all the Randolphs of Virginia descended. John Randolph was a direct descendant of Pocahontas, being the sixth in descent from her, through Jane Rolfe, her granddaughter, and was even boastful of his relationship with the imperial house of Powhatan, whose grave has been preserved on the bank of the James river, a few miles below Richmond. It is curious to note that the blood of Powhatan should thus mingle with that of his old enemies. Dead for many a day and asleep in his grave, the savage old emperor still spoke in the voice of his great descendant, the orator of the Roanoke, who died June 24, 1833.

Peyton Randolph, the first president of congress, and Edmund Randolph, Washington's attorney-general, were also direct descendants, while Thomas Jefferson and Chief Justice John Marshall were related by marriage. Rev. Hugh Blair, the head of the Blair's and sometimes called "the commissary," because he had been sent to Virginia in that capacity, by the bishop of London, was a direct descendant of Pocahontas. He established William and Mary college, the first in the colony, and his nephew, John Blair, signed the constitution of the United States with Washington and Madison. The Blands and Bollings were prominent as planters, colonial officers and patriots in the war of the revolution.

Like the vase in which roses

Have once been distilled,

You may break, you may shatter

The vase if you will,

But the scent of the roses

Yet hangs round it still.

—MOORE.

WHO SUGGESTED "POCAHONTAS?" to have the name of "Pocahontas," the Indian Princess of Virginia, remembered. Mr. Casady stated in reply that his request would be complied with.

The circumstances that led to the use of the name of "Pocahontas" for this county, were as follows:

Phineas M. Casady, member of the senate of Iowa, session of 1850-51, from Senator Howell was an old man at



Tower of the Old Church at Jamestown, Virginia, in which Pocahontas was married in 1613.

Polk county, being a member of the senate committee on New Counties, asked John Howell, the senator from Jefferson county, if he wished to suggest a name for one of the new counties to be established at that session. He replied that he would be pleased that time and was called "Uncle John" by the other members of the senate. He had served as a member of the House of Burgesses in the legislature of Virginia and four years as a member of the House of Representatives of Iowa in the second and third Gen-

eral Assemblies. He was elected senator for the county of Jefferson, on the first Monday in August, 1848, and was then serving his second term in the senate. When inquiry was made of Senator Casady as to who suggested the name of Pocahontas, with the added remark that there seemed no reason for the use of that name in Iowa, and he stated that "Uncle John Howell" had requested it, no further objections were made. Senator Casady is still a resident of Des Moines, and kindly furnished the information given above.



## II.

**BATTLE OF THE INDIANS AT PILOT CREEK—THEIR GRAVES, MOUNDS AND RELICS.**

“Oh pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers.”



THE territory included in Pocahontas county was once the happy hunting ground of the Indians. Large game such as the deer, elk and buffalo, found luxuriant pasturage upon the open prairie and a grateful shelter from the wintry blast in the groves of timber skirting the streams. The latter were alive with fish, and the country, twice each year—in the spring and again in the fall—swarmed with almost every kind of bird and water-fowl that is good for food.

In 1673, when Marquette and Joliet explored the country along the Mississippi river, this section was supposed to be under the undisputed possession of the confederated Sac and Fox tribes. Later, other tribes of Indians from the north and west came to this favored land and found a home, so that at the time the white man came, at the beginning of this century, he found in the northwest part of this state a branch of the noted and cruel Sioux, whose hunting grounds consisted nominally of all that portion of the state that lies west of the Little Sioux river, traversing Dickinson, Clay, Buena Vista, Ida and Monona counties.

## THE SIOUX AND WINNEBAGOES.\*

The Sioux were powerful, warlike and aggressive; and their frequent encroachments upon the territories of other tribes, became the occasion of complaints to the United States government that led to the treaty of August 19, 1825, (see page 50) when a boundary line between the Sioux, on the north and various other tribes, on the south, was established, extending from the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, in the northeast part of the state, to the second fork of the Des Moines river, now in Humboldt county, (south of Dakota City) and thence to the lower fork of the Big Sioux river, near Sioux City. By a reference to the map it will be perceived that this line, traced by Clarke and Cass, crossed the south central part of Pocahontas county.

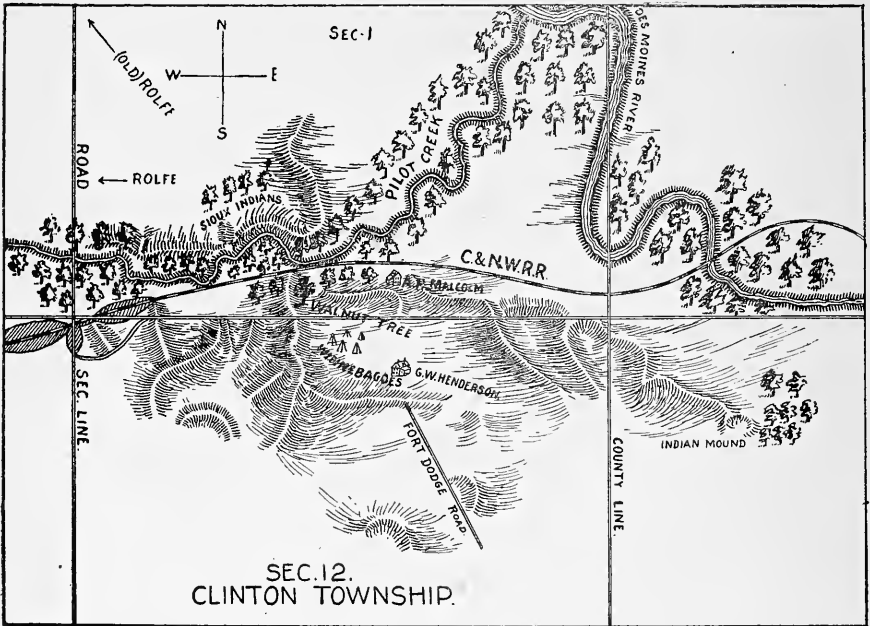
The meeting at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, at which this conciliatory measure was adopted, was a magnificent gathering, there being present about 30,000 braves representing Iowas, Sacs and Foxes, Winnebagoes, Menominees and the Sioux. It is said that before the convention adjourned,

\*The most part under this head is a contribution from the pen of W. C. Ralston, Esq., Pocahontas, to the Rolfe Reveille, March 5, 1896; Bruce & Thornton, proprietors.

"Old Keokuk," who was at the head of the confederated tribes as against the Sioux, was very much opposed to the signing of the agreement.

July 12, 1830, the above line not being always easily recognized, the Sioux on the north and the Sacs, and Foxes on the south of it ceded to the United States a strip of land twenty miles in width, on each side of

tion in Wisconsin, were given the territory included in this strip of "Neutral Ground." Against the appeals and remonstrances of the squaws and old men of their tribe, the Winnebagoes moved to their new possessions and continued to occupy them until the year 1846, when they moved north of St. Peter's river, Minnesota, where they were given more territory



INDIAN BATTLE FIELD AT PILOT CREEK.

Showing the camp of the Winnebagoes, Pilot Creek, down which the Sioux came; the walnut tree in which a Sioux scout shot a Winnebago; the home of A. H. Malcolm and the Indian mound at the right.

this line, making a tract forty miles in width from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, and this was called "Neutral Ground," on which all the tribes interested were to be allowed to hunt and fish unmolested.

Two years later, September 15, 1832, which was just after the conclusion of the Black Hawk war, the Winnebago Indians, in exchange for their reserva-

and greater privileges.

By this arrangement there was left a large tract of country extending westward from the east fork of the Des Moines to the Little Sioux river, that was unoccupied by any tribe of Indians, and, by an unwritten law that was in force between the two tribes, it meant a trial of strength if any of the Sioux found any of the



Winnebagoes upon this territory. The Sioux were constantly at war with the Winnebagoes over troubles growing out of this arrangement and because, the latter originally belonging to the confederacy of the Sioux, had now become allied to their rivals the Sacs and Foxes, and were also friendly to the whites. Many trials of strength did old trappers witness in this section, especially during the winter season, the victory being usually won by the party having the most warriors.

After the government established the military post at Fort Dodge, (1850-1853) and the removal of the Winnebagoes to Minnesota, hostilities practically ceased upon this neutral ground except in the spring of the year, when the Winnebagoes were accustomed to go down the west branch of the Des Moines river, (as the United States Supreme Court has noted in a case recently brought before it) for the purpose of hunting and trapping, and then the Sioux again met them and renewed their old feuds with all the vigor for which they were noted. The usual result of these contests was that the weaker party would be severely defeated, robbed of furs and game, and sustain the loss of many a warrior, whose remains would be found by the soldiers or trappers, who passed the place where the conflict occurred.

The plan of the government in setting apart the strip, forty miles in width, as neutral ground, on which no tribe of Indians should make a permanent residence, but all had the privilege of hunting and fishing, instead of proving a happy means of preventing the disputes and hostilities that were ever occurring, seems to have had the contrary effect. Early writers note, that nearly all of the conflicts arising among the Indians on the soil of Iowa, either occurred on this territory or grew out of some act

committed by the Indians while hunting, trapping or fishing upon it. For hunting and fishing, this strip of neutral ground was, perhaps, unequaled in any other part of the United States. All the wild game, then known to sportsmen or Indians, was found within its borders. Deer, elk and buffalo roamed over the prairies, while pigeons, quail and chickens found a home in the luxuriant grass. The streams were alive with fish of all kinds, while on the banks and in the many beautiful lakes that lay within this strip were found beaver, mink, muskrat and otter in great numbers, as well as geese, brants, cranes, ducks, etc. No other territory of the same size was equal to this strip of neutral ground as the native home of game; and in no particular part of it was the game so abundant as in the vicinity of the east and west branches of the Des Moines river.

#### THE BATTLE AT PILOT CREEK. \*

"Hark! hear the sound of battle near!  
The shout, the groan, the charging cheer,  
The mutual volley, sharp and clear,  
The shock or steel, the shriek of fear,  
In one mad chorus blend!"

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, (1853 or 1854) when Fort Dodge was a military post occupied by government troops, and before any white man had settled in the territory included in Pocahontas county, a battle was

\*The account, under this head, of the last Indian fight in Pocahontas county, was written by William D. McEwen, Esq., and appeared first in the Pocahontas Times, of date, (Old) Rolfe, May 18, 1876. Mr. McEwen was then editor and proprietor of this paper, and obtained his knowledge of the facts stated, during the years of 1858 and 1859, from the late Major William W. Williams, sutler of the fort at Fort Dodge, when the U. S. troops were there and the fight occurred. The latter visited the scene of the conflict a few days after its occurrence, and described the location so minutely that the former was enabled to locate it without any difficulty.

fought between a band of Winnebago and Sioux Indians that, for bloodthirsty determination, has seldom been surpassed in the unwritten legends of these savage tribes. It was in the spring of the year, and the place where this sanguinary conflict occurred was on the south side of Pilot creek, on section one, Clinton township; near the bridge on the old Fort Dodge road and on the farm of A. H. Malcolm. Directly west of the bridge and a little distance up the stream, lies a plateau or piece of tableland with bluffs on the south. At that time a strip of timber skirted the stream, that increased in density until it reached the foot of the bluff and then terminated abruptly.

Here there had encamped a band of about thirty Winnebago Indians, from the vicinity of Mankato, Minn., who had been engaged in a hunting and trapping expedition along the Des Moines river. They had been successful in their expedition, and encamped at this place to feast and prepare their furs for market. They were within one day's journey of the trading post at Fort Dodge, were on friendly terms with the whites, from whom they apprehended no danger, and believing that their enemies, the Sioux, were not in the vicinity, they relaxed their usual vigilance.

Eighteen Sioux warriors, under their chief, Cou-sta-wa, or Big Tree, had been hunting on the Little Sioux river, in the neighborhood of where now stands the flourishing town of Sioux Rapids, and learning that a band of Winnebagoes were on the Des Moines river, determined to cross the country, take them by surprise and adorn their belts with the scalps of their foes. The chief of the band, as his name indicates, was a large, powerful warrior, and had been the leader in many a bloody fight. Having been once wounded by the bullet of a white man, he ever afterwards cherished for

him the most intense hatred, and never allowed an opportunity to pass without wreaking vengeance on him and his friends, the Winnebagoes. Ink-pa-du-ta, the bloodthirsty savage, who with his band massacred the white settlers at Spirit Lake, in 1857, was one of Cou-sta-wa's warriors and acquired his intense hatred of the whites from him. He, too, was active in urging the attack upon the Winnebagoes.

They crossed the country from the Sioux river by way of Swan Lake, until they struck the head waters of Pilot creek; then, following the course of the stream unobserved, they discovered the location of their foes. Guided, doubtless, by the smoke of the campfires, they stealthily approached within two miles. Here they concealed themselves in what is known as "Harvey's Grove," and sent out two of their warriors to ascertain the number and exact position of the Winnebagoes. The night was well advanced before their scouts returned. Their report must have been favorable as a satisfactory grunt from Cou-sta-wa announced that the attack would be made that very night.

The water in the creek was high, and Cou-sta-wa, with savage sagacity, divided his warriors; six of them led by Ink-pa-du-ta, crossed Pilot creek and approached the foe from the north, while he with the other warriors, descended on the south side to cut off their retreat. He evidently thought that the Winnebagoes, taken by surprise, would flee at the first attack and make for the trading post. In this he was correct, but the result was not as he had anticipated. The ground had been well examined and the attack well planned. The moon, though far in the wane, shone brightly, pointing out to the wary Sioux the exact position of the sleeping Winnebagoes. The night was far advanced when the Sioux crept up to within

thirty yards of their sleeping foes. Here they paused, awaiting the signal of their chief. Just at this moment one of the Winnebago warriors arose and quickly gave the alarm to his tribe. The Sioux, finding themselves discovered, commenced firing. The Winnebagoes, taken by surprise, and not knowing the number of their foes, thought only of safety, and commenced retreating along the edge of the bluff. Here they were met by Cou-sta-wa and his warriors. Finding their retreat cut off, they commenced fighting with the desperation of despair. Cou-sta-wa, seeing the confusion, and knowing full well that one-half of the Winnebagoes must have fallen at the first fire, rushed with his warriors upon those that remained. It now became a hand to hand fight.

"Long, keen and dubious was the strife,  
While all the warriors bled."

At length one, two, three of the bravest of the Winnebago warriors met their death at the hands of Cou-sta-wa, when a shot from one of the wounded Winnebagoes laid him low. With a terrific and hideous yell the Sioux warrior fell to rise no more. The Sioux seeing their chief fall, now commenced falling back, carrying their dead, for the Sioux will die sooner than leave any of their dead in the hands of their foes. Ten of the Winnebagoes were killed or died of their wounds, while only four of them escaped without being wounded.

How many of the Sioux were killed was never known. But four Indian graves were found by some of the early settlers in 1857, on the bank of Pilot creek, covered with bark and in a good state of preservation; these were no doubt the resting places of the warriors killed in this fight. The skeletons of three more were discovered by W. S. Fegles, when trapping at Swan Lake in the winter of 1858. He informed the writer that the skull bone of one was very large and nearly

an inch in thickness; that the shank bones were three inches longer than his and all that remained of the skeleton showed that it had belonged to an Indian of colossal stature. May we not, therefore, justly conclude that it was none other than the skeleton of the Sioux chief, Cou-sta-wa?

#### INDIANS ALONG THE DES MOINES RIVER.

"Among red men, the surest way  
To honor, is the foe to slay;  
Him they call supremely great,  
Who can most martial deeds relate."

After the battle on Pilot creek the Indians who were engaged in it again returned to their reservations, the Sioux going to Dakota and the Winnebagoes to Minnesota. In the years that followed, until April, 1880, bands of the Winnebagoes would occasionally return along the west branch of the Des Moines river as far south as the mouth of Pilot creek.

"In the month of November, 1879,\* about forty Pottawattamie Indians camped along the Des Moines river, near the northeast part of the county, and while engaged in hunting and trapping, investigated many of the larders in that neighborhood. 'Lo, the poor Indian' is a good investigator of the pantry of the white man."

Again in April, 1880, about fifty Winnebagoes and Pottawattamies temporarily encamped near the bridge over the Des Moines river, a short distance above the mouth of Pilot creek and near Old Rolfe, that until four years previous had been the county seat. J. J. Bruce, the correspondent of the *Pocahontas Times*,† wrote as follows in regard to them:

"Our Winnebago and Pottawattamie Indians have moved down the river. Henry M. Rice, the chief of the band, is a very intelligent fellow. Several of the men are intelligent, use good language and dress in civilized

\*J. J. Bruce in *Pocahontas Times*, Dec. 11, 1879.

†*Times*, of April 15 and 22, 1880.

style. We should judge that a number of them have white man's blood in their veins.

They have in their number a Winnebago warrior who was over this ground in 1854, and points out the battlefield between the Sioux and Winnebagoes on Pilot creek, in 1854, and gives the scenes enacted under some of the trees in those early days, pointing out the tree where some warrior lost his scalp.

The battle referred to above, was described by W. D. McEwen in 1876, in an article that appeared in *The Pocahontas Times* and it was considered by some as a canard; but in this case it seems that 'truth is stranger than fiction.'

On this occasion the Winnebago warrior and some of his friends visited at the Des Moines river bridge, met W. D. McEwen, Robert Struthers and others to whom he related many incidents of the battle. Mr. McEwen was at this time treasurer of the county, and, though he appointed a day for him to go with the old Indian to view the battlefield and get his description of the conflict as he remembered it, unexpected business matters prevented him from keeping the engagement. Among other things the old Indian related on this occasion, was that he believed he could yet point out the spot along the river a short distance from the outlet of Pilot creek, where the Winnebagoes had buried three of their fallen braves.

At this time, Ora P. Malcolm, then in his teens, but now deputy treasurer of the county, accompanied by his younger brother Fred Malcolm and his cousin Ralph Horton, went to their camp along the west branch of the Des Moines river. They met about fifty Indians, old and young, and found they had been there about a week. They met the old Winnebago warrior, who told them that many years before he had participated in

the battle of the Sioux and Winnebagoes, on the south side of Pilot creek.

A few days later this old warrior, accompanied by several other Indians, came down the river and passed up Pilot creek. As they passed the home of his father, A. H. Malcolm, Ora and the two other boys being together again, followed the Indians to see them hunting and trapping. When they had proceeded a short distance, the old warrior took them to a place on the south side of the creek and about thirty rods west of his father's residence, where he showed them the stump of a large black walnut tree. "Into the top of this tree," he said, "a Winnebago had climbed to take a survey of the country and learn if any enemies were near. While he was up in the tree a Sioux scout, under cover of the smaller timber, stealthily drew near and shot him."

This old warrior had a desire to take a last look at the place where his father and one brother were killed, before he should be numbered with the silent dead, and to show to those who came after him the place where the last trial of strength occurred between his people and their ancient enemies, the Sioux.

At the time of this visit in 1880, which was more than twenty-five years after the battle, the large stump of the old walnut tree was easily recognized, and around it there had grown several shoots that were already large enough to bear nuts. When the attention of the old settlers was directed to it, it was found that this particular tree had been felled by Orlando, son of David Slosson, in the winter of 1858-9, that it had been drawn to the sawmill erected near Old Rolfe by John M. Stockdale and had there been sawed into building material, by W. H. Hait.

In 1880, the Chicago and Northwest-ern railway had not yet passed through

this section and when it came, a couple of years later, it crossed the place where this black walnut stood and also the original site of Mr. Malcolm's residence.

The battle between the Sioux and Winnebagoes at Pilot creek, was the last contest that occurred between the Indians on the soil of Iowa. It has been suggested that at some time in the near future the romantic spot where this battle was fought should be marked with some appropriate monument, that future generations might know the exact place where the Winnebagoes, friends of the whites, resisted the last cruel onset of the Sioux, under their chiefs Cou-sta-wa (Big Tree) and Ink-pa-du-ta.

#### INDIAN GRAVES AND RELICS.

Two of the Indian graves of which mention has already been made, were found by Orlando, son of David Slosson, in 1857, on the bank of Pilot creek, near the present site of Rolfe. Other graves were found about the same time on the plateau of the southwest quarter of section one, Clinton township, now included in the farm of John E. Schnug. In 1858, W. S. Fegles found three skeletons at Swan Lake, the largest of which was believed to be that of the Sioux chief, Cou-sta-wa, or Big Tree. In 1860, when the workmen were making the excavation for the court house at Old Rolfe, on the southwest quarter of section 26, Des Moines township, they uncovered the remains of ten bodies, ranging in size from a child to a giant. Their bones were placed in a box and reinterred in the southwest corner of the foundation. The first court house of Pocahontas county was thus erected over the last resting place of several of the primitive red men of the forests and plains, and it was the general belief at the time that those who were buried at this place were Winnebago warriors.

Very few resting places of the dead among the Sioux, who came from the northwest and at least for two centuries occupied this section of country, have been found by the white man; a circumstance, no doubt due to the peculiar method practiced by them in disposing of their dead. The Sioux, instead of burying the bodies of the dead in the ground, often placed them upon elevated scaffolds or rude platforms made of timber. The dead were thus elevated to prevent their bodies from being devoured by wolves and other rapacious animals. They were not so scrupulous in regard to depredations that might be committed upon them by birds of prey.

The mode of burial in vogue among the tribes of the Algonquin family, to which the Pottawattamies and Musquakies (Sac and Fox) belonged, was quite different. They buried their dead under the ground. Stones and even logs were often placed in heaps over the graves of their dead to give them better protection.

The Winnebagoes, parent stock of the Iowas, were the van-guard of the Sioux, when they began to occupy the valley of the Mississippi. The Winnebagoes originally made use of the scaffold, but later adopted interment, except when the ground was frozen. The place selected for interment was usually the summit of a knoll, and the grave was arranged so that the head and feet of the body would extend east and west respectively. Sometimes they buried the dead in a sitting posture, and in this case, the body faced the west, while the head and chest would extend above the natural surface of the ground. If the one buried was a male, some tobacco and a pipe were usually deposited in the grave; and if he was a warrior a war-club or some other weapon was added.

John B. Jolliffe, a resident of section

two, Powhatan township, about the year 1866, among some rocks on a little knoll a short distance west of his home, found a pair of very beautiful Indian bracelets. They were made of a material that was of a slate color and as hard as flint. They were very artistically carved on the outside and both were exactly alike. The carved work represented, in raised form, many of the animals with which the Indians were familiar, such as the fox, coyote, beaver and otter. These interesting relics were lost at the time of the prairie fire that consumed his buildings, in the latter part of September, 1873.

About the year 1876, A. H. Malcolm, while removing some boulders from the knoll south of his residence on section one, Clinton township, found underneath a large rock, nearly a peck of flinty specimens that were supposed to be Indian arrow heads in an unfinished condition. They were oblong pieces of flint rock, roughly chipped to a blunt point at one end while the other was rounded. They were three to four inches long, half an inch thick and about one and one-half inches wide. Some, who examined these relics, expressed the opinion they were not arrow heads, but some blades made by those who lived in the "stone age" and knew nothing of the working of metals. Since no tools or implements, except those of stone, have been found among their relics, the mound-builders are supposed to have lived in that age.

#### INDIAN MOUNDS.

"The Indian passed away, and lo!  
What is left behind to show  
That he drew Ulysses' bow?  
He often earned immortal fame;  
But what perpetuates his name?  
On the knolls of prairies green  
Only the Indian mound is seen."

On the right hand of the cut illustrating the battle field at Pilot creek, page 126, there will be seen an Indian mound. This mound is situated on

the summit of a high bluff on the west bank of the west branch of the Des Moines river that is skirted on the east with a body of tall, heavy timber. It is located on the farm of O. F. Avery, one-half mile east of the homes of A. H. Malcolm and Senator Geo. W. Henderson. It is in Humboldt county, a few steps from the county line.

This mound was circular in form, about twenty feet in diameter at the base and five feet high. It rests on a natural elevation sloping gradually to a summit, that overlooks the valley of the Des Moines river northward for many miles.

In 1883, Ora P. Malcolm, his brother Fred and their cousin Geo. W. Horton, having a desire to know what was in the mound, made an excavation by digging down through the center of the top of it. They found the skeletons of three human bodies which they supposed to be the remains of Indians. They expected to find some relics of value, but in this they were disappointed. When their curiosity had been sufficiently satisfied they returned the bones that had been exhumed, and, covering them, left them as they had found them.

The old court house site, where ten bodies were found, is one of the highest knolls in Des Moines township; and it was the removal of three mounds upon its summit that revealed the bodies buried there.

For the account of other mounds and their story the reader is referred to page 16.

#### INDIANS ALONG THE LIZARD.

In the latter part of December, 1855, when M. T. Collins, of Lizard township, his mother and sister were living in their log cabin on section 18, Jackson township, which was just across the line in Webster county, three Indians armed with guns, surprised and frightened them by coming to their door and begging for

food. They came to their home about four o'clock in the afternoon and were the first Indians they had ever seen. When Mrs. Collins gave them some food they seemed to be very contented and happy. They sat down by the fire, smoked their pipes and after a little while returned to their camp, which they had pitched in the grove along Lizard creek, south of the Lizard Catholic church. There were about thirteen men who were accompanied by their wives and children, in this band, and they had several tents. They remained at this place, hunting and trapping, until about the first of April following, when they moved northward to Mulholland's grove. About the first of May, (1856) they disappeared as quietly as they had come.

These were a band of Sioux Indians that had come from the southwest, the vicinity of Twin Lakes. Ti-tonka To-ma-to, a large old man, was their chief and he had a son who was also very tall and active. They had a number of ponies and said that their favorite hunting ground was along the Lizard and especially at Lizard lake.

During the period of their encampment at this place one or more of the squaws would come every day to the home of Mr. Collins and beg for something to eat. On one occasion when Mr. Collins was cutting wood, a young Indian girl came to his home and, beckoning for the axe by motions of her hands, he handed it to her and she showed him how she could cut wood, using the axe in a left-handed way.

#### THE SIOUX.

The tribes of the Sioux nation, that occupied Pocahontas county just previous to the time of its settlement, consisted of bands of the Sissetons, whose acknowledged chief was Red Thunder, Yanktons and half-breeds from Missouri. Pre-

vious to the establishment of the fort at Fort Dodge, they had several villages and encampments along the Des Moines river in the vicinity of Fort Dodge and along Lizard creek. They were great thieves, constantly roving about in squads, watching trappers who ventured along the Des Moines river and emigrants who attempted to settle in that district.

In 1848, when Mr. Marsh, a government surveyor of Dubuque, was running the correction line from the Mississippi to the Missouri rivers, he progressed in his work without molestation, until he and his company crossed the Des Moines in what is now Webster county. On the west bank of the river he was met by a party of Sioux, under the lead of a chief named Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, who told him that this section of country still belonged to them, that he should proceed no further, and ordered him to "pue-a-chee" that is "be off" or "clear out." After they left him, Mr. Marsh and his party concluded to proceed with their work. But before they had advanced a mile from the river, they were surrounded at a point near the head of a large ravine (south of the south-line of section 30, township 89, range 28), about 3 miles southwest of Ft. Dodge, by a large force of Indians, who robbed them of everything. They took their horses, destroyed their wagons and surveying instruments, pulled up their stakes, leveled their mounds and forced them to return to the east side of the river to find their way home as best they could. It was this outrage and similar ones, committed by the Sioux Indians on families who had ventured up the Des Moines and located claims north of the Raccoon fork, in the fall of 1849, that induced the government to establish the military post and station troops at Fort Dodge.

When the government troops arrived, August 23, 1850, the Sioux re-

treated westward from the vicinity of the Des Moines river, and committed no further outrages on the whites in its vicinity, while they remained there. When, in July, 1853, the troops at Fort Dodge were transferred to Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, they again became impudent and annoying, and Major William Williams, who remained at the fort, was empowered to keep them in check. It will be remembered that the terrible tragedies enacted at Spirit Lake in 1857, and at New Ulm and Mankato in 1862, were perpetrated by bands of the Sioux.

#### INDIANS IN LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

About the month of August, 1873, a band of about sixty Indians crossed this county, traveling eastward along the line that runs one mile north of the south line of Dover, Grant and Lincoln townships; of whom the following account has been furnished by C. M. Saylor, of the last named township:

"They made this journey in true Indian style, which was a single file that extended nearly a mile in length, several rods usually intervening between each member of the procession. About a dozen members of the band were mounted on ponies that were heavily loaded with luggage. Their tepee or tent poles, tied loosely together at one end with a thong, were hung over the backs of the ponies in front of the riders, while their loose ends were left to drag on the ground. On these poles, at a short distance from the rear of the pony, cross-pieces were fastened that served as a framework for carrying their tenting, cooking utensils, trapping outfit and other necessary equipage. Some of their papooses or babies, had been put in baskets and strapped on these poles that extended from the ponies to the ground. One or two of the squaws, sitting on the bundles that rested on the poles, were also enjoying the same kind of transportation. They were

supposed to be journeying either to a reservation or to one of their favorite camping grounds along the Des Moines river. While passing through Lincoln township they called for provisions at the homes of Mr. Saylor and John Dooley."

#### INDIANS IN BELLVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Mrs. Wm. Brownlee, of Pomeroy, thinks she never, in all her life, received any compliment that gave her more real pleasure than one bestowed by a band of Indians that camped on their farm, on section 18, Bellville township, in the spring of the year during the seventies, to hunt and trap among the ponds in that vicinity. Knowing that the Indians were treacherous and blood-thirsty when on the war-path, she did not appreciate the idea of having them for her nearest neighbors. When, however, they pitched their tents so near them, in the interest of peace and good-will, she and her husband decided to give them about all they might call for. When the squaws, true to their custom, called, day after day, for "more food," she gave them all the available bread and butter in the home, and frequently, by special request, some roosters, indulging the hope it would be their last call. The Indians must have enjoyed her hospitality more than ordinary, for when the two weeks' hunt was ended, the chief of the band came with the squaws when they made their last call, for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of the favors received and bid farewell to their benefactors. On this occasion, when they were ready to depart, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee standing near each other in the front yard of their home, the Indians thanked them heartily and bowed graciously, after which the chief, addressing Mr. Brownlee but pointing to his wife, with all his native earnestness and gesticulation, exclaimed: "Good s-q-u-a-w! Good s-q-u-a-w!"



## THE POTTAWATTAMIES.

A band of Pottawattamies, under their old chief, Johnnie Green, used to frequent the Lizard in the hunting and trapping season for many years. They were known as the "Johnnie Green tribe," or "Prairie band of Pottawattamies." Their reservation was in eastern Kansas, but during the sixties they became ultimately associated with the Musquakies (Sacs and Foxes), and located near them in the country along the Iowa river. They were peaceable in disposition and always carried with them a written passport. A few of their number, usually the squaws, would make it a practice to go from house to house in the settlement begging clothing and provisions. They usually numbered from twenty-five to fifty persons, including men, women and children, and they roamed considerably throughout the north part of the state, traveling some on foot, others on horseback, and camping at different places as they proceeded.

The Collins' grove, on section 13, Lizard township, was one of their favorite places of encampment, and they occupied it every one or two years during the sixties and seventies and for the last time, about the year 1883. The old chief, Johnnie Green, was about seventy years of age when he made his last visits, about the years 1873 and 1874. The name of the young chief who succeeded him, is not remembered.

Two other favorite stopping places for the Indians in those days were the large grove on the east side of Lizard lake, in Lake township, and a grove south of Dakota City, near the forks of the Des Moines river, where for many years there lived an early settler by the name of Miller. The groves of timber at Sac City, at this early period were also visited by bands of Indians who came from southern Nebraska.

The Winnebagoes and Pottawattamies were originally from the districts west and south of Lake Michigan. In 1836, the latter were settled by the government in southwestern Iowa including what is now Pottawattamie county. By the treaty of June 5, 1846, they sold all their lands in Iowa, and in 1847 and '48 were removed to Kansas Territory, where most of them remained, but some returned to Iowa, and during the sixties occupied the country in the vicinity of Iowa and Tama counties, together with the Musquakie (Sac and Fox) tribe. At the present time there are 390 Musquakies and about forty Pottawattamies, Winnebagoes and others occupying their own lands in Tama county.

The Pottawattamies and Winnebagoes never molested the early settlers; but when some venturesome trader, in exchange for their furs, gave them whiskey, under its influence they, as well as pale faces in a similar condition, sometimes became quarrelsome.

"On his head his eagle feathers,  
Round his waist his belt of wampum,  
In his hand his bow of ash-wood,  
Strung with sinews of the reindeer."

The roving bands of Indians who visited these sections for many years during the period of early settlement, usually spent about three months of the fall or spring of the year catching mink and muskrats for their flesh and fur. They could trap and spear muskrats to better advantage than the whites because, while the latter utilized only the fur, the Indians ate the flesh of the rat and mink with great zest, and furs cured by them brought a better price in the market.

The Indian, upon his small footed pony, was an interesting object to the stranger. The ponies were gentle creatures, docile as dogs and had beautiful feet. The Indians made their own saddles and always of rawhide. They dressed comfortably, many showing a decided preference

for the red blanket for underwear. Mothers, while on the journey, would strap their babies to a board, and then carry them in whatever way was most convenient, sometimes by swinging them over their shoulder. The men, when trading, endeavored to make "shrewd bargains;" before leaving town, they usually spent all they received for furs, and the tobacco and whiskey dealer was pretty sure to get his share. The men and

women composing these bands of Indian trappers, whilst they were oddly dressed, were ordinarily a lot of hearty, healthy and fine looking people. They were remnants of the once powerful tribes that were in possession of all the country from the Lakes to the Missouri, at the end of the war of independence. They presented, however, but a faint resemblance of their former greatness and renown, or of their warlike and noble bearing.



## III.

## THE SURVEY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

“What lovely prospect meets the view:  
 The rolling prairies, like a sea,  
 In vast and wild sublimity,  
 There lie with an unbroken sod,  
 Untilled but by the hand of God:  
 He sows the seeds of grass and flowers,  
 He moistens them with vernal showers!”

—LEONARD BROWN.

## THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY.



THE government survey of Pocahontas county was made during the years of 1853, 1854 and 1855, by two parties of surveyors who followed each other in their work. The first party located the boundary lines of the several townships, which are six miles square, by driving into the ground an oak stake and raising a mound of earth around it, at the corners of each township and of each section on these boundary lines. The earth for the mound around the stake would usually be taken at a distance of eight links east or south from the corner stake, and the exact location of the pit thus formed would be noted in the field notes of the surveyor. The second party surveyed the townships severally, dividing them into sections, each one mile square, and driving a stake at the distance of every half mile as well as at the corners of each section.

Comparatively few, if any of the original stakes are now found at the corners of the sections. Prairie fires

destroyed many of them, while others have decayed with the lapse of time or have been covered by the grades on the highways. The county surveyor of Pocahontas county, (H. W. Bissell) about the year 1890, began to mark the corners of the sections where the stakes used to stand, with a rock nearly buried. These markers are more durable and many of them may now be seen, even upon the grades, in the center of highways where the roads cross each other.

The first survey, or that of the township lines, was made by John W. Ellis, deputy surveyor, who was assisted in the survey of the three south tiers of townships, numbers 90, 91 and 92, by John Corrick and James A. Holstein, chainmen; Charles Bell, axeman or marker, and W. M. Helms, flagman; and in the north tier of townships, number 93 by Charles Bell and Charles Moran, chainmen; Barnet Dodd, axeman, and William Dodd, flagman. These men surveyed the boundaries of the several townships of Pocahontas county, under a contract of date June 14, 1853.

EXHIBIT

Of the Government Survey of Pocahontas County, showing Number and Range of Townships, alphabetically arranged.

TOWNSHIP.		MOUND MAKERS.				
Name.	T R	Date of Survey.	Deputy Surveyor.	Chainmen.	Axeman.	Flagman.
Bellville .....	90 32	1854, July 25—Aug. 1.	Geo. Berry.	James Ridgeway. Asa F. Sellers.	Andrew J. Sears.	Cyrus Clay Carpenter.
Cedar .....	90 34	1855, June 25—July 3.	Joshua T. Nowlin.	Alexander Willson, William P. Hall.	T. Vanbuskirk.	James W. Miller. (Compassman.)
Center .....	92 32	1854, Oct. 9-15.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Clinton .....	92 31	1854, Oct. 30—Nov. 7.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Colfax .....	90 33	1854, Sept. 12-22.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Des Moines.....	93 31	1854, Oct. 9 —	Andrew Leach.	Jeremiah Huff. Joseph Bichey.	John W. Deeman.	Wm. R. Wooldridge.
Dover.....	91 34	1855, July 5-11.	Francis Bell.	Josiah Scott. Alex. Melnyre.	Alfred Bebe.	Harvey Norris.
Grant.....	91 33	1854, Sept. 23-29.	Joshua T. Nowlin.	Alex. Willson. Wm. P. Hall.	Thornton Vanbuskirk.	James W. Miller. (Compassman.)
Lake.....	91 31	1854, Oct. 23-30.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Lincoln.....	51 32	1854, Oct. 16-21.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Lizard.....	90 31	1854, Aug. 3-10.	Geo. Berry.	James Ridgeway. Asa F. Sellers.	Andrew J. Sears.	Cyrus Clay Carpenter.
Marshall.....	92 34	1855, Oct. 16-21.	Wm. W. Smith.	Isaac A. Cory. Wm. S. Wesley.	Edward M. Stiffey.	Isaac Welch.
Powhatan.....	93 32	1854, Oct. 1-6.	Jesse T. Janett.	Ephraim Hartman. Elisha Lackey.	Not given.	Not given.
Sherman.....	92 33	1851, Oct. 2-7.	Robt. O. C. Anderson.	A. L. Palmer. C. C. Stevens.	Wm. H. Brakey.	Mason Crouch.
Swan Lake.....	93 34	1855, Sept. 16-20.	Adam Sherrill.	A. P. Hull. Charles C. Perry.	Daniel Dicus.	Isaac Welsh.
Washington.....	93 33	1854, Oct. 7-12.	Jesse T. Janett.	Ephraim Hartman. Elisha Lackey.	Not given.	Not given.

The variation of the compass, in Pocahontas county at the time of this government survey, was noted as ranging from  $11^{\circ} 15'$  to  $11^{\circ} 35'$  east on the north and south lines, and  $10^{\circ} 20'$  to  $11^{\circ} 15'$  east on the south and west lines.

These government surveys were made by deputy surveyors, under the appointment and direction of Warner Lewis, surveyor general of Iowa and Wisconsin, whose office at that time was at Dubuque, Iowa.

The following general notes made by the surveyors at the conclusion of their work, on the main features or characteristics of the townships surveyed, are already of historic interest and no doubt throw some light on the early impressions that affected, to some extent, the settlement of this section of the country.

They classed a great part of the land as "second rate, full of irreclaimable marshes, although producing grass, canes, rushes, flags, brakes and pea vines, abundantly." They were careful to note the fact there was no timber in many of the townships, and the presence of timber must have been regarded as an absolute necessity in order to render these lands inhabitable; for the surveyor of Des Moines township, which had more timber than perhaps any other township in the county, writes: "There is sufficient timber in this township to warrant but a few settlers, at least for some time to come."

#### PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY.

The method of the United States government in the survey of these western lands is an admirable one and has for its basis the invariable direction of the true meridians of longitude. All bearings taken from these meridians are called true, to distinguish them from magnetic bearings; and in their direction they are as invariable as is the meridian from which they are measured.

The same is true of the parallels of latitude, from which distances are measured north and south. Since all distances and bearings are measured from two lines that are at right angles to each other, the one a true meridian of longitude and the other a true parallel of latitude, the system is rectangular.

All lands in Iowa by townships are numbered eastward and westward from the 5th principal meridian which, extending due north from the mouth of the Arkansas river, passes through the eastern part of Iowa twelve miles west of Dubuque. This meridian, which is the 14th west from Washington, gives the range of the townships east and west; and from it the east tier of townships of Pocahontas county is numbered 31, the second 32, the third 33 and the west tier 34.

All the townships in Iowa are numbered northward from a base line, a true parallel that, extending due east and west, crosses the 5th principal meridian forty-eight miles north of the mouth of the Arkansas river. This is the 35th parallel of north latitude and forms the north boundary line of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Counting from this base line, the south tier of townships of Pocahontas county is numbered 90, the second 91, the third 92 and the north tier 93.

The boundary lines on the north and south sides of a township are called township lines, and the rows or tiers of townships running east and west on these lines, which are parallel to the base line, are called townships. The boundary lines on the east and west sides of a township are called range lines, and the tiers of townships running north and south along these lines, which are parallel to the principal meridian, are called ranges. The boundary lines of a section are called section lines, and all interior corners, necessary for the division of a section, were left by the government surveyors to

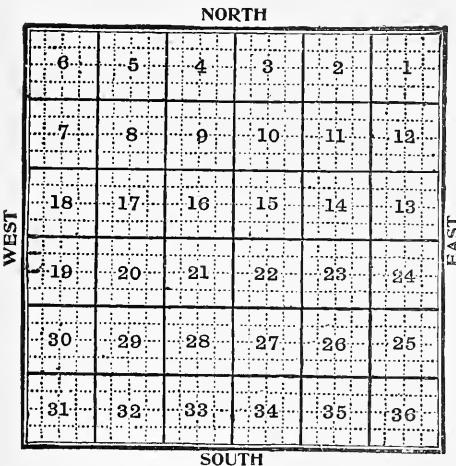
be located by local or county surveyors.

Since the meridians of longitude converge toward each other as we pass northward from the equator, it follows that the north line of a township would naturally be a little shorter than the south line. Pocahontas county is located between the 42d and 43d parallels and in this latitude the convergence is about forty-three feet to each township. This convergence is remedied by an occasional correction line, one of which may be seen upon the map of Iowa extending east and west six miles south of Pocahontas county. The correction is made in the tier of townships south of this line. While the distances on the north side of this line are all six miles, those on the south side of it are all less than six miles by the amount of the convergence for the distance the township lines have been run. All the other townships are intended to be six miles square.

Each township is divided by parallel lines into thirty-six equal parts, called sections. Each section is one mile square and contains 640 acres. The section is divided into quarter-sections of 160 acres each and the latter into quarters of forty acres each. The sections are always numbered from 1 to 36 in regular order, commencing with the one at the northeast corner of the township and proceeding west, then east and so on, until the southeast corner is reached, as may be seen in the accompanying plat.

It is of interest to note that the government survey of public lands in Iowa was begun in the autumn of 1836, by A. Bent & Son, from Michigan, who received their commission as U. S. deputies, from the office of the Surveyor General at Cincinnati, Ohio. Their first contract was for the survey of Scott county, of which Davenport is the county seat, and it was completed in the spring of 1837.

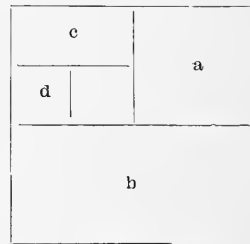
The survey of lands in northwest



PLAT OF A TOWNSHIP—T. 90, R. 34.

The numbers "T. 90, R. 34" are those of Cedar township and show that it is township number 90 and range 34 west from the 5th principal meridian.

The different divisions of a Section are described as follows:



a—N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ —Northeast Quarter.

b—S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ —South Half.

c—N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ —North Half of the North-West Quarter.

d—S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ —South-west Quarter of the North-West Quarter.

Section 16 of every township in Iowa was set apart by the government for the support of the public schools, and they are called "school lands."

Iowa, including all the territory north of Des Moines, was not commenced until the fall of 1848, when Marsh and his company undertook to run the correction line from the Mississippi, near Dubuque, to the Missouri, near Sioux City, and were driven back by

the Sioux, when they crossed the Des Moines river in Webster county. This work was resumed at a later date and when, in the settlement of Woodbury county, a town was located on this line, it was very significantly named Correctionville.

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#### IV.

### TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTY.

“Cease all this parlance about hills and dales.”—Duo.

#### LOCATION AND SURFACE FEATURES. \*



**P**OCAHONTAS County lies just east of the summit of the ridge or watershed—extending from Dickinson to Audubon counties—that divides the waters of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. This summit is near Marathon, Buena Vista county, and some of the streams of Buena Vista find their way to the Missouri, while others empty into the Father of Waters. The drainage of Pocahontas county is wholly into the Mississippi and is effected, to a greater extent, by Lizard creek and its branches than by any other stream. The remaining surface is drained by Cedar creek, an upper branch of the Raccoon river, that has its source in Rush lake, a few miles northwest of Laurens, and by the West Branch of the Des Moines river and its tributaries, Beaver and Pilot creeks.

Pocahontas, like a large proportion of the counties in Iowa, is perfectly square in outline and contains sixteen congressional townships, making it twenty-four miles across from north to south and from east to west. It contains an area of 576 square miles, or 368,640 acres. Technically described it embraces townships 90, 91, 92 and 93 north, of ranges 31, 32, 33 and 34, west of the 5th principal meridian.

Pocahontas county is situated in the northwest part of the state, being two tiers of counties south of its northern and three tiers east of its western boundary. It is bounded on the north by Palo Alto county, on the west by Buena Vista, on the south by Calhoun and on the east by Webster and Humboldt counties. Its elevation is about 1400 feet above the level of the sea and its surface has a gradual slope to the south and east. The average slope of the county is a trifle less than four feet to the mile, which is about the same as that of the state from Spirit Lake to Keokuk.

The only bodies of natural timber in the county are, a strip ranging from a quarter to a half mile in width along the Des Moines river in the northeast, a similar skirting, though less in size, on the east side of Lizard lake and along Lizard creek in the southeast, at Swan Lake in the northwest, a little along Cedar creek where it crosses the line into Calhoun, and at Sunk Grove, an island of some eighty acres in a slough in the northwest part of Cedar township. During the sixties, this island was covered with a heavy growth of fine, large timber consisting of maple, elm, basswood,

\*The greater part under this head was written by L. C. Thornton, county surveyor, 1884-5 and 1888-9, for the Revell, Jan. 30, 1896.

cottonwood, oak, hackberry, box-elder and other woods. The early settlers traveled many miles to levy tribute on this unusual supply of good timber, and it was not long before unsightly stumps were all that were left to tell of the beautiful grove that existed here previous to the year 1870. At the present time there is a fine body of young timber, or second growth, at this place. These bodies of natural timber, affording material for fuel and the construction of buildings, as well as a grateful protection to stock both in summer and winter, became the most attractive places to the early pioneer.

Pocahontas county is almost an uninterrupted prairie that extends also into all the adjoining counties. Its beautiful prairie surface is gently undulating and is slightly broken only in the northeast by the Des Moines river, in the southeast by Lizard and in the southwest by Cedar creek. All of Northwestern Iowa is noted for its beauty, and fertility, and in these respects Pocahontas is unsurpassed by any of the neighboring counties. Other parts of this northwestern section are more rolling and their elevated portions, in the earlier days, were prized because they were tillable, but these elevated and valuable portions were interspersed with unappreciated and impassable sloughs and other waste places. In Pocahontas county these extremes are not found. The entire surface of the county is that of an elevated plain with a gentle slope to the southeast and having no waste land except the channels of the river and creeks—and these are essential to its occupancy and fertility.

As its elevation is so high it is altogether probable the surface of Pocahontas county has not changed materially since its transition from the bottom of a lake-bed to the elevation of a blooming prairie. Since that time no floods have swept over it and

no convulsions have marred the contour of its surface. In washing out their channels the streams have somewhat cut the crust, but on the whole it is safe to say the general lay of the land is the same as when it rose above the waters.

In the northwest part of the county are Swan and Muskrat lakes, shallow bodies of water with mud bottoms. The main body of the former, extending north and south, is about a mile long and a half-mile wide. It has a small, curved arm on the west, resembling the neck and bill of a swan and from this circumstance received its name. Muskrat lake which is about the same size, but extending east and west is but a few rods east of the former and is connected with it by a creek, a link of the Cedar. Clear lake, in the west central part of the county, lying partly in Dover and partly in Marshall townships, is shaped like the letter L, the stem pointing west and the arm north. It is probably two miles long by half a mile wide and is drained by the little or west branch of the Cedar. During the long continued drought of 1894, these lakes, except a part of the last, became dry and, during the season of 1895, good crops of grain were produced in the beds of all of them. Lizard lake in Lake township, extending northeast and southwest, is about one mile long by half a mile wide and has an outlet through which it empties into the north branch of Lizard creek.

In the days of early settlement there were in this county sloughs without number and some of the principal ones were named Devil's Island, Purgatory, Muskrat and Sixteen-Mile Slough. These were great places for muskrats and ducks, and gave rise to the familiar proverbs that "a flat-boat should be included in a farmer's list of apparatus necessary for cropping here" and that "a man



became web-footed after living in Pocahontas county a year."

But a great change has taken place. Where once there was nothing but muskrat houses and duck ponds, there are now finely cultivated fields. Great expanses that once seemed to be worthless swamps, save that they yielded a thousand muskrats each year, are now the most productive portions and yield annually many thousands of bushels of corn. A few years ago the high and dry lands brought two and three times as much as the low, flat pieces, but now this also is changed. There is now little or no waste land in the county.

There has been no upheaval, the land has not "risen above the waters," but the ditching machine, that great enemy of the duck and muskrat, has been abroad in the land, considerable tiling has been done and the tangle of the grasses has been broken by the plow. Through these means the surface water has been removed and the surplus moisture allowed to evaporate. These instrumentalities have contributed greatly to make Pocahontas county what it is today—one of the healthiest, most beautiful and productive in the state.

#### THE SOIL.

"Other skies may be fair,  
Other lands be brilliant with beauty,  
Or rich with their treasures  
Of rock-hidden gold.  
But hearts that are true  
To affection and duty,  
Best ever and dearest  
Will 'Pocahontas County' hold."  
—A. L. F.

The soil of this county is a rich, dark loam, that varies in thickness from two to eight feet. It is an undisturbed drift soil underlaid with a deep subsoil of porous clay mixed slightly with gravel, and possesses a uniform richness and fertility throughout the county. It differs somewhat from similar soils in other parts of the state, in that it contains a slightly

greater proportion of sand and less clay, a circumstance that imparts physical properties to it that are very beneficial in agriculture, giving it a warmth and mellowness that is favorable not only to the growth of crops but their maturity in this locality, as early as upon the more clayey soils, two hundred miles further south. It has also the additional advantage of becoming sufficiently dry for cultivation sooner after the frosts of early spring have ceased, or the showers of summer have ended, than those that contain a greater proportion of clay. It is a soil that is easily subdued, may be cultivated in the most convenient manner with the latest improved machinery and is well calculated to withstand the extremes of drought or excessive rainfall.

In these characteristics of the soil is found the secret of the uniform productiveness of this locality under all conditions of the weather, and of the superiority of Northwest Iowa over some other parts of the state. The wonderful power of this soil to withstand the injury arising from either excessive drought or moisture, has been demonstrated year by year, ever since the first settlers turned the first furrows in this section.

During a series of seasons in the eighties, when the crops in many other localities were seriously damaged by unusual rainfall, the farmers of Northwestern Iowa moved steadily forward, gathering abundant harvests. This ability to withstand excessive moisture is no doubt due to the fact that the subsoil of this region is rarely an impenetrable clayey hardpan near the surface, acting as a bowl to hold the water in great quantities, but is sufficiently porous to allow an excessive rainfall to percolate to an indefinite depth and leave the surface available for cultivation.

In 1886 and during the period from 1894 to 1895, there was afforded a strik-

ing illustration of the remarkable capacity of this section to resist the general blighting effects of drought. In February, 1895, when the famine prevailed in Central Nebraska and the unusual drought was more or less severely felt in all parts of this and the neighboring states, two carloads of grain and provisions were freely donated by the citizens of Pocahontas county and sent to the sufferers of Custer county, Nebraska. This incident will always be a reminder not only of the generosity of the people but of the bountiful harvests gathered here at a time of general scarcity elsewhere. In this particular instance the local showers that visited this section in the summer of 1894, contributed greatly to insure the crops of that year. It remains however, to observe there never has been a failure of crops, on account of drought, in Pocahontas county. The secret of this ability to endure long droughts is also found to a great extent in the subsoil of this locality, the porous nature of which enables it to receive and retain moisture to a great depth, so that while the surface cultivation acts as a sort of mulch, the roots of growing crops strike deeper in search of needed moisture.

It is to these singularly propitious qualities of the soil, together with a healthful and invigorating climate and an abundant supply of good water, that the unrivaled prosperity and enrichment of the people of Pocahontas county are due.

The country west of the Mississippi can afford no parallel to the prosperity of Northwestern Iowa. The surplus of one year has not been consumed in making good the losses of the preceding one, but a surplus has been produced every year. It is for this reason that farmers and stockraisers of this section have been growing rich and that that they should do so is not strange. It is the natural result of

putting these beautiful prairies under that judicious care and cultivation they merit. Such a teeming, trusty soil rapidly develops beautiful rural homes, builds cities, towns and railroads, and flings wealth into every willing hand that touches it.

#### LIMESTONE BEDS, CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

An interesting exposure of stratified rocks is found in the limestone beds of Clinton township, near the eastern border of the county. In Northwestern Iowa there are but two other similar exposures of stratified rocks and they are found, one in the southwest corner of Plymouth county, consisting of Woodbury sandstones and shales, and belonging to the cretaceous (chalk or reptilian) age; and the other is in Lyon county, in the extreme northwest corner of the state, consisting of Sioux Quartzite, a brownish red granite, and belonging to the azoic\* age.

The stratified rocks in the southeast part of Clinton township, have been referred by State Geologist Charles A White, to the Kinderhook beds, constituting the lowest formation of the sub-carboniferous group that is found immediately underneath the coal-bearing strata. These Kinderhook beds in Iowa are about 175 feet in thickness and consist of alternate layers of sandstone and limestone, the latter partly magnesian. The exposures in Clinton township are confined to a small space upon the gentle slope of the prairie valley, yet considerable quantities of rock have been quarried here for lime and building purposes.

The rock at this place has a slight westward dip and consists of thin layers of limestone that is slightly oolitic (granular) but chiefly sub-crystalline in texture and contains numer-

\*The age preceding organic life, and therefore containing no fossils or organic remains. All granite formations, including the boulders of the prairies, belong to this age.

ous small fossil remains. The fossils are those of marine animals and belong chiefly to the orthid (straight, rather thin) and spirifer (spiral) families of brachiopoda (arm and foot), species of mollusks (soft) or bivalves, of which the clam and oyster are familiar illustrations.

The first exposure of stratified rocks due north of Pocahontas county, is found at New Ulm, in the valley of the Minnesota river, Minn., and it consists of a single exposure of the azoic age, having the same formation as the Sioux Quartzite found in the extreme northwestern corner of Iowa.

If a square that shall represent one hundred miles east and west, and the same distance north and south be placed on the north line of Iowa, so that it shall extend southward between the 29th and 30th ranges of townships from Kossuth to Greene counties, thence westward from Grand Junction to Onawa and thence to the north line of the state so as to include the east ranges of townships in Plymouth, Sioux and Lyon counties, it will represent 10,000 square miles, embracing more than 12 counties, in the most elevated portion of Iowa on which there are no exposures of stratified rocks to be found except the quarry, on section 25, Clinton township, Pocahontas county.\*

This locality is interesting because it is the most northern and western point in Iowa at which the strata of this or any other sub-carboniferous formation is found. It is also the most western point at which any paleozoic (ancient life) strata has been observed within the limits of the state. In the section of country south of Pocahontas county, all the rock strata exposed within the limits of this state belong to the Lower, Middle and Upper coal measures, all of which have a slight southwesterly dip. This dip carries the Upper coal

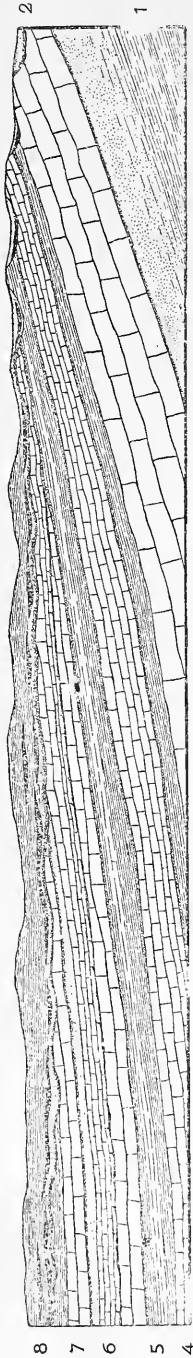
measure formation of Iowa beneath the cretaceous (chalk) strata of Nebraska and they are not seen in that direction until they come to the surface again near Salt Lake, a thousand miles distant. The most northern exposures of these rocks, extending from Harrison through Guthrie and Greene to Webster county, indicate that the coal-bearing formations of Missouri and Southern Iowa have ended by thinning out somewhere beneath the drift of this broad, stoneless area.

#### OTHER ROCK-BEDS IN IOWA.

It will be of interest to note that the oldest stratified rocks in Iowa are the Sioux Quartzite or brownish red granite, found in the extreme northwest corner of the state. These belong to the Azoic or Algonkian age, the age preceding the existence of either plant or animal life.

The next oldest rocks are found in the northeast part of the state, in the territory extending from Dubuque county to the north line of the state and westward to Winneshiek county. These belong to the Lower Silurian age, so called after the Silures, the ancient Celtic inhabitants of that part of Wales where they were first found. It is also called the age of invertebrates (destitute of a backbone) because during this period animal life began to exist in the seas under the forms known as articulates, (with a segmented body like a worm,) radiates (having a radiate structure like a flower) and mollusks. The Potsdam sandstone, a soft, friable formation found in the channel of the Upper Iowa river for a distance of twenty miles from its mouth, in Allamakee county, is the oldest rock in this section, and it is supposed to rest on the Sioux Quartzite. Overlying this formation are the lower magnesian limestones, buff colored dolomites, in the bluffs that border the valley of the Upper Iowa, and the St. Peter's sandstone, a gritty, light colored rock, gen-

\*Geology of Iowa, 1870—page 208.



3

### Generalized Section showing the relations of the Geological Formations along the Mississippi, from the north line of Iowa to the mouth of the Ohio.

- 1—UPPER CAMBRIAN, co-ordinate with, but in Iowa not a part of the lower Silurian age, represented by the Potsdam or St. Croix sandstone along the Mississippi and Upper Iowa rivers in Allamakee county.
- 2—SILURIAN AGE, Oncoota or Lower Magnesian limestone capping the bluffs and valley sides of the same rivers in the same locality. Over it are found the St. Peter's sandstone which at McGregor is called the Trenton limestone of Winnebuck county, the Galena limestone of Dubuque county, the Maquoketa shales along the Little Maquoketa river and the Niagara or upper magnesian limestone found at Farley, Anamosa and Le Chaire.
- 3—DEVONIAN AGE, the Wapsipinicon series, including the Independence shales of Buchanan county and shales of Fayette county.
- 4—Cedar valley limestone, exposed at Waverly, Rockford (shale), the Old Capitol quarry near Iowa City, and in Muscatine county, and containing fossils of mollusks and corals.
- 5—CARBONIFEROUS AGE, Kinderhook shales and limestone beds at Burlington and in Pocahontas county.
- 6—Augusta limestone in bluffs of Des Moines and Louisa counties, including Burlington and Keokuk beds, with their crinoid (lily-like, starfish) fossils.
- 7—St. Louis limestone that usually forms the floor of the coal-bearing strata.
- 8—Coal measures, in which the veins or beds of coal are found; formed under, and therefore before the Nishnabotna sandstones of Guthrie and Montgomery counties, the sandstones and shales of Woodbury county, (all of which are shore deposits), the Niobrara or chalk beds along the Big Sioux river, the gypsum beds of Webster county and the surface drift that covers the entire state.

erally, but having shades of red and yellow at McGregor that give rise to the local name of "Pictured Rocks." The Galena limestone in which the lead is found and that forms the high bluffs along the river at Dubuque and northward, also represent this age. The Upper or later Silurian period includes the exposures in the area extending from Scott county northwestward through Fayette. The Niagara limestone found at Farley and other places in Dubuque county, at Le Claire, Scott county, and as far west as Anamosa, belong to this period. This formation affords the best and greatest amount of building rock in the state and the quarries at Anamosa are remarkable for the uniformity and precision of the strata.

Southwest of this area there is a belt 50 miles in width and 200 miles in length, extending from Davenport to Muscatine on the Mississippi in a northwesterly direction to Mitchell and Worth counties on the north line of the state, where the rocks that are exposed belong to the next age, that of fishes, called Devonian. During this age the waters of the sea began to be inhabited, by the reef-building corals, turtles, sharks and scale fishes, and in the marshes and upon the islands there appeared seaweeds, ferns, ground pines and conifers. The limestone found at Rockford, Waverly, the Old Capitol quarry near Iowa City and at other places in the district just named, are referred to the Hamilton period of this era. The oil wells of Western Canada are traced to the limestone beds formed during this era in that section. During this Devonian age when the strata of the rocks last named formed the surface of the earth's crust in this section, the continent of North America was to a great extent a vast sea with a very limited amount of dry land. In place of the Rocky and Allegheny

mountains, there were only islands, reefs and shallow waters marking their future site, for none of the coal-bearing strata and other rocks now found upon their slopes 13,000 feet above the sea had yet been formed.

The age of Fishes was followed by that of the coal plants, called Carboniferous. This age has been divided into three periods of time, each representing a distinct formation of rocks known as those of the lower, middle and upper coal measures. It was commenced with a preparatory marine period called the sub-carboniferous or lower coal measure that had its consummation in a long era of extensive continents, covered with forests and marsh vegetation, and subject at long intervals to inundations of fresh or marine waters. This sub-carboniferous period in Iowa extends from Lee and Louisa counties in the southeast part of the state, through Washington to Franklin and thence west to the eastern part of Pocahontas county. The rocks that occur in this belt at Burlington, where the beds are 147 feet in thickness, along the Iowa river in Tama, Marshall, Hardin and Franklin counties and along the Des Moines in Humboldt and Pocahontas counties, have been referred to the Kinderhook beds of that period. The rock is a light brown or buff-colored limestone, and usually contains small fossil remains.

The carboniferous or coal measures proper are found in the country south of the region just named, along the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers; while the upper coal measures are found in the southwestern part of the state, from Wayne to Madison and thence to Harrison county. It will thus be perceived that the rocks formed during the carboniferous age, occupying the central and southern part of the state, are the surface rocks of the greater part of Iowa, and indicate the geological age of this section of country.

It is by their organic remains or animal and vegetable fossils that the stratified rock-beds are distinguished and the strata of the different districts are classified.

Iowa is near the center of the great interior region between the Allegheny and Rocky mountains. This vast expanse of country unbroken by mountains and untouched by the sea, has been termed a great basin. Everywhere are evidences of the comparatively recent elevation of the surface that has lain for ages near the level of the sea. The deposition of each later formation carried the old shore line farther and farther southward until at the close of the carboniferous the land surface had been extended to the central portion of what is now the state of Arkansas. The Gulf of Mexico and the five great lakes of the lake region are now the diminutive remnants of that vast body of water that once covered the central part of North America.

At the commencement of the carboniferous era, a vast sea of shallow water spread out over what was soon to be the heart of a great continent. A long period of quiet existed while the great beds of limestone, formed for the most part from organic remains, were laid in sheets. Subsequently, over the marshes and dry slopes there grew rank forests of lepidodendrons—trees of great size, having scaly or sectional bark with leaf scars—conifers and other varieties, and their luxuriant growth continued until the creeping centuries had accumulated vegetable debris (rubbish) sufficient for beds of coal. Trees and shrubs grew rapidly, shed their leaves and fruit and then dying formed the accumulations of vegetable remains. While great stumps stood in the swamps the debris of the growing vegetation and also the drift borne by the waters accumulated around them, and occasional logs floated over the

lakes to sink and become buried in the accumulating vegetable deposits. This luxuriant vegetation grew under the influence of fresh or lake water and formed coal only where there were marshes and the deposits of vegetable debris afterward became covered by deposits of sand, clay or other rock material, the result of a submergence that let in the saline, or seawater with its period of abundance of aquatic, (water), or marine life. It was during this more recent period that the gypsum beds upon the tops of the bluffs and hills in the vicinity of Fort Dodge, and other stratified rocks overlying the coal-beds, were formed. It will be perceived that the luxuriant forests and vegetation that once existed throughout this section of country and furnished the material for the coalbeds, were all destroyed, for all existing forests are found above the drift deposit, a material of still later formation than the gypsum beds and many feet in depth.

#### THE DRIFT AND BOULDERS.

The term Drift, includes the clay, sand, gravel and boulders that constitute the covering, in unstratified form, of the rock formations throughout Iowa. Its depth or thickness ranges from a few to several hundred feet and its greatest depth is found along the watershed or divide, near the summit of which Pocahontas county is located. Whilst it is found to be from 50 to 100 feet in other parts of the state, along this ridge its depth ranges from 150 to 250 feet, so that wells rarely reach the stratified rocks underneath it.

The drift is composed of more or less finely pulverized formations that existed in other forms prior to its present location and arrangement. A large part of it was doubtless derived from the rock formations that underlie it, many of which in Iowa are soft and easily pulverized, but a considerable part, including all the boul-

ders, came from some northern locality.

The clay of the drift has a brown or buff tint and is commonly called joint clay, because it breaks into angular lumps when dry or exposed to the air. It is always more or less impure and its yellowish color is due to the presence of peroxide of iron, which becomes red when burned, as in brick or tile. The proportion of lime in it is so great that the water of all our wells and springs, though healthful, cool and excellent for man and beast, yet holds so much carbonate of lime in solution that it is too hard for washing purposes until the carbonate has been precipitated with borax, potash or sal-soda.

Sand and gravel constitute a very small proportion of the drift in Iowa, and the former as regards its fineness is very variable. The gravel however, wherever it is found, is a characteristic constituent and was derived from rocks that are either silicious (flint-like) or granitic (composed of quartz, feldspar and mica), and no doubt a large part of it existed as gravel, before the glacial epoch.

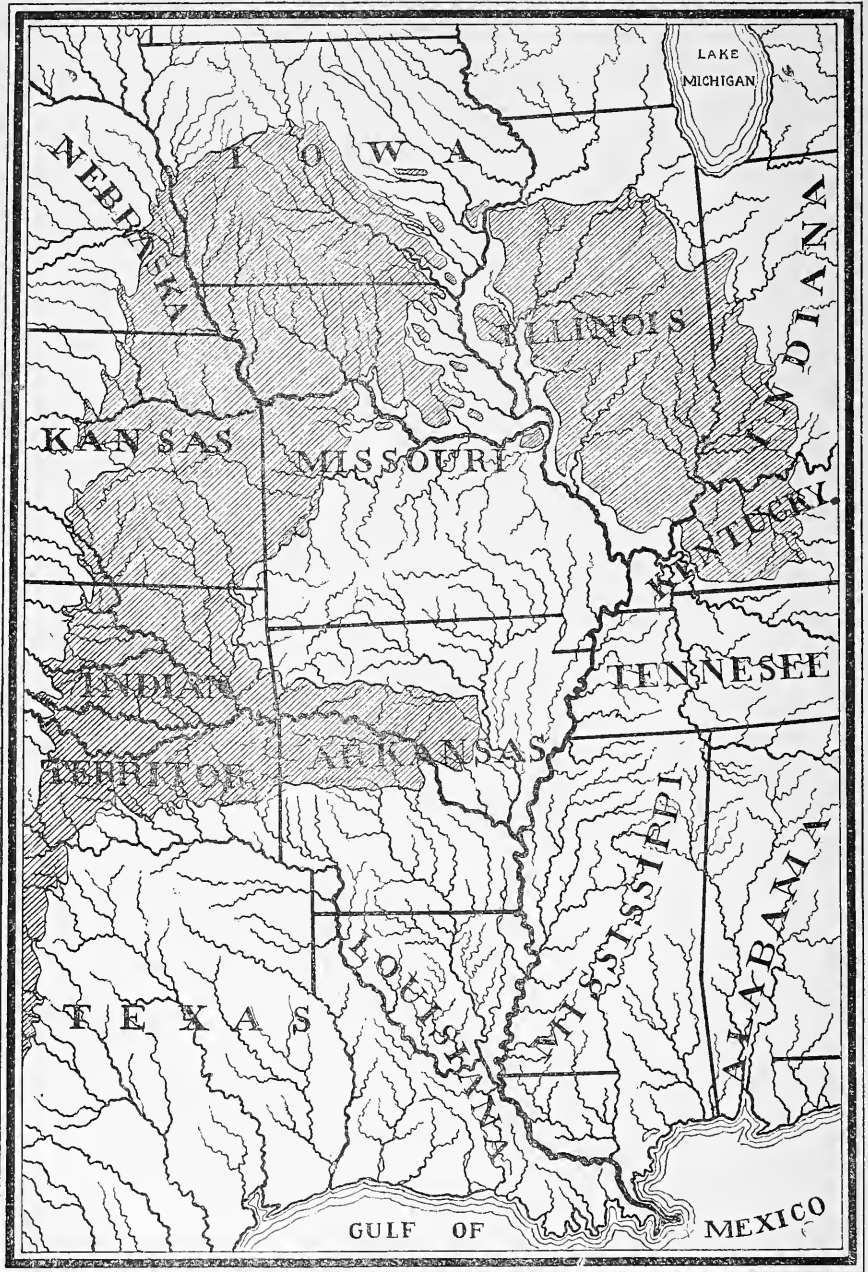
The drift in Iowa was evidently formed at two different periods. The earlier drift mantles all the surface of the state except the extreme north-eastern corner of it, while the later drift is represented by a lobe that extends one-third the way across the state, where it enters from the north, and as far south as Des Moines.

Upon the surface of the drift, in many localities in Pocahontas county, there were originally numerous boulders or rounded stones and they ranged in weight from fifty pounds to one or more tons. Nearly all of these surface rocks, commonly called "nigger heads," have now been removed from their home on the prairies and utilized in the erection of the first and some of the most substantial walls in this section; In a few years they will

be seen only in this humble position of usefulness in the walls of buildings, but there they will remain to attract the attention of future generations to their wonderful and interesting story.

Two very large boulders may still be seen in Pocahontas county; one on the east side of section 9, Dover township, known as "Hunters' Rock," and the other on the northwest corner of section 33, Bellville township, called "Lone Rock." The former is about seven feet in height above the ground and twelve feet in diameter. It is located on the edge of a slough, about twenty rods west from the road running along the east line of the section, and many a wild duck has been brought to the ground by the hunter stationed upon or behind this rock. Lone Rock, in Bellville township, is located but a few rods south of the highway and it was originally egg-shaped, resting on its larger end. It was about forty feet in diameter at the surface of the ground, and the exposed portion though now reduced to fifteen was about twenty-five feet in height. This rock, in the early days, in the absence of groves and buildings, was an attractive object to the passing emigrant, and when the first settlers came to this county, about ten years later, they found the inscription, "1848," painted on the south side of it, or more correctly, cut with a red stone chisel or hammer. By its towering height, it became a conspicuous landmark, guiding the lonely traveler on his way, and in its grateful shade the weary pilgrim sat down and refreshed himself.

Another large boulder, 20 feet high and 30 feet in diameter at the surface of the ground, might have been seen in the early days on the west side of the SW.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, (Harrold farm) Lincoln township, six miles north of Lone Rock; but only the base of it now remains. The fact was noticed by the early settlers that the ground



SKETCH MAP OF THE INTERIOR COAL REGION OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

Throughout the shaded portions, the surface rock formations belong to the Carboniferous or coal-bearing strata.—From the Iowa Geological Survey, through the courtesy of Samuel Calvin, State Geologist.



around these large boulders was removed to the depth of about two feet on the south and east sides. The cause of these depressions was not very clear, but most persons attributing them to the standing or burrowing of the wild animals that frequented them as places of shelter, called them "buffalo wallows."

The boulders, found chiefly in the later drift, constitute a very conspicuous and characteristic feature of it although they form but a very small proportion of its bulk. In Northwestern Iowa there are two varieties of them, some being composed of granite (quartz, feldspar and mica) and others of quartzite. Those of granite formation are by far the most numerous and some of them are prodigious in size.

Pilot Rock, a huge granite boulder along the Little Sioux river in Cherokee county, was so high and afforded the Indians a survey of the surrounding country so extensive that they called it the "Big Stone" and the river near it Stone river. They left upon it the only inscriptions that tell of their occupancy of this territory. A similar boulder,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from Waterloo, 28 feet high, 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, after the removal of the earth around it, but originally projecting only eight feet above the ground, has become famous because in 1890, this giant monolith after resting undisturbed for countless years and buried by the deposits of ages, was converted into building stone and then transformed into a large and beautiful stone church in the city of Waterloo—the First Presbyterian. In its rough state it was estimated to have weighed more than 2500 tons.

These boulders generally have a somewhat rounded form but seldom present any appearance of having been waterworn, as the pebbles do. Their rounded forms seem to be due

to the concretionary character of the mass of which it was originally a part.

Rocks have been formed chiefly in two distinct ways; first, by being solidified from the molten state by cooling, and second, by being spread out in layers or strata, through the agency of water. The primary rocks, or those of the Azoic age, were formed in the way first mentioned, if we accept the supposition that the entire mass of our earth was, in the first period of its life, in a molten state. This primary formation is called granite and it is generally believed to be the oldest variety or type of rock open to our observation. In all parts of the earth wherever the base of the aqueous (formed by water) or stratified rocks has been upheaved to the surface, that base has been found to rest upon granite. This igneous (formed by fire) type of rock forms the base of the stratified rocks everywhere, and at one period the surface of the earth was entirely composed of it. Granite is the oldest and most durable of all rock formations; it is a close, compact body composed of fragments of other stony matter so firmly cemented together by heat that the whole forms one solid mass without any indication of pores, fissures or layers.

#### THE GLACIAL PERIOD.

It is the general belief that the boulders and all the later surface drift, in which they are chiefly found in Iowa, were accumulated and transported here through the agency of ice, during the glacial period that occurred subsequent to the carboniferous age; and that the earlier and later sheets of drift indicate two distinct eras of the glacial period. Glaciers are accumulations or streams of ice 200 to 5,000 or more feet deep, fed by the snows and frozen mist of regions above the limits of perpetual snow, and they descend 4,500 to 7,500 feet below the snow line before the heat of summer

melts them, their movement being somewhat similar to that of cold pitch. It is believed that during the earlier era, as indicated by the earlier sheet of drift, the glacier covered the greater part of North America, extending approximately as far southward in the Mississippi Valley as the line of the Ohio and Missouri rivers; that the later glacier, as indicated by the later sheet of drift, extended as far south in Central Iowa as Des Moines and that both glaciers gradually receded northward, the later one within the limits of the frigid zone, where it is now producing phenomena similar to those seen in the drift of Iowa.\*

Each era of the glacial period must have been one of elevation of the northern part of this continent, accompanied with a very low temperature, and the period was followed by one of unquestioned depression, resulting in a higher temperature that caused the disappearance of the ice in immense floods along the valleys. The former was the period of the gathering and transportation of the earth and boulders, and the latter the period of their deposition and distribution by the inland waters.

The rocks, large and small, in the bottom and sides of a glacier, make it a tool of vast power, as well as magnitude, for scratching, plowing and planing the earth and rocks over which it moves. The grinding of the rocks against one another and those of the bottom against those underneath it produces very fine powder which forms the deposit called boulder clay or drift.

The most convincing proof of the northern origin of the boulders is found in the fact they can be traced northward to their original ledges. The brownish red quartzite boulders, occasionally found throughout Northwestern Iowa, have been traced to

their native ledges, the quartzite exposures in the extreme northwestern corner of Iowa and the southwestern part of Minnesota. This quartzite boulder is not found north of these exposures of the Sioux quartzite ledges mentioned, nor further east, even in Iowa, than a line nearly due south from New Ulm, Minnesota, their most eastern exposure. The buff-colored magnesian boulders of the southeastern part of the state have been traced northward to their original ledges in Northeastern Iowa and Southeastern Minnesota. And the granite boulders, found throughout all parts of the state but most plentifully in its northern half, have been traced to the granite cliffs in the region of country north and west of Lake Superior.

The drift in which the boulders are found, contains other materials which indicate that a great part of it has also come from another section. The earlier or lower part of the drift is a bed of clay that usually contains no marine fossils but only drifted logs and other accumulations of vegetable material. In the later drift fossils are occasionally found, but, like the boulders, instead of representing the period when the drift was formed, they invariably belong to the eras of the older rock formations.

Rare substances, such as lumps of copper, impure coal, pieces of wood and other traces of vegetation found near the surface of the earlier drift have either been transported to this section and therefore are strangers in it as certainly as the granite boulders; or, as is stated by McGee in regard to the latter, "The remains of ancient trees, logs and stems of coniferous woods are so widely distributed as to prove that the older drift sheet was covered with soil and clothed with forests before the later ice invasion commenced."\*

\* Dana.

\* Iowa Geological Survey, 1892, p. 141.

A mass of copper found in Lucas county, south of Des Moines, must have traveled 460 miles southward, if it came, as is most probable, from Keeweenaw Point, south of Lake Superior, the nearest known district of native copper.

#### WOOD IN WELLS.

In sinking a well a few years ago on the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, Lincoln township, then occupied by Charles Kezer, at a depth of 96 feet, the workmen, who were using a 24-inch auger, struck the decayed trunk of a very large tree, pieces of which, six inches in length, were brought to the surface. The large size of the tree was indicated by the fact the auger was embedded its full width in the tree. The workmen were able to distinguish the bark from the body of the tree and the latter resembled cedar wood. A few pebbles were found underneath the log. The clay in which it was embedded began within six feet of the surface and extended as far as they continued to bore, 110 feet.

Similar logs have been struck by the well-diggers in Sherman, Cedar and other townships of this county. Some pieces of wood found at a depth of 60 feet in a well on the farm of John Bartosh, Center township, are before us as we write; they are very light and most of them look like cedar. The wood thus found in the drift is not petrified nor converted into coal, but is merely mineralized so that it is but slightly combustible. We cannot suppose that these trees grew in this section while the drift was accumulating any more than they now grow in the glacial region of Greenland unless it were during the period between the earlier and later drift. The forests whence this wood came were no doubt northward, but their exact location probably can never be known.

Geologists unite in calling the era when the drift of Pocahontas county and throughout Iowa was formed the

Glacial period, under the idea that ice either in the form of icebergs or glaciers, which is more probable, transported the earth, pebbles and boulders of the drift. Glaciers, like those of the Alps, are known to have transported these materials long as well as short distances and to make scratches upon the rocks beneath them precisely like those found at Burlington, Council Bluffs and other places in Iowa.

The trees over a continent of great forests were rooted up or broken off with the first movement of the ice and either partly ground up or carried and deposited with the drift, sometimes in beds of vegetable material, at other times as scattered logs, limbs and roots.

The subsequent melting of the glaciers resulted in a long period of immense floods while the waters were subsiding, and their boundaries finally became limited to the great lakes in the north and the Gulf of Mexico in the south. After the subsidence of the flood many lakes along the rivers disappeared and the rivers dwindled to about one-tenth their former size.

"The valley in Clinton township, that commences near the place where Pilot creek enters the Des Moines river and, extending southward, first as a deep ravine, to the Van Alstine farm on sections 24 and 25, then broadens out into the stone quarry flat, has been a section of considerable interest to those whose attention has been attracted to it. Here the ledges of limestone seem to have been upheaved by some mighty force that has broken and seamed the original layers in all directions, as if by an explosion while the rock was heated; and the stones when struck with a hammer, give that sonorous sound peculiar to rocks and bricks that have been subjected to a great heat. It is worthy of notice that the Des Moines river makes a sharp bend eastward, north

of this locality, after meandering southward about seven miles, and Lizard creek, at a point nine miles further south, makes a similar sudden turn southward. Throughout this intervening elevated or apparently upheaved district, which includes a portion of the western part of Humboldt county, good drainage can be had by drilling into the rock until a fissure has been found. The largest slough in the eastern part of Pocahontas county on sections 28 and 29, Clinton township, has thus been drained subterraneously."<sup>\*</sup>

Whilst the condition of the surface of Pocahontas county before the Glacial epoch cannot be fully known, yet at the close of that period, both it and the state of Iowa consisted comparatively of a uniformly level plain, unmarked by any strong features and without any completed system of surface drainage. After the recedence of the glaciers and the subsidence of the floods incident thereto, numerous shallow depressions were left upon the surface filled with water, thus forming lakes, ponds, swamps and sloughs. The slough, found midway between the swamp and the upland prairie, was a characteristic feature of this region. Most of the lakes and sloughs are found in the localities in which the streams have their sources, particularly the elevated slopes along the watershed, where they have remained because no accumulation of water beyond has sent currents across them to cut channels for their outlet.

#### FLOWING WELLS AND FOUNTAINS.

Flowing fountains in the channels of the streams are not unusual, but upon the prairies they are rarely found. In Pocahontas county the following ones have been noted:

In a body of native timber north of the home of the late Philip Russell, on Sec. 2, Lizard township, near the

\*J. J. Bruce.

west branch of Lizard creek, there is a flowing fountain at which the water rises four feet above the ground and flows continually with a constant stream. This fountain was discovered in 1886 by John M. Russell, while prospecting for coal and he supplied it with a metallic tube with the result just stated.

The strongest spring reported in the county is located along Pilot creek, two miles east of Rolfe, where Geo. Heald in 1882 erected his cheese factory. There are in fact two constantly flowing springs only eight feet apart at this place; one is a strong spring of clear, pure, cool water and the other comes from a mineral bed, the sediment from which gives the ground a yellowish red color as it flows.

On the farm of Charles A. Hawley, NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, Marshall township, there is a flowing well located in the pasture about forty rods due south of the house. Sinking a well to the depth of fifty-five feet at this place, the water immediately rose to the surface and flowed from the mouth of the well. It was supplied with a windmill to elevate the water into a tank, but the overflow has continued, when the pump is not working, during the longest droughts.

On the Stafford farm, on the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, Cedar township, two miles southwest of Fonda, there is a flowing well that was sunk a few rods from the west bank of Cedar creek, in 1886, by David B. McKillips, the former owner of the property. This well was sunk with a large auger to the depth of sixteen feet and then with a three-inch auger to the depth of thirty-eight feet, when water rose to the surface. A small tube was inserted in the lower part of it, and for a number of years the water was made to flow into a trough by means of this tube. In 1895, a six-inch iron tube was forced to the bottom of the well, and the upper part of the well being filled

around it, the water now rises and flows constantly into a tank two feet above the ground.

Since the removal of the surface water by the drainage of the sloughs, especially since the long continued drought of 1894, when the lakes of this county for the first time in their history became dry, most of the springs on the prairies together with the streams fed by them, have disappeared and many shallow surface wells that rendered efficient service for many years, have been rendered useless. To supply the increased demand for good drinking water for man and beast, those engaged in the sinking of wells have found it necessary during recent years to change from the bored to the drilled well, ranging from 75 to 200 feet deep, in order to obtain a greater and more permanent supply of water.

#### LOAM OR SURFACE SOIL.

The fine, dark-colored loam or sur-

face soil of the drift in Pocahontas county, is a vegetable mold formed principally from organic matter that has decayed without submergence in water. It contains unoxidized carbonate of lime and peroxide of iron; and its materials are so thoroughly pulverized and commingled that it absorbs the water of a freshet like a sponge and holds it for a midsummer drought. It is soft, warm, rich in organic matter and easily cultivated. It yields to the plow like "cheese to the knife" and is capable of producing crops of cereals for many successive years without showing signs of exhaustion. It yields agricultural and horticultural products in a region in which the pioneer hesitated to settle because of the absence of timber, but which is now marked by its large herds of cattle, fruitful vineyards, abundant crops, capacious barns and commodious farm-houses.

## V.

### FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

"Westward, the Star of Empire takes its way,"  
Thus sang a poet once in early day,  
But had he had the happiness to lodge  
At the Wahkonsa tavern, in Fort Dodge,  
As kept in fifty-five, by William Hodge,  
His visions of the west would then expand  
To vast proportions.—JOHN HAIRE.

#### THE LIZARD SETTLEMENT.



THE first settlements in Pocahontas county were made in the southeast part of it and in the year 1855. Previous to that date many had passed westward through

this section to the regions beyond, and numbers of roving trappers and hunters had here very profitably pursued their vocation, but no one had made an actual or permanent settlement. The establishment of the military post in 1850, and of the United

States land office, November 5, 1855, together with its location due west of Dubuque and north of Des Moines, made Fort Dodge a place of unusual prominence and importance at that time, and new settlements radiated from this place, as a common center, in all directions.

In February, 1855, James Hickey, accompanied by Hugh Collins, passed up Lizard creek from Fort Dodge and selected claims, the former on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, Lizard township, Pocahontas county, and the latter a claim on the section adjoining this one on the east, which was across the line in Jackson township, then Humboldt but now Webster county. The latter also at this time selected a claim for his brother Michael Collins, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, a half mile southeast of Hickey's in Pocahontas county. Michael Collins, accompanied by his wife and three children, arrived August 9, 1854, and located on the claim his brother had selected for him.

James Hickey built a little cabin on his claim but did not put a roof upon it, nor occupy it to any extent, but lived with the other settlers for whom he worked. After a few months, or when his corn had been husked, he returned to Fort Dodge and worked for a man by the name of Mahoney until the spring of 1856, when he met Charles Kelley and sold to him his interest in his claim and cabin which were estimated to be worth \$300. He had about ten acres of ground broken and planted in corn. This piece of breaking, the first in the county, was commenced by Hugh Collins, his neighbor and friend in Jackson township, with whom he lodged most of the time. His little crop of sod corn, also the first raised in the county, was thrown into his vacant, unfinished cabin and the wolves ate or destroyed a great part of it. He was about twenty-five years of age and in the month of July, re-

turning to Pennsylvania where his wife remained, he came back to his claim with the family of Michael Collins, in the following month. When he sold his claim he located in the vicinity of St. Paul, Minnesota.

On the arrival of Michael Collins and family, his brother Hugh assisted him to build a log cabin. Moving into it as soon as it was completed, the family of Michael Collins became the first resident family of Pocahontas county. He continued to reside in the county for many years, and when in 1860, the office of county supervisor was established in Iowa, he had the honor of being chosen, at the ensuing election, a member of the first Board in this county for the year 1861, and Treasurer of the county for two terms following that date, 1862-65.

Michael Collins was a native of Clare county, Ireland, where he married Bridget Spellacy, who still survives him, he having died at Clare, Webster county, September 3, 1898, at the age of 77 years. His family consisted of three sons, Patrick and James, both of whom died young in Ireland, Bridget, who cared for him after his retirement from business, and M. T., who resides on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, Lizard township. The latter at the age of twelve years, coming with his father to the Lizard settlement in 1855, is one of the first settlers in the county and he was a member of the Board of County Supervisors six years, 1887-1892. His wife, Miss Fannie Haire, of Fort Dodge, was one of the first teachers in the settlement, teaching the school in the Calligan district from January to May, 1865, in the log building built by Dennis Connors in 1857 on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1. She had twelve pupils and they are all living at present, namely—Henry, Charles and Anna Kelley; Edward, Thomas, Mary, Ellen and Maggie Calligan; Patrick and Edward Forey; John and James Mulholland. Their son, W. J. Collins, whose

portrait appears in the Lizard group, is now practicing law at Clare and editor of the Clare Examiner.

Michael Broderick, a young man of nineteen years and brother-in-law of John Calligan, it is affirmed, was also a resident of this county in 1855. He laid claim to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Lizard township, and held it until 1858, when he sold it to Patrick Calligan, and a year later went to Linn county where he married and followed railroading for several years. He is now a prosperous farmer in Harrison county. He served as clerk in the Lizard precinct at the time the first election was held, March 15, 1859, and carried the returns and first poll books of Lizard precinct to the cabin of David Slosson, then elected as the first county Judge, (at Old Rolfe) in Des Moines settlement.

The pre-emption claims of James Hickey, of Michael Collins and of his younger brother, Hugh Collins, were all located by them before the U. S. land office was opened at Fort Dodge, and hence no fees or price was yet paid for the land. They and Michael Broderick were the only settlers in that locality during the year 1855, and all of them had come from the same place in Pennsylvania. To Hugh Collins belongs the distinction of having been the first settler in Jackson township, Webster county, and of turning the first furrow in Pocahontas county.

We see the cabin of the lonely pioneer,  
Upon the prairie as the sun is sinking;  
The clapboard roof leaking at the rear,  
The walls scarce holding their rough  
chinking.

During the year 1856, a considerable number of families located in the southeast part of the county, among whom were the following: Charles Kelley, John Calligan and his brother Patrick, Roger Collins, John Hugh, Walter Ford, Philip and John Russell, Dennis Connors, Henry (Frederic and William, 1857,) Brockschink, who arrived in the spring; James Donahoe,

Michael Walsh, Patrick and his brother Owen McCabe, who came in the fall of the year.

Charles Kelley had spent the previous winter south of Fort Dodge. He bought the claim of James Hickey on Sec. 12, Lizard township, completed his unfinished cabin and moving into it occupied it until 1865, when he built a log house that he continued to occupy as long as he lived, (1890) and which his wife and several members of the family still occupy.

The cabin of Hickey, occupied by Charles Kelley, commencing with the first election, held March 15, 1859, became the polling place for the Lizard precinct for several years, and the proposed site on his farm lacked but one vote of becoming the county seat at the time it was decided to erect the first court house at Old Rolfe.

Mr. Kelley was a native of Ireland, and coming to America in 1842, located first in Canada, then in Ohio, where on March 30, 1855, he married Rhoda Gall, who survives him and has lived on their pre-emption claim nearly forty-three years. They began to occupy their claim on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, May 26, 1856, and on September 17th following it was entered for record at the U. S. land office in Fort Dodge, when they paid \$1.25 an acre for it. They raised a family of nine children, and at the time of his decease, at the age of 73 years, they were the owners of 800 acres of land, all of which, except 80 acres, is in the possession of the family at present. Charles Joseph Kelley, their second son, born May 6, 1858, was the first boy born in Lizard township and his portrait appears in the township group. He graduated at the Rush Medical Institute, Chicago, in 1892, and since that date has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Burlington, Iowa.

John Calligan and family, consisting of wife and three children, arrived at Fort Dodge May 13, 1856, and located

on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Lizard township, adjoining on the south the claim on which Michael Broderick, his brother-in-law, had squatted the previous year. Both of these claims, which were on Sec. 2, were entered and paid for in cash at \$1.25 an acre on July 3, 1856, which is the earliest date on which any lands in Pocahontas county were entered or sold. There is one other entry on this same date and it is that of Michael Collins for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13. The only other entries in 1856 were by Dennis Connors, July 16th, for the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1; Roger Collins, Sept. 15th, for the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23 and Chas. Kelley, Sept. 17th, for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12.

The cabin of John Calligan, built in July, was the first one erected in 1856. It was built of unhewn logs taken from the native timber on the premises and the roof was constructed of split clapboards covered with dirt and prairie sod. It had a large fireplace in the east end of it and on "Christmas Eve" some logs were rolled in and the fire kept burning all night. The burning of the Yule log on Christmas Eve was an event of considerable interest in those days since there was little or nothing in the way of variety to attract attention. He occupied this log cabin about seven years and in 1863 built a larger house of hewn logs and sawed lumber, hauling the latter from Boonsboro, the first county seat of Boone county.

During his first year Mr. Calligan raised a good crop of potatoes and sold some of them the following spring at \$2.00 a bushel. He had seventeen acres of fine looking corn that had been planted and cultivated with a hand hoe after the sod had been turned, but a severe frost on the 16th day of September completely destroyed it. He was a good hand with the flail and many a crop of wheat did he pound in the cooler weather with this rude implement for the man of mus-

cle, using a bare spot of ground for a threshing floor, before the arrival of the threshing machine. The first sack of flour bought at Fort Dodge, weighing 100 pounds, cost him \$10 and bacon 17 cents a pound. Salt was 7 cents a pound and butter was also 7 cents a pound, but the farmer could not get a pound of salt for a pound of butter, because the former had to be paid in cash while the latter was payable in trade. To appreciate this apparently anomalous statement it must be remembered that all groceries and store goods had to be hauled on wagons from the Mississippi river, a distance of nearly 200 miles, and there were but two stores in Fort Dodge, the one kept by Major Williams and the other by John Haire. There was a great demand for salt and it was a cash article while butter was neither in demand nor its price payable in cash.

There were about twenty acres of timber on the claim of Mr. Calligan and forty acres on the adjoining claim of his brother-in-law, Michael Broderick. This timber, which was along the banks of Lizard creek, was full of game, such as beaver, mink and muskrat. Mr. Calligan had never engaged in trapping, but when he found the Indians and others came long distances for that special purpose and were often very successful, he began to do so, too, and realized an annual income from this source ranging from \$100 to \$130 for several years. Many a time did Mrs. Calligan carry a sack of furs all the way to Fort Dodge, twenty miles distant, and return the same day lugging her purchases.

On one occasion in the winter of 1857, Mr. Calligan saw an otter at a distance moving in the direction of a spring. He managed to get near the spring without being observed, and when the otter arrived it showed signs of battle, until he laid it low with a whack from a club he had provided for that purpose. This otter weighed



about thirty pounds and he received \$6.00 for its fur in Fort Dodge.

Mr. and Mrs. John Calligan are still living, and reside at Gilmore City. Their daughter Maggie married first to Morris O'Conner, who died in 1885; and later to James Whelan, residing at Emmetsburg, was one of the first children born in the county, and her portrait may be seen in the Lizard group. Their son, Edward M. Calligan, taught the first public school at Fonda in the winter of 1870-71, when Cedar formed a part of Lizard township; and T. J. Calligan, another son, resident of Gilmore City, was a member of the Board of County Supervisors for three years, 1884-86.

Patrick Calligan, John's brother, was killed through an accident in the fall of 1856, and his death was the first one that occurred in the county.

Roger Collins located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, and entering it as a pre-emption claim Sept. 15, 1856, made his last payment and received the official certificate of ownership from the government, called a patent, on Nov. 9, 1859. He improved and occupied this claim until 1871 when he sold it to Jacob Carstens, who held it until about 1890 and sold it to Henry Stickelburg, who still lives on the adjoining section, number 14.

In February, 1865, Roger Collins entered the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24 as a homestead, and the claim lapsing he re-entered it March 1, 1870, and obtained the patent for it in September following. A short time thereafter he sold it to his cousin, Hugh Collins, who died about the year 1888, and it is now owned by his son, Michael J. Collins, of Clare. The "Collins Grove," embracing about 200 acres of natural timber in Pocahontas and Webster counties, but chiefly in the former, is still in possession of the Collins' families. At the time of his decease, Hugh Collins was the owner of 240 acres in the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 24, Lizard

township. He was regarded as one of the most hospitable men in the Lizard settlement and became also one of the wealthiest.

Patrick Collins was a member of the first school board in 1860, when the Lizard district was organized. About the year 1865 he moved to Webster county and died there in September, 1897.

Walter Ford, now a resident of Clare, was one of the first to locate in Pocahontas county. He took an active part in all matters relating to the organization of the county and was honored by a seat with the Board of County Supervisors, 1874-1876. He is a native of Ireland, and in April, 1856, at the age of twenty-three years, came to this county and laid claim to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, Lizard township, and for two years his home was in this county, while he spent a considerable part of the time at work in Fort Dodge. During the first year his pre-emption was occupied with him by Thomas Crole, a brother-in-law, who was holding and improving an adjoining claim on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section. During the second year it was occupied with him by Patrick McLarney, who the previous year had married Ellen, the sister of Mr. Ford. His claim was entered May 19, 1858, and the patent was issued Nov. 1, 1859. His marriage occurred in the spring of 1860, and from 1861 to 1870 he resided at Fort Dodge and was engaged first in teaming and afterward as a contractor for the building of cellars.

In 1870, he returned to the farm which, in the meantime, had been occupied by Michael O'Shea, now at Manson, and William Price, the father-in-law of James J. Bruce. He continued to reside on the farm a period of twenty-four years, or until 1894, when he removed to Clare. His wife died in 1892. Their family consisted of nine children. They still own and

occupy the original pre-emption claim and altogether nearly one thousand acres of land in Pocahontas and Humboldt counties. For eleven successive years 1883-1893, just previous to his removal from it, Mr. Ford was a justice of the peace of Lizard township. The old home is now occupied by Walter P. Ford, his eldest son, who in 1894 married Elizabeth O'Neil, of Lizard township and for a couple of years thereafter engaged in the grain and general merchandise business in Clare.

Dennis Connors entered as a pre-emption claim the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, Lizard township, July 16, 1856. The following year he built a log house upon it and it was occupied by himself, wife and child, until the spring of 1860, when they moved to Independence. His father-in-law, Dermidy, came with him, but the latter did not become an actual settler.

This log house of Dennis Connors' was located near the highway, a few rods south of the creek, and for two successive seasons it was used as a school house. The first teacher who taught school in this building was Philip Russell, a resident of the Lizard settlement and then Clerk of the District Court, and the second was Miss Fannie Haire, now Mrs. M. T. Collins, whose term extended from January to May, 1865. These were the first teachers in the Calligan district. The antique building they occupied was taken down and used for fuel a few years after the erection of the frame school house in this district in 1865.

Dennis Connors and family in 1860, moved to Independence where he died, he having sold his claim to Michael O'Connors, (no relative) who died in 1862. Mrs. O'Connors, wife of the latter, held it until the time of her decease, in 1884, since which date their son Michael O'Connors has continued to own and occupy it.

The first deed recorded in Pocahontas county is that of the bargain and sale of this property, (SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1) made and executed May 7, 1859, by and between Mary Connors and Dennis Connors her husband, party of the first part, and Michael O'Connors, party of the second part, for \$400. This deed was acknowledged before Erastus G. Morgan, notary public, and witnessed by E. D. G. Morgan.

Whilst this deed was the first one recorded, the second and third ones on record both bear an earlier date. The second one was executed April 19, 1859, before John C. Bills, a notary public of Scott county, (who not long since was a prominent member of the democratic side of the lower house of the legislature of Iowa,) and was the transfer of 320 acres of Sec. 12, now Washington township, by Adelia B. Smith, of Scott county, to Edwin H. Lansing, of Wyoming county, N. Y., for \$1000. The third deed recorded is of still earlier date, namely, Feb. 4, 1859. It is the deed of Isaac P. Coats and Laura S. Coats, his wife, of Scott county, to Adelia B. Smith, of the same place, for eighty acres on Sec. 12, also in Washington township. It will be perceived that the last two were between investors or speculators, and only the first one was between actual settlers; it may have been for this reason it was placed first on the records.

Philip Russell was a native of Ireland, came to America in 1850 and to Webster county in 1854, where he located near Fort Dodge for two years. The Russell family consisted of himself, his mother, two sisters Catherine and Mary, and one brother, John. While residing at this place Philip came to Pocahontas county and located as his claim the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, (T. 90, R. 31,) Lizard township, embracing 160 acres. In 1856, the family moved upon it and the work of improvement was begun.

His claim was entered for record May 29, 1858, and the patent for it was issued Sept. 5, 1861. In August, 1860, he married Ellen, a sister of Michael Broderick and of Mrs. John Calligan, then residing at Fort Dodge.

On April 22, 1866, he entered another claim, namely, for the E $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, (90-31) eighty acres, and on April 27, 1871, this entry was renewed for the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , 40 acres, of the same section, and the patent for this last tract was issued Sept. 25, 1872. At the time of his decease, at the old pioneer home in 1893, at the age of seventy, he was the owner of 360 acres of land on sections 2, 3 and 10, Lizard township, all of which, except 80 acres, are still in the possession of the family.

Mr. Russell was a man of unblemished integrity and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He received a good common education and was the first one in the Lizard settlement to engage in teaching school, he teaching the first term in the log cabin erected by Dennis Connors, in the winter of 1863-4. He also taught several terms in other districts. He was a good penman and accountant, and wherever there was need for a scribe his services were in demand.

He was one of the first justices of the peace in Lizard township, and served as clerk for the township sixteen years, while his two sons, John M. and Michael J., served six years afterward, making twenty-two years that that office has been held in his family.

During the four years from 1862 to 1865, he had the honor to serve as Clerk of the District Court of Pocahontas county, the county seat at that time being in Des Moines township. The last year of service thus rendered was by appointment, first on the part of W. H. Hait, who had been elected to the office and appointed Mr. Russell a deputy to take charge of it, and later

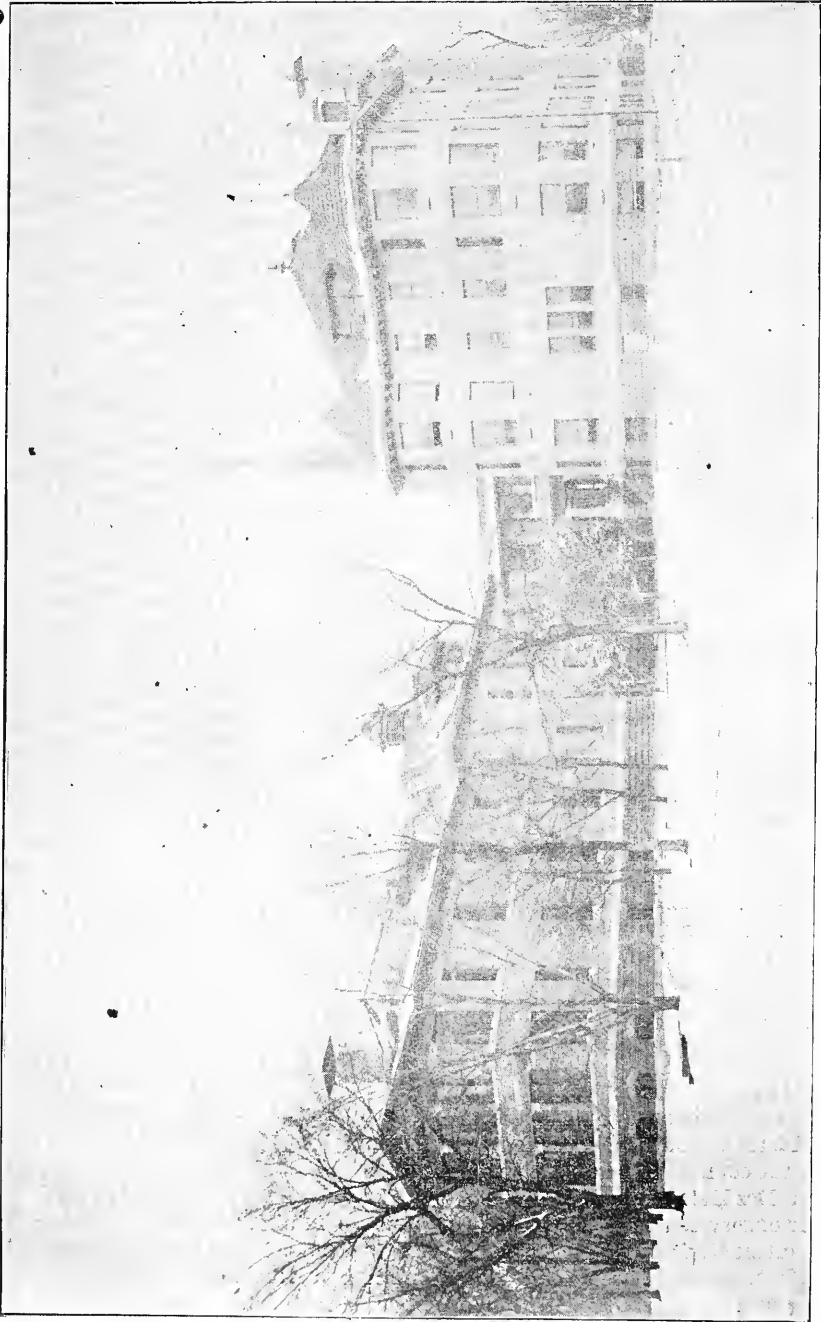
by the Board of Supervisors when in March (1865) Mr. Hait resigned the office in his favor. During the next two years 1866-67, he was a member of the Board of County Supervisors.

His wife at the age of sixty-two years survives him and occupies the old home on Sec. 2. Their family consisted of eight children, seven of whom are living, and several of them have earned well merited eminence as teachers in the public schools of the county. The family is represented in the Lizard township group by the portrait of Michael J. Russell, the sixth in the order of birth.

John W. Russell, Philip's brother, also located in Pocahontas county. He selected as a pre-emption the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34 (91-31), Lake township, 160 acres, making the entry June 7, 1858, and receiving the patent for it Sept. 5, 1861. He enlisted in the war of the rebellion, August 14, 1862, as a member of Co. I, 32d Iowa infantry. After his return from the war he died unmarried.

Henry Caspar Brockschink and wife, coming to Pocahontas county in the spring of 1856, laid claim to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 91-31, 160 acres, which he entered for record July 8, 1856. This was the first entry of lands in Lake township, and it was made nearly two years before any other entry was made. The house of Mr. Brockschink was of course the first one in the township. It was built of logs from the native timber along the north branch of Lizard creek. It was 20x24 feet and about 18 feet in height. For several years this was the most northern home in the Lizard settlement.

In the fall of 1857, his two brothers Frederick and William Brockschink came and made their home with Henry and his family. In the following spring a band of Sioux Indians camped along Lizard lake about three miles northwest of this grove, and three of them visited the Brockschink home.



MEDICAL HOSPITAL OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, IOWA CITY.—It contains seventy-five beds and a large amphitheater for clinical purposes.

Mr. Brockschink was absent at the time, but his brother Fred and George Rifenstahl, who had been hunting, returned in time to meet them on the premises. After some parleying between the two young men and the Indians, one of the latter grabbed the unloaded gun in the hand of Fred Brockschink, wrested it from him and then ran away with it.

The Brockschinks remained on this farm until the fall of 1858, when they leased it to Patrick Forey, who became famous for casting the next year the decisive vote that resulted in the erection of the first county court house in the Des Moines, instead of the Lizard, settlement. Forey and family occupied it six years, and in 1865, Dennis Mulholland bought it from Henry Brockschink for \$1500, and moving upon it that year this property has been owned and occupied by the Mulholland family since that date. The Brockschinks went first to Clay county and afterward to Webster City, where they now reside.

In the fall of 1856, Patrick McCabe arrived, accompanied by his brother Owen McCabe and James Donahoe and family. Patrick McCabe located on Sec. 24, 90-31, (Lizard township,) but did not enter his claim for record for a number of years. On Sept. 23, 1864, he entered the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , 40 acres of this section and renewing this application May 10, 1870, received the patent for it Sept. 10th following. Later he obtained 120 acres additional in the south half of this section, and on this farm he continued to reside as long as he lived. It is now owned and occupied by his two sons, Peter and James J. McCabe, between whom it has been divided, and his wife who still survives him, makes her home with them. His brother, Owen McCabe, remained but a short time in this county.

In the fall of 1861, when Michael

Collins, the first county supervisor from the Lizard district, was chosen county treasurer, Patrick McCabe was elected his successor on the Board of County Supervisors and was continued a member of that Board for four years, 1862 to 1865. After the county canvass of the votes cast at the general election of 1863, he was appointed to represent the Board of this county in the canvass of the vote for senator in this, the 43d district, at Sac City, and for this service received \$50.00. To appreciate this fee it must be remembered that it represented the salary of the County Judge for an entire year, at that period in the history of this county.

James Donahoe arrived in 1856 and located with a family consisting of himself and wife—Ann Garrahan—and five children, on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, 90-31, (Lizard township,) with the intention of pre-empting it, but when, after the lapse of two years, he went to the U. S. land office at Fort Dodge to enter his claim for record, he was surprised to find that the entire section on which he was living belonged to the grant made by the State of Iowa to the Dubuque and Sioux City, (now Illinois Central) Railway Company. Having erected improvements upon this land he continued to occupy and enjoy them five years longer, and in 1863 moved to Johnson township, Webster county, where he still resides, at the age of 85 years.

While living on this supposed pre-emption claim, a daughter, Rose Ann Donahoe, was born, Feb. 23, 1857, and she was the first white child born in Pocahontas county. Her portrait may be seen in the Lizard township group. In the year 1892, she became the wife of Patrick J. Crilly. They reside at Clare and have a family of five bright children—three boys and two girls.

Thomas Donahoe, James' eldest son, is cashier of the State Bank of Clare,

and Peter M. Donahoe his brother, is a resident of Sec. 36, Lizard township, where he owns a half-section of land. The latter married first Miss Ellen Condon, who, in the fall of 1860, taught the first public school in the Lizard settlement, in a log house built by Patrick Collins at the southwest corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13 and commonly called the "Pioneer School House." Mr. Donahoe (Peter M.) was one of the pupils that attended this first term of school in the south part of the county taught by Miss Condon, who later became his wife. After her decease in May, 1879, he was married to Annie Carey. Two of the elder children who came with James Donahoe to Pocahontas county in 1856, namely, Charles and Mary, died during the seven years' residence of the family on section 25, and his wife died in 1895.

With James Donahoe and family there came also his wife's parents, namely, Peter Garrahan and his wife Rose Reilly, both born and married in Ireland, who, coming to this country in 1846, resided ten years in Pennsylvania. Mr. Garrahan died in Pocahontas county about the year 1859, at the age of 56 years, and his wife in Webster county in 1877, at the age of 73 years.

Michael Walsh came to this county in September, 1856, and located a pre-emption claim on Sec. 14, 90-31, (Lizard township,) that he has continued to own and occupy until the present time, a period of nearly forty-three years. On June 8, 1858, he filed his claim for the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14, 40 acres, and received the patent for it July 10, 1861; and on April 24, 1865, he filed a homestead claim to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section, 40 acres, and renewing this claim May 3, 1870, received the patent for it September 10th following.

His family began to live upon his pre-emption claim in the spring of

1857, and his daughter Mary, born April 10, 1858, was the fourth child born in this county. For a number of years she has been one of the leading teachers of Lizard township.

Mr. Walsh has not been ambitious for political honors either in the county or his own township, but has endeavored to prove himself an aggressive farmer and afford to his family, not merely their share of the comforts of life, but also the best facilities for their moral and intellectual improvement. When the first fields were enclosed in the Lizard settlement in the year 1867, Michael Walsh was among the number of those who had one enclosed, the others being Michael Collins, Charles Kelley, John Calligan and Michael Broderick. And when in 1870, two quarter sections were enclosed, Michael Walsh had the first one and Hugh Collins the other. The cost of the wire at that time was \$8.00 a hundred. Among the old settlers of the Lizard settlement he has been considered the most careful and economical as a farmer and has acquired considerable wealth by the honest toil of himself and family. He is now the owner of 160 acres and his son William J. Walsh is the owner of 240 acres, making 400 acres in possession of the family at present and all of it is located on sections 11 and 14, Lizard township.

His home was along the trail from Fort Dodge through Lizard, Lincoln and Swan Lake townships to Spencer, and for a number of years he kept an inn for the entertainment of travelers and hunters. He and his estimable wife were hospitable entertainers, and many a weary traveler "bid to stay," whiled the long evening away at this ancient hostelry, either listening to or relating some interesting incident that occurred in the early days.

1857.

During the year 1857, there arrived

the families of John Quinlan, Michael Donovan, Patrick Forey, Thomas Ellis, James Gorman, Patrick McLarney, Thomas Crole, Patrick Collins and others.

John Quinlan located his family on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, 90-31, (Lizard township,) 80 acres, and on April 29, 1865, entered it as a homestead claim. This claim was renewed May 3, 1870, and he received the patent for it Sept. 10th following. In 1871, after fourteen years' residence on this homestead, he sold it, moved to Webster county and now resides at Clare. His homestead was owned for a while by William Condon and after his decease by his wife Margaret, and at present by their daughter, Mary Condon.

Mr. Quinlan, after the organization of the county in 1859, was the first one of the Lizard settlers to make the assessment of Lizard township. Previous to the organization of the county, all residents of the Lizard settlement were assessed and voted as a part of Webster county, to which they were temporarily attached for revenue and judicial purposes. The assessment of the Lizard settlement in 1859 was made by W. H. Hait and in 1860 by Oscar Slosson, both of whom were residents of the settlement in the northeast part of the county, the county at this date being included in one township. Later that same year, Lizard township was constituted and in 1861, John Quinlan became its first assessor and for five successive years, 1861 to 1865, he performed the functions of that office.

Patrick Forey, who in 1857 located with his family on the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 91-31 (Lake township), was a native of Galway county, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1835. In 1846 he in company with his nephew, Thomas Burke, established and during the next ten years managed a wholesale feed and provision store in St. Louis, Mo. In 1856 he came to

Webster, and the year following to Pocahontas county. His homestead contained 100 acres, and entering his claim for record June 12, 1858, he received the patent for it March 15, 1860. During the six years 1858 to 1864, he rented and lived on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section, known as the Brockschink or Mulholland farm. He then bought and moved upon the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Lizard township, (the Michael Broderick farm) where the family remained for twenty years. On the frontier in those days there was an apparent necessity that every home should be open for the entertainment of the wayfarer, and Mr. Forey endeavored to combine the public entertainment of travelers with farming while he lived upon the Brockschink farm. In 1885 he moved to Pocahontas and for two years kept hotel in what is now known as the "Ozark Flats." In 1887 he moved to Lake township and in 1891 died there in his 81st year. His wife Eliza Quinn, daughter of James Quinn, Esq., of Kildare county, Ireland, survives him and resides in her own home at Pocahontas, at the age of 77 years.

Mr. Forey was a brilliant conversationalist and possessed that warm heart and ready wit for which the people of his native country have been noted. He was the first republican who located in the Lizard settlement and for several years was the only one in it. He was very enthusiastic in defending and advocating his political views, and at the special election held November 15, 1859, to determine whether or not the voters of Pocahontas county would approve the proposed contract of the County Judge for the erection of a court house in Des Moines township and a bridge over the Des Moines river near it, both payable in the swamp and overflowed lands of the county, he is said to have cast the decisive vote and thus became Lizard's "famous poli-

tician."

The tradition concerning this interesting incident is as follows. It was perceived by those interested, that there were just twenty-one votes in the county at that time, of which ten were in the Des Moines and eleven in the Lizard settlement. All in the Des Moines settlement were united and very earnest in their desire to have the public building and bridge provided for in the contract. But as the time of the election drew near, those in the Lizard settlement perceiving the great advantage these public improvements would be to their friends in the north part of the county and remembering that their own settlement was the oldest and therefore justly entitled to them, concluded not to approve the proposed contract, indulging the hope that by some subsequent arrangement the public building might be erected on the farm of Charles Kelley, on Sec. 12, Lizard township. Inasmuch as Mr. Forey's home was the furthest north in the Lizard settlement and also because of the fact he held different political views from the rest of them in that settlement, his vote became the subject of special interest to both parties. The Des Moines people felt their need of it and expressed their desire he would vote with them, while those in the Lizard settlement finding he was not likely to vote with them, delegated one of their number to challenge his vote and, if possible, prevent him from casting it against them.

This election was held in the home of William Jarvis, in the Des Moines precinct, and it is said that, having been thwarted in several direct attempts to vote, during the latter part of the day, moving backward inadvertently, he got close enough to the ballot-box to hand in his ballot without observation on the part of his political opponents, and thus gave the

measure voted for a majority of one vote.

In 1856, when Patrick Forey arrived in Webster county, he selected as a pre-emption claim the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, Jackson township, 160 acres, and erected upon it a frame house, for which he drew the lumber from Border Plains, about twelve miles southeast of Fort Dodge. This house was located in the Lizard settlement, about one mile east of the Pocahontas county line, and while Mr. Forey occupied it, Father McCulloch, of Fort Dodge, began to celebrate mass in it once a month. This home thus became the place where the first religious services were held in the Lizard settlement.

As his title to this land was disputed, Mr. Forey abandoned it the next year and located on another claim on section 36, Lake township. After securing the patent for this claim he sold it to Charles Kelley. While he lived on the adjoining or Brockschink farm, where he kept hotel, his nearest neighbors on the north were distant twelve miles, on the east thirteen miles and on the west, at Sioux Rapids, forty miles.

At the time of the massacre of the settlers at New Ulm, Minnesota, by the Indians in 1862,\* the county seat of Buena Vista county was at Sioux Rapids. When all the settlers fled from that vicinity, Messrs. Moore and Jameson, two of the public officers of Buena Vista county, carried with them the records and seals of that county until they reached the home of Patrick Forey, on the Brockschink farm. Presenting Mr. Forey with a carbine they requested him to keep these public records until they should be called for, and then passed on farther east. They did not call for them until the lapse of three weeks, when they returned and carried them back to Sioux Rapids. About the

\*Page 42.



year 1860, Mr. Forey had traded for an 80 acre farm near Sioux Rapids, intending to make it his home, but afterward sold it to Wm. S. Lee, one of the Buena Vista county officers at this time. The fact that the public records were entrusted to his personal care at this time of danger, was no doubt due to the acquaintance formed through these transactions.

In 1860, Patrick Forey was drawn as one of the first jurors in the county, the others from the Lizard settlement being James Donahoe and Roger Collins.

At the first election held in Clinton township, in the fall of 1860, he was one of the judges of the election board and, being chosen at that time one of the first trustees of that township, held that office for four years. After he moved with his family to Lizard township, his son, Patrick J. Forey, served as a justice of the peace eight successive years, 1875 to 1882.

Patrick McLarney, who in 1857 married Ellen, a sister of Walter Ford, occupied the latter's claim in Lizard township in 1858. He continued in the county until about the year 1865. He was chosen secretary of the school Board of Lizard township when it was first organized in 1860, and served as clerk for the township nearly three years during the period of 1862 to 1864.

James Gorman pre-empted the  $S\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $S\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, 90-31, (Lizard township) 160 acres, making the entry June 11, 1858, and receiving the patent for it April 10, 1860.

Patrick Collins, an elder brother of Michael, in the fall of 1857, with a family consisting of wife and three children—one son and two daughters—located on the NE $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, 90-31 (Lizard township) eighty acres. The patent for this homestead was issued to Patrick Collins, Jr., Sept. 1, 1869, the claim having been filed June 6, 1863 and renewed July 1,

1868.

1858.

During the year 1858, a few more settlers came to the Lizard settlement among whom were Thomas Crowell, Mrs. Bridget Vahey (Sec. 13), Thomas Quinlan (Sec. 2), Thomas Prendergast (Sec. 4), and possibly a few others; but they remained only for a short time in the settlement. After this there were but very few, if any additional settlements made in the south part of the county, until after the close of the war.

#### EMBARRASSING EVENTS.

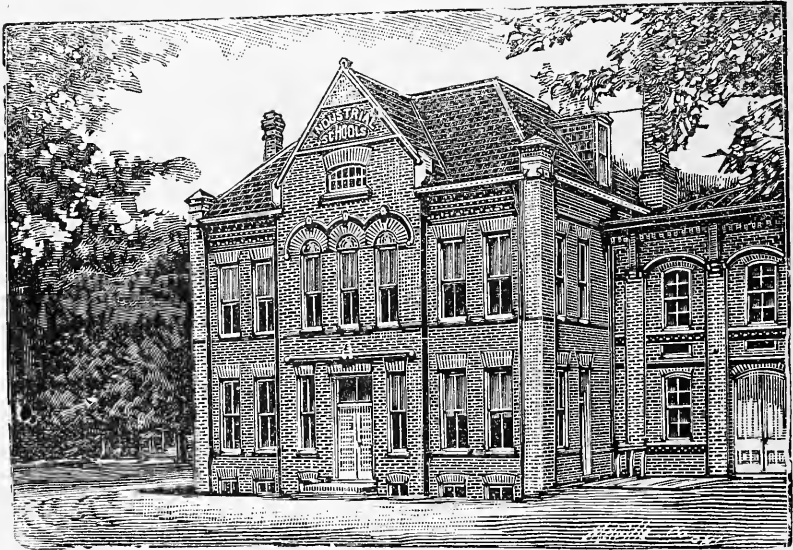
Two events had occurred that for a few years made the situation and circumstances of those who were on the frontier in this section embarrassing and tended to check further immigration. The first was the grant of a title to every alternate or odd numbered section of the vacant and unappropriated lands, for six sections in width on each side of certain lines of railway that proposed to cross the state of Iowa at that time. The act of congress making these grants to the state of Iowa, was approved May 15, 1856, and the General Assembly of Iowa accepted and appropriated these lands to the several railroads to be built across the state in an act that was approved July 14, 1856. Their title to these lands on the part of the Dubuque and Pacific (now Ill. Central) railway having been certified by the U. S. land office at Fort Dodge for the east three tiers of townships of Pocahontas county, and by the land office at Sioux City for the west tier of townships, was approved by the Department of the Interior, Dec. 27, 1858. The early settlers were naturally attracted to the vicinity of the proposed routes of these railways, but these grants of the alternate sections within six miles of the proposed road, affected many of them quite seriously. Those who had located claims on these

sections under the U. S. pre-emption law of Sept. 4, 1841, at \$1.25 an acre, and had not previously filed their claims for record, now found they had no claim to their frontier home, and many in consequence abandoned them. Another result within the six-mile limit was, that from that date all the pre-emptions on the even numbered sections were limited to 80 instead of 160 acres, and the government price was increased from \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre. The news of these changes did not circulate in the public press as they do now, and when they occurred many a settler was taken by surprise.

Another cause of embarrassment that checked immigration was the financial panic of 1857, when a great part of the money of the country, is-

sued by private banking institutions, became worthless. So serious was the stagnation in business throughout the country that the railway companies, notwithstanding the magnificent grants of land received from the state of Iowa, were unable to make any progress in the construction of their lines across the state until after the close of the war.

During the year 1858, nearly all of the lands in Clinton and Lake townships were disposed of by the U. S. land office at Fort Dodge, but the records show that they were purchased, not by actual settlers but by non-resident investors or speculators. These lands were beyond the six-mile limit and were available for purchase at the nominal price of \$1.25 an acre.



Center Building of Industrial School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs.



WM. H. HAIT,  
TREASURER AND RECORDER, 1859-61.  
TREASURER, 1866-69.



MRS. W. H. HAIT,  
First Teacher, 1860.



MRS. ROBERT STRUTHERS.

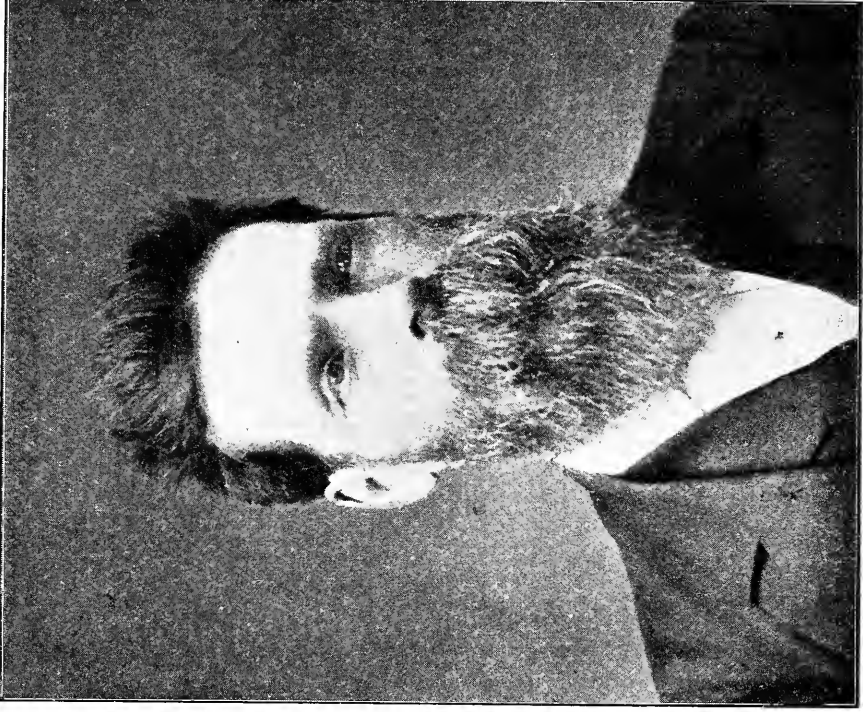


MRS. OSCAR F. AVERY.

**DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.**



ROBERT STRUTHERS,  
SURVEYOR, 1860-69; REPRESENTATIVE, 1872-73.



WM. D. McEWEN.  
(In 1874.)

## VI.

## FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHEAST PART OF THE COUNTY.

'Tis well to sing the merited word of praise,  
 Of heroes in fierce martial strife;  
 But heroes, too, are they who raise  
 The standard of a nobler life,  
 Therefore we hail the pioneer,  
 Whose strong arm helped to found a state,  
 As one whose name we may revere,  
 And hold in common with the great.

—A. R. FULTON.

## THE DES MOINES SETTLEMENT.



THE first settlements in the north part of the county were made in what is now Des Moines township and in the year 1857.

In May of that year a party of pioneers, consisting of Robert Struthers, W. H. Hait, A. H. Malcolm and Guernsey Smith, came from Fort Dodge with an ox team and selected homes.

At this date there were no settlers in this county, except the few already named who during the previous year, had located in the Lizard settlement. Daniel W. Hunt and James Smith had each selected a pre-emption claim on section 36, in what is now Des Moines township, and had built a shanty on the line between them; and J. E. Craig had built a little cabin on another claim located on section 26. But none of these persons were occupying their claims at this time. Benjamin Evans and a trapper by the name of Weeks, both living in Humboldt county, were the nearest actual

settlers.

Concerning the three men named above who built the first two shanties in the Des Moines settlement, it may be observed that Craig did not enter his claim for record, but James Smith, who on June 11, 1858, entered for record his claim for lots 3 and 4, containing 77 acres on section 36, received the first patent issued to anyone in Des Moines township, and D. W. Hunt, who seems to have made his entry January 2, 1858, and renewed it July 2, following, for lots 5 and 6 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 93-31, 141 acres, received the second patent, issued Aug. 15, 1860. These men, Messrs. James Smith and D. W. Hunt, were residents of the county only for a short time.

In selecting claims, Mr. Hait chose the southeast quarter of section 2, A. H. Malcolm the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Guernsey Smith the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section and Robert Struthers the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12. Mr. Struthers during the summer secured the breaking of considerable prairie and the next year the erection of a shanty, into which he moved with

his family in December, 1858. Messrs. A. H. Malcolm and Guernsey Smith erecting their shanties, began to occupy them at once. They were somewhat familiar with this section of country, having passed through it during the months of March and April of that year, while on the way to and from Spirit Lake, where they went as members of the Relief Expedition from Fort Dodge at the time of the Indian massacre that occurred March 8-11, 1857.\*

During the summer of that same year (1857) a man named Bates, located with his family on section 36. About the same time Samuel N. Harris and Edward Hammond arrived with their families, but both located for a year or two just across the line in Humboldt county.

Only two of those who located in the Des Moines settlement in May, 1857, are still residents of the county, namely, W. H. Hait and A. H. Malcolm.

"Only wild beasts, and men as wild,  
Were known to this fair valley then,  
But Nature in her beauty smiled,  
To greet another race of men."

William H. Hait is at present the owner and occupant of 280 acres on the S½ Sec. 26, Des Moines township. He has been the owner of his present farm for forty years and a resident of the township and county for forty-two years. Only Mr. and Mrs. Michael Walsh, Mrs. Charles Kelley, Mrs. Philip Russell, Mrs. Patrick Forey and M. T. Collins, of the Lizard settlement, and A. H. Malcolm, can tell of a residence in the county so long. The first house Mr. Hait erected on this farm in 1859, was of logs from the native timber and is still in existence as a relic of the past. The large and comfortable house he now occupies was built in 1867, and the

\*Through the courtesy of the editors of the *Reveille*, Mr. Malcolm's own account of their thrilling experiences on this occasion, may be found on page 35.

lumber for it was hauled by teams from Nevada, Story county, at which place the price paid was, for shingles, \$7.00 a thousand; flooring, \$70.00 and finishing material \$90.00 a thousand feet.

Mr. Hait is a native of Ulster county, N. Y., where he remained in the home of his parents until he had attained the age of twenty-two years and, after one year spent in Wisconsin, he came to Pocahontas county. In 1868, he married Helen M. Harvey, daughter of Ora and Eliza Harvey, of Clinton township.

Miss Harvey, who at this date became his wife, had the honor to be the first school teacher in Pocahontas county and was also the first one to teach school in the first schoolhouse erected in the county. Her first term was taught in the log house of Mr. Hait, in the fall of 1860, and when the brick schoolhouse at Old Rolfe was built the year following, she taught the first term in it. Miss Harvey had inherited a high degree of culture and refinement and had received a thorough academic education before coming to the frontier. It was but a natural sequence of these special qualifications that her work was very highly appreciated both by her pupils and patrons. She died December 27, 1887, and her remains were interred at Humboldt, where they lie beside those of her parents and of her only sister, Jennie S., who became the wife of Oscar F. Avery.

In the early history of this county, Mr. Hait was a leader in thought and action, and throughout his official career proved himself strictly honest and upright, or as another has expressed it, "one of the best men who ever held public office in Pocahontas county."

At the first election, held March 15, 1859, for the organization of the county, he was elected Treasurer and Recorder of the county and performed

the duties of these two public offices during the first three years of the county's history, 1859 to 1861. During the early part of this period there lived in his home Oscar F. Avery, who on March 20, 1860, was appointed Superintendent of Public Schools, and thus became the first one to serve in that capacity in this county. On May 6, 1861, Mr. Avery having moved to his own farm just across the line in Humboldt county, Mr. Hait was appointed his successor and, as the second incumbent in the county, held the office of county superintendent until April 22, 1862, when he resigned, and Ora Harvey (father of Helen M.) was appointed his successor.

In the fall of 1864, Mr. Hait was elected Clerk of the District Court, but after appointing Philip Russell, the previous incumbent, his deputy, a few months later he resigned the office in his favor. The next fall he was again elected County Treasurer and served in that capacity during the four years, 1866 to 1869, making a period of seven years that he filled that office. At the first election, held March 15, 1859, Mr. Hait was elected township clerk, and on April 19th following, he was appointed Assessor for the township which, during that year for both of these offices, embraced the entire county. On October 12th, the same year, he qualified as a Justice of the Peace. In Des Moines township he has rendered faithful service in all of the various offices, except those of constable and road supervisor. During the period of the war, 1862 to 1864, he served as deputy provost marshal of the 6th congressional district which, extending from Black Hawk on the east and Carroll on the south, embraced thirty-three counties of Northwestern Iowa.

Mr. Hait has been one of those who believe

“We live in deeds, not years;  
In thoughts, not breaths;

And he lives most who thinks most,  
Feels the noblest and acts the best.”

Augustus H. Malcolm, who came to this county in 1857 with Mr. Hait and others, is now the owner and occupant of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, Clinton township. On Sept. 9, 1859, he entered his pre-emption claim for lots 8 and 9, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, 93-31, (Des Moines township) 149 acres, receiving the patent for it Nov. 1, 1860. On these same dates his neighbor and friend, Guernsey Smith, entered and received the patent for lots 5 and 7, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , 149 acres, of the same section.

On September 14, 1861, Mr. Malcolm married Mary A. Townsend, whose mother lived south of Fort Dodge. On August 23d, previous, he had enlisted at Old Rolfe, and a few days after his marriage he went to the army. At the time he was mustered in at Dubuque, Sept. 20, (1861) he was appointed Corporal, and later, Sergeant of Co. A, 11th Reg. of Penn. Volunteer Cavalry, under command of Col. Samuel P. Spear, which formed a part of the 18th Corps of the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. McClellan. He continued in the military service of his country three years, or until Sept. 20, 1864, and participated in more than a dozen battles.

Mr. Malcolm took an active part in the organization of this county in 1859, and at the first election was chosen Clerk of the District Court, but did not qualify. On May 6, 1861, at the third session of the Board of County Supervisors, he was appointed Clerk of the Board and served in that capacity until September 2d, following, when he went to the army. After his return he was elected and served as Clerk of the District Court of Pocahontas county during the year 1866. He served five years as Clerk of Clinton township, and during 1869 and 1870 was a member of the Board of County Supervisors. Ora P. Malcolm, his

eldest son, is at present and for several years has been deputy Treasurer, and Fred A. Malcolm, the second, was County Surveyor during the four years, 1894 to 1897.

During his absence in the army his wife went to his friends in New York state, and after his discharge they spent one year in Ohio. Making the journey from Ohio to Old Rolfe by team in the fall of 1865, they located on their present farm on section 1, Clinton township. They have raised a family of seven children, all of whom but two, have gone forth from the parental roof to found comfortable homes of their own. Mr. Malcolm has rendered honorable and faithful service to his country, both in the time of war and peace; and he has lived to see the desolate wilderness traversed by him and others with unspeakable hardships in the spring of 1857, transformed into a beautiful Eden, with fruitful fields conveniently connected with a network of magnificent railways and dotted with numerous rapidly growing towns and cities, and thousands of comfortable homes.

"What hath he seen of change—this aged one—  
As days unfolded and the years swept on?"

First the prairie schooners  
On emigration's trail,  
Then rough-hewn huts of settlers  
Besprinkling hill and dale;  
The felling and the clearing,  
The stretch of smiling farms;  
The tilling and the sowing,  
The gathering into barns;  
The schooling of the children,  
The rising of church spires,  
And the smoke of many fires."

Robert Struthers, who in May, 1857, selected a pre-emption claim on Sec. 12, 93-31, (Des Moines township) was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, where he was born, Dec. 26, 1829. In April, 1831, he came with his parents to Chat eau gay' (Shat-o-gay') county, in the Province of Quebec, Canada, where on March 19, 1853, he married Susan

McEwen, a sister of Wm. D. McEwen, Esq. Their home at this time was in a timber country, fifty miles southwest of Montreal. Here his mother, Ellen Watson, died when he was seven years of age, and his father, Andrew Struthers, in June, 1858; their family having consisted of four sons—Robert, who was the eldest; James, who located near West Bend, after seven years spent in Australia; Andrew, who went to Nebraska, and William, who also became a resident of Des Moines township, this county.

Robert Struthers, during the first three years after his marriage was engaged in building railroad bridges in the Province of Ontario. At this period, which was but a few years before the outbreak of the war of the rebellion, and about as many subsequent to the transition from a territorial to a state government in Iowa, the attention of those seeking new homes was directed to the rich and fertile but unoccupied prairies of this newly organized state. When the tide of emigration had reached the north central part of the state, Mr. and Mrs. Struthers decided to leave the associations of home and kindred and seek their fortunes as pioneers of this new and as they verily believed "better country." Accordingly, in January, 1857, they came to the United States and began the journey to their frontier home in the West, intending to proceed direct to Fort Dodge; but owing to the severity of the winter and unusual drifts of snow, they stopped at Aurora, Ill., until the month of April, and then leaving there his wife and one child—William E.—Mr. Struthers passed to Dubuque (the terminus of the Illinois Central) by rail, and from thence to Fort Dodge by stage, paying for the latter form of transportation at the rate of seven cents a mile for the first 100 miles and nine cents for the second 100 miles. The amount of baggage carried free



of charge was limited to forty pounds and all excess of that amount was charged at the regular passenger rate on an estimate of 150 pounds to the passenger. On this occasion there were nine passengers in the stage and they arrived at Fort Dodge on the 4th day of May. The day of their arrival was one of public sale of government lands in Hancock and Winnebago counties. There were only a few buildings on the site of the present city of Fort Dodge and they were already filled to their utmost capacity, so that Mr. Struthers had to go a half-mile out of town to find a lodging place. On that day he bought a quarter-section of land in Bingham township, Hancock county, that he continued to own as long as he lived. The sale on that day was called from an open window and the street was filled with a dense crowd of people for a considerable distance around it.

When he arrived at Cedar Falls he received his first intelligence of the Spirit Lake massacre that had occurred two months before. At this place he encountered a number of covered wagons moving east, that were filled with frightened people who expected the Indians would soon raid the entire northwest part of the state.

After locating his claim in Des Moines township and doing some work of improvement upon it, Mr. Struthers bought a lot in Fort Dodge and erected a small house on it. Then, about the latter part of June, with a mule team he returned to Dubuque where he awaited the arrival of his family and household effects and loading them in his wagon brought them thus to Fort Dodge. About two weeks were occupied in this trip across the country and they were fortunate in having beautiful weather and good roads. After a residence of one year in Fort Dodge, in the fall of 1858, they moved to the log shanty

built that year on their claim in Des Moines township. This shanty, 16x16 feet, which was one of the first half-dozen in the settlement, and served as the family residence for fifteen years, in 1873 was replaced by a fine, large dwelling house that now stands, not upon the wild, open prairie, but upon one of the most beautiful, highly improved and best cultivated farms in the country. Here a sturdy family of three sons and four daughters grew up around them, or went forth from the parental roof to found new homes of their own. They continued to reside here until 1893, when the venerable patriarch, accompanied by his wife and two members of the family, moved to Rolfe to spend the remainder of his days. The decease of his faithful wife occurred in her 70th year, June 9, 1897, and his own noble career was ended in his 69th year, Sabbath evening, September 18, 1898.

Mr. Struthers bought more land as he was able but did not sell an acre, and at the time of his decease in addition to the home in Rolfe, was the owner of 1240 acres of land most of which was located in Des Moines township, where two of his sons still reside; William E. married to Alice Price, on section 3, and Andrew J. married to Etta Parkins, at the old home on section 12. The entry for the 120 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of this section which he claimed as a home by right of pre-emption in May, 1857, seems not to have been made until Nov. 16, 1866, and the patent for it was issued Nov. 20, 1883. His daughter Ellen, wife of Richard S. Mathers, who lives one mile east of Rolfe, was the first white child born (January 1, 1859) in the north part of the county. Susan, married to Col. J. B. Kent; Grace, married to James McClure; Maggie J. and Robert A. all reside at Rolfe.

During the first forty years of this county's history this noble-minded

man was a conspicuous and influential factor. He was a man whom neither Indians, blizzards, grasshoppers nor even hard times could frighten from his purpose "to found a home in the west and grow up with the country." He was a man of public spirit and rendered service in his own township and county in an official capacity, for a longer period of years than any other man in the county except possibly W. H. Hait. In 1859, at the time of the county's organization, he was chosen one of the justices of the peace for the township which then embraced the county, and at the time of his decease in 1898, he was mayor of the city of Rolfe and a justice of the peace for Clinton township; and there was not an intervening year he did not have some official duties to perform.

In the fall of 1859 he was elected county surveyor; for this office he was the first one to qualify and was the only incumbent of it during the next ten years. In 1865 and '66 he served two years as County Recorder.

In 1872-3 he had the honor to serve as the first representative from this county in the legislature of Iowa. The district then embraced Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, and his election was secured without any opposition from an opposing candidate. This legislature was distinguished by the fact it held two sessions. At the first session in 1872, there was adopted the present mode in Iowa of assessing and taxing the property of the railroads and Wm. B. Allison was elected to the U. S. senate. At the special session held in 1873, the Code of Iowa was arranged and prepared for publication later that same year.

For fifteen years in succession, 1878-1892, he was Assessor of Des Moines township; and from its organization in 1859 to 1893, the year of his removal to Rolfe, he held the office of Justice of the Peace almost continu-

ously. While serving in this capacity he performed the first marriage ceremony in the north part of the county. This wedding occurred July 18, 1861, at the home of Samuel N. Harris, and the contracting parties were his daughter Elizabeth Harris and W. S. Feagels, a trapper, who later homesteaded the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, Des Moines township.

Robert Struthers was the first person to receive a certificate of naturalization in this county and it was issued to him Jan. 3, 1860, at Highland City, (later Old Rolfe) by Samuel N. Harris, Clerk of the District Court. This certificate was recorded and reads as follows:

"Robert Struthers, a native of Scotland, having resided five full years in the United States and one full year in the state of Iowa, immediately preceding this date, and having made proof of being a man of good moral character and well disposed towards the institutions of this country, and having declared on oath that he has absolutely and entirely sundered and abjured all allegiance to any foreign king, prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain, of whom he was late a subject, and on oath declares that he will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution of the State of Iowa, it was ordered that the said Robert Struthers be admitted a citizen of the United States of America."

In the spring of 1860, when the first school election was held, Mr. Struthers was chosen one of the three members of the first board of directors of the Des Moines district, which then embraced all of the county except what was included in the Lizard district. His intelligence and energy as a member of this board, enabled him to exert such an influence that there has been accorded to him the honor of being "The father of Pocahontas county's school system, and that it has become a worthy monument to the memory of its founder."

He had the honor to serve as chairman of the first republican convention held in this county; was chairman of the county central committee many years in succession in the early days and, with a single exception, attended every republican county convention held previous to 1881.

When the Pocahontas County Bible Society was organized at Old Rolfe in 1867, he became a loyal supporter of it and served as president of that organization from that year until the time of his decease, a period of thirty-one years.

Hon. James F. Wilson, late U. S. senator from Iowa, addressing a public meeting held in this county, at which he was presiding, paid him the compliment that like others of his countrymen, "Robert Struthers was a hardy son of toil, raised on oatmeal and the Shorter Catechism."

Dr. Johnson, the well-known English writer, referring to this plain diet of his neighbors once rather wittily described oats as, "In Scotland food for Scotchmen, but in England food for horses." He was well answered however, by the indignant Scotchman who replied, "Yes, and where can you find such men as in Scotland or such horses as in England."

Mr. Struthers was a man of very positive convictions in matters relating to religion, morality and politics. He was a firm believer in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the Word of God, and both in business and politics, forced the question, "Is this right or is it wrong?" He was a total abstainer from the use of all intoxicating liquors, (the first it has been said, in the county) and believing it to be the duty of the state to prohibit the traffic in them wherever it was possible, he was always ready both to defend and advocate the cause of legal suasion. He was a man of practical ideas and methods. According to his own statement he became a

republican in politics while he resided in Ontario in 1855, when that party was organized in Philadelphia and framed a platform in regard to slavery and the protection of American industries that received his hearty endorsement. His political principles were subordinated to and made to harmonize as nearly as possible with the teachings of divine revelation, and when he cast his ballot it was for the support of the principles of truth, justice, honor and righteousness. Such a man resents with scorn the idea that he can be swayed like unstable reeds by the political winds that blow from one direction today and from another tomorrow.

Few such men are to be found in any country. He was an uncut diamond without the polish of a finished education or skill in the conventionalities of this life, yet he was a man of marked intelligence, affable, hospitable, had a good memory that retained with distinctness the incidents of early days and no one stood as his superior in honesty of purpose and integrity of character. When called upon to decide matters between neighbors, a circumstance of frequent occurrence, his decisions were always tempered with justice. And as a friend to the young he has left his memory indelibly stamped on all who came in contact with him in their struggle for a start in life.

His estimable wife, who shared with him the privations and trials of frontier life, shared also with him the noble sentiments that animated his life and to which he gave the more public utterance, "She was a true wife to true husband, clothing herself afresh to his heart as her beauty faded, with a new beauty that was to be appreciated rather than seen."

Fearless they lived, fearless they died,  
Battling always for truth and right-  
eousness;

Building monuments of worthy deeds, Fortune upon them graciously smiled, And domestic bliss was also vouchsafed.

## 1858 AND 1859.

During the two years 1858 and 1859, a number of new families located in the Des Moines settlement, among whom were David Slosson, John A. James, Perry Nowlen, Henry and William Jarvis, Ora Harvey, O. F. Avery, James Edelman, Hank Brown and John Straight.

David Slosson, in May, 1858, came to Pocahontas county, with a family consisting of his wife, Esther Vaughan, who died in 1875, three sons—Oscar, Orlando and Edmond—all of whom were young men, and one daughter, Ann, who became the wife of Romeyn B. Fish and is still a resident of the county. On his arrival, David Slosson located on section 26, and on September 28, 1858, entered his pre-emption claim for lots 1 and 2 and the  $W\frac{1}{2}$   $NE\frac{1}{4}$  of that section, containing 158 acres. His eldest son, Oscar Slosson, December 8, 1860, entered as a pre-emption the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, 160 acres, same township, and received the patent for it June 1, 1861; and Orlando, the second son, on January 18, 1868, entered as a homestead the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, 160 acres, same township and received the patent for it September 1, 1869.

David Slosson was the son of David and Esther (Vaughan) Slosson, his father being of Welsh and his mother of English descent. He was a native of Vermont, where he was born March 11, 1811, near Grand Isle. He received a good common school education, and when quite young moved to New York state, where he learned the shoemakers' trade.

At twenty he married Rachel Vaughan, a cousin, and during the next five years worked at his trade during the winter and on the farm during the summer. He then moved

to Summit county, Ohio—later to Clinton county, N. Y., and in 1846 returned to Summit county, Ohio. The next move was to Michigan, and in 1852 he came to Clinton county, Iowa, where he remained until the time of settlement in this county in 1858.

His next move was to Washington Territory, where his three sons—Oscar married to Julia Towslee, Orlando married to Harriet Halstead and Edmond married to Ellen Savage—still reside. He died there June 30, 1884. His daughter, Mrs. R. B. Fish, resides at Rolfe.

At the time of the organization of this county, David Slosson had the honor to be chosen the first County Judge and served in that capacity from March 21st, the day he qualified, to Dec. 31, 1859. The duties devolving upon this officer were those that are now performed by the Board of County Supervisors. As there was no public building in the county his cabin, which was somewhat central in the Des Moines settlement, became the seat of government for the county, and the public records were kept there until the erection of the first court house, in the fall of 1860.

His administration of the affairs of this county, though limited to a period less than one year, was unusually eventful and has been rendered memorable by three important contracts that were concluded by him in behalf of the county. These contracts related to the erection of the first court house at Old Rolfe, the construction of the first bridge over the Des Moines river and the special survey of the swamp lands of the county that they might be given in payment for the public building and bridge.

The following item from the record is of interest as showing the salary of the Judge and his systematic method of keeping the record:

STATE OF IOWA, }  
Pocahontas Co., } ss.

COUNTY COURT,  
July 9, A. D. 1859.

On this day, I, David Slosson, County Judge of said county, drew a warrant for \$12.50 for one (the first) quarter's salary fee. DAVID SLOSSON,  
County Judge.

The law creating the Board of County Supervisors was enacted in 1860, and in 1861 he had the honor to serve as a member of the first Board of County Supervisors. He also served on this Board during the years 1863 to '67, 1870 to '71 and 1874 to '79, making a period of nearly thirteen years that he served in this capacity, the longest of any incumbent in that office.

John A. James, who came in 1858, located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Des Moines township. On April 18, 1864, he entered as a homestead claim lots 7 and 8 and E $\frac{1}{2}$  of this section, containing 172 acres, and received the patent for it June 1, 1866. He was the second to hold the office of County Judge. For this office he qualified Jan. 3, 1860, and continued to serve until May 6, 1861, when he resigned. His first act was the appointment of Oscar Slosson, Jan. 9, 1860, the second Assessor for the county and on the same day he appointed David Slosson a Justice of the Peace. At the time of the organization of Clinton township in the fall of 1860, his home being included therein, he was chosen Clerk and also a Justice of the Peace of the township. He served as Clerk of the township three years, and subsequently served as Trustee and Assessor. At the general election held in the fall of 1863 on the home vote he was declared elected to the office of Sheriff for the county by a majority of two votes. But when the soldier vote was received and a new canvass made, about one month later, Abiel Stickney, the rival candidate, won the office by a majority of two votes. There were but four soldier votes returned, but in this in-

stance they were sufficient to reverse the decision of the home vote.

Perry Nowlen and Julia A., his wife, who now reside at Rolfe, in March, 1858, came to Des Moines township and pre-empted the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, 160 acres, making the entry Aug. 20, 1860, and receiving the patent April 1, 1861. They occupied and improved this claim until 1894, a period of 36 years, when they moved to Rolfe. They still own it and at the present time it is a source of pleasure to them to know that no mortgage was ever allowed to be filed against this claim around which cluster so many and varied experiences of pioneer life. They came to this claim with hands that were empty, but willing to work, and with heroic spirit they encountered and overcame the trials and privations incident to a settlement in a new country. Their pioneer home has been improved with fine buildings, groves and orchard, and they have made other purchases in addition to the home in town, so that they are now the owners of 315 acres of land and are in very comfortable circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Nowlen have had a trying experience with hard times, grasshoppers and the like, but they achieved success in spite of these evils by their persistent industry, economy and skill in farming. During seven out of nine years the grasshoppers made greater or less havoc of their crops. On one occasion from ninety acres of promising wheat he harvested not a sheaf. They survived the period of hard times by making cheese. As soon as they were able they purchased a few cows, keeping usually fifteen to eighteen, and these became the principal source of their income. Mrs. Nowlen was a skillful hand at making butter and cheese and they made butter in the cooler and cheese in the warmer weather. By this arrangement they had a marketable product

from their dairy when butter was only ten cents and not in demand. During one year, not counting what was used in the family or fed to the pigs, the manufactured product of butter and cheese sold averaged \$37.00 and during the year 1864 \$44.00 to each cow. For a considerable time Fort Dodge, forty miles distant, was the nearest post-office and for many years the nearest market, and many a time did Mr. Nowlen take his night's rest under the wagon while making this trip, which always required two days.

Mr. Nowlen was the first farmer in the north part of the county to engage in raising flax. He obtained his seed from New York state and received \$2.00 a bushel for all he sold from the first two crops. He was also the first bee-keeper in the north part of the county. His first crop of timothy seed, raised on nine and one-half acres of breaking, brought him \$244.00.

Mr. Nowlen is a native of Allegheny county, Maryland, where he was born Oct. 31, 1823. He was the son of Samuel and Rachel Nowlen and his marriage occurred in New York state, July 24, 1853. He has always been a republican but has never taken any particular interest in politics, preferring to be a practical and successful farmer. He has one son Charles, who is still at home.

Perry Nowlen, at the first *general* election, held Oct. 11, 1859, was elected Superintendent of the Public Schools of the county, but did not qualify. On Oct. 8, 1861, he was elected and on Jan. 6th, following, qualified as County Judge but resigned the office after the lapse of five months.

He who would succeed in this life,  
Must have an abundance of pluck;  
No one can win in the strife  
By trusting to what is called "luck."

Henry Jarvis, whose home near Old Rolfe, became the first voting place in the north part of the county, was a

native of England, where he was born Jan. 11, 1832. After coming to America he located first in Illinois and later at Dyersville, Iowa, where on May 25, 1858, he married Mary Tilley, (b. June 19, 1839) and accompanied by his brother William Jarvis, they came to Pocahontas county and built a log shanty in the Des Moines settlement, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, in which for several months they lived together.

Both of them selected pre-emption claims. Henry, on Sept. 20, 1859, entered his claim for lots 2, 3 and 4, 60 acres, on Sec. 24, Des Moines township, and received the patent April 5, 1862. On June 10, 1864, under the homestead law, he filed a claim for lots 7 and 8, Sec. 25, 115 acres, and renewed this claim May 5, 1870. In 1894, he purchased some land near Rolfe and building thereon, moved to town where he and his wife still reside. Their family consisted of eleven children, two of whom died young and George, the eldest, after his marriage.

Henry Jarvis was the second sheriff in Pocahontas county, and he served in that capacity 1860 to 1863 and 1865 to 1867. His cabin was the polling place in the Des Moines settlement for the first three elections held in the year 1859, and the fourth one, on Nov. 19, was held at the home of his brother William Jarvis.

William Jarvis pre-empted the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, Des Moines township, 160 acres, making the entry Sept. 20, 1859, and receiving the patent Sept. 15, 1861. He was born in Somersetshire, England, Jan. 4, 1829, and married there Sarah Sandy, March 26, 1856. Three weeks later they came to America and after one year spent in Illinois, they came to Dyersville, Iowa. From this place they came to the Des Moines settlement by ox-team, in the spring of 1858. The weather was wet, the streams and sloughs were full and frequently they had to make their own road. On their arrival they

erected a log shanty 16x24 feet, with two rooms and began farming operations with the oxen, having brought with them a year's supply of provisions. Mr. Jarvis was a good feeder, and turning his attention to raising cattle and hogs, he soon acquired a considerable fortune. After occupying their first residence fifteen years, they returned to England, and after three years they located in the town of Old Rolfe, and now reside at Rolfe.

William Jarvis, in 1860, served as coroner and drainage commissioner for the county. At the first election for the township he was chosen one of the trustees for Des Moines township and served in that capacity from 1860 to 1872, when he returned to England, a period of thirteen years.

Ora Harvey accompanied by O. F. Avery hisson-in-law, and their families came to Pocahontas county and located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, 92-31 (Clinton township). The family of Ora Harvey consisted of himself, wife (Eliza Marcy) and younger daughter, Helen M., who later became the wife of W. H. Hait. The family of O. F. Avery consisted of himself, wife (Jennie S. Harvey) and one son, Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Harvey were natives of New Hampshire but had spent the early part of their lives in the town of Weathersfield, Vermont, where their two daughters were born and grew to womanhood. Both Ora and his wife had received and appreciated the value of a good education and they provided for both of their daughters the opportunity of taking a complete academic course before leaving that place.

It was the 7th day of November, 1859, when they arrived upon their purchased frontier home in Clinton township. The winter following was extremely mild and by early spring they had a small house built that they were only too glad to occupy. The mother and her two daughters, who

were thus called upon to leave the pleasurable scenes and employments of an older and more cultured society in an eastern town for the sparsely settled settlement on the frontier, did not see another woman's face during the first six months of their residence in Clinton township. To say that this experience was to them a lonely one only moderately expresses the situation.

Under these privations their education and culture prepared them as it were to extract sweets from the many rough experiences they were called upon to endure as early pioneers. These lonely experiences were endured not only without a murmur of complaint but were oftentimes turned into pleasurable enjoyments. It must be remembered that there were only three other homes or cabins built in the township at that time and what is now the populous and flourishing township of Clinton was then a vast expanse of wild prairie.

Ora Harvey, on April 22, 1862, was appointed Superintendent of the Public Schools of this county and served in this capacity until Jan. 7, 1863. At the first election held in Clinton township in the fall of 1860, he was chosen a member of the first Board of County Supervisors and, for eight successive years, 1861 to 1868, was continued a member of that Board. At their first meeting held Jan. 7, 1861, he had the honor to be chosen its first Chairman, and as long as he was continued a member of this Board that honor was annually accorded to him. This privilege of serving as Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors for a period of eight successive years was an unusual distinction and reveals the confidence reposed in him and the esteem in which he was held. Though modest and unassuming, he possessed an unusual tact in managing his political opponents and those who differed from him in judgment. He was one

of Nature's noblemen, gentle in manner and brave in action. He was a man whom his friends delighted to honor; and during those eight years of public service, though many important items of business came before the Board, no consideration sufficed to sway him from an honest course and no event occurred to lessen the confidence of the people in the integrity of his purpose. Mrs. Harvey died July 4, 1880, and his death occurred at Humboldt.

Oscar F. Avery was born in Herkimer county, New York, July 20, 1833, and after attending public school until he was sixteen, enjoyed the advantage of one term at Fairfield Academy. After teaching public school in his own county four winters he spent one and one-half years in the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y., where he graduated in January 1856. He continued to teach school during the next three years, teaching one year in Michigan and the next in Wisconsin. His marriage occurred a short time after he graduated and his last term of school was taught in Pocahontas county during the winter of 1860, making him one of the first three teachers of the county. This school was taught in the log house built by W. H. Hait that stood upon the ground occupied by his present residence on Section 26, Des Moines township.

O. F. Avery by appointment of County Judge, John A. James, served as the first Superintendent of Public Schools of this county from March 20, 1860 to May 6, 1861 when he resigned the office. On December 24, 1860 he received \$6.00 for his services rendered as County Superintendent from the time of his appointment until that date, a period of nine months. He issued certificates to Helen M. Harvey, Ellen Condon and one or two others.

In the fall of 1860 he selected a claim of 170 acres just across the line in Humboldt county and, moving upon

it the ensuing summer occupied it nearly twenty years. During this period he and his family experienced some dark and also some bright and happy days—the former to be forgotten, the latter to be remembered and cherished while life has its claim on this planet. Engaged in the real estate and lumber business he now resides in one of the largest and most beautiful homes in the city of Humboldt and has become one of the most prominent and influential citizens of that county. His wife (Jennie S. Harvey) died August 24, 1892, leaving one daughter who still resides with her father. Her portrait and also those of her sister Mrs. Hait and their parents, Ora and Eliza Harvey, may all be seen in this volume.

James Edelman was a trapper, and though on June 12, 1859, he entered as a pre-emption claim, lots 1 and 2 and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 93-31, (Des Moines township) 134 acres, he sold it before the patent was received after a residence of one year in the county. His claim joined that of Edward Hammond on the north. At the first election held March 15, 1859, he was elected Drainage Commissioner for the county but was not called upon to perform any official duties in that capacity.

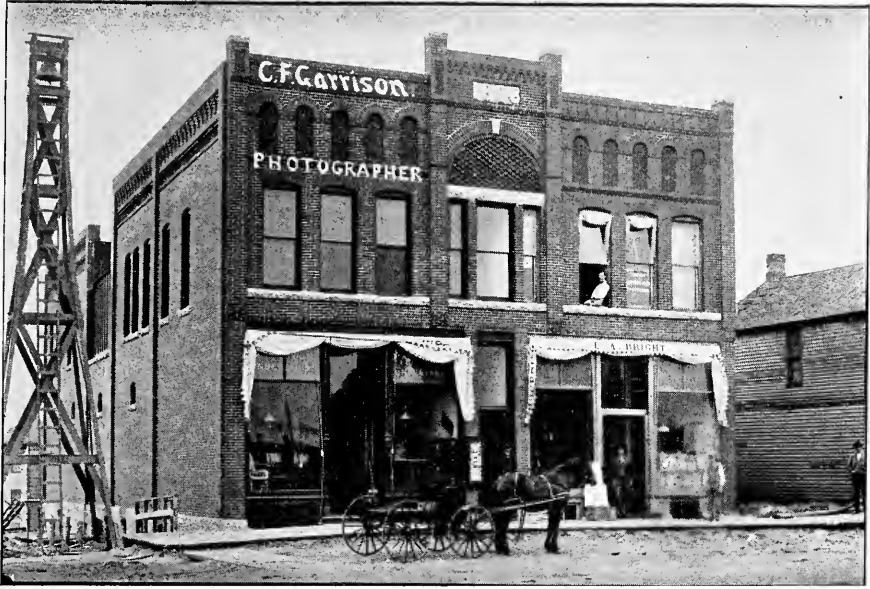
John Straight was a brother-in-law of Perry Nowlen. He came here from Wisconsin and located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, Des Moines township where he remained several years and then returned East.

Hank Brown selected the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 34, Des Moines township as a pre-emption claim and partly erected a log cabin on it, but afterward abandoning it without entry, in 1865 Wm. D. McEwen entered it with a land warrant.

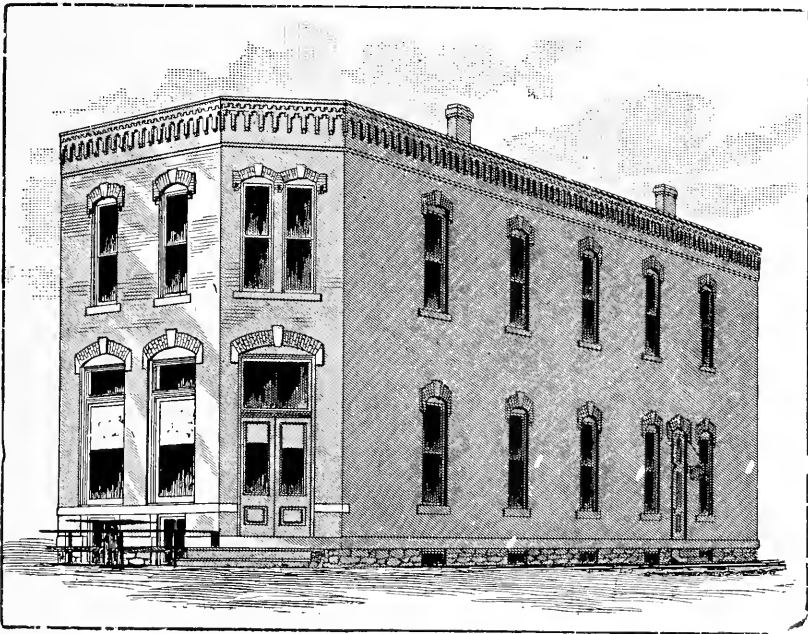
“His happy home  
A cabin in the grove,  
Seat of contentment,  
Gratitude and love.”

W. D. McEwen in July 1857 engaged

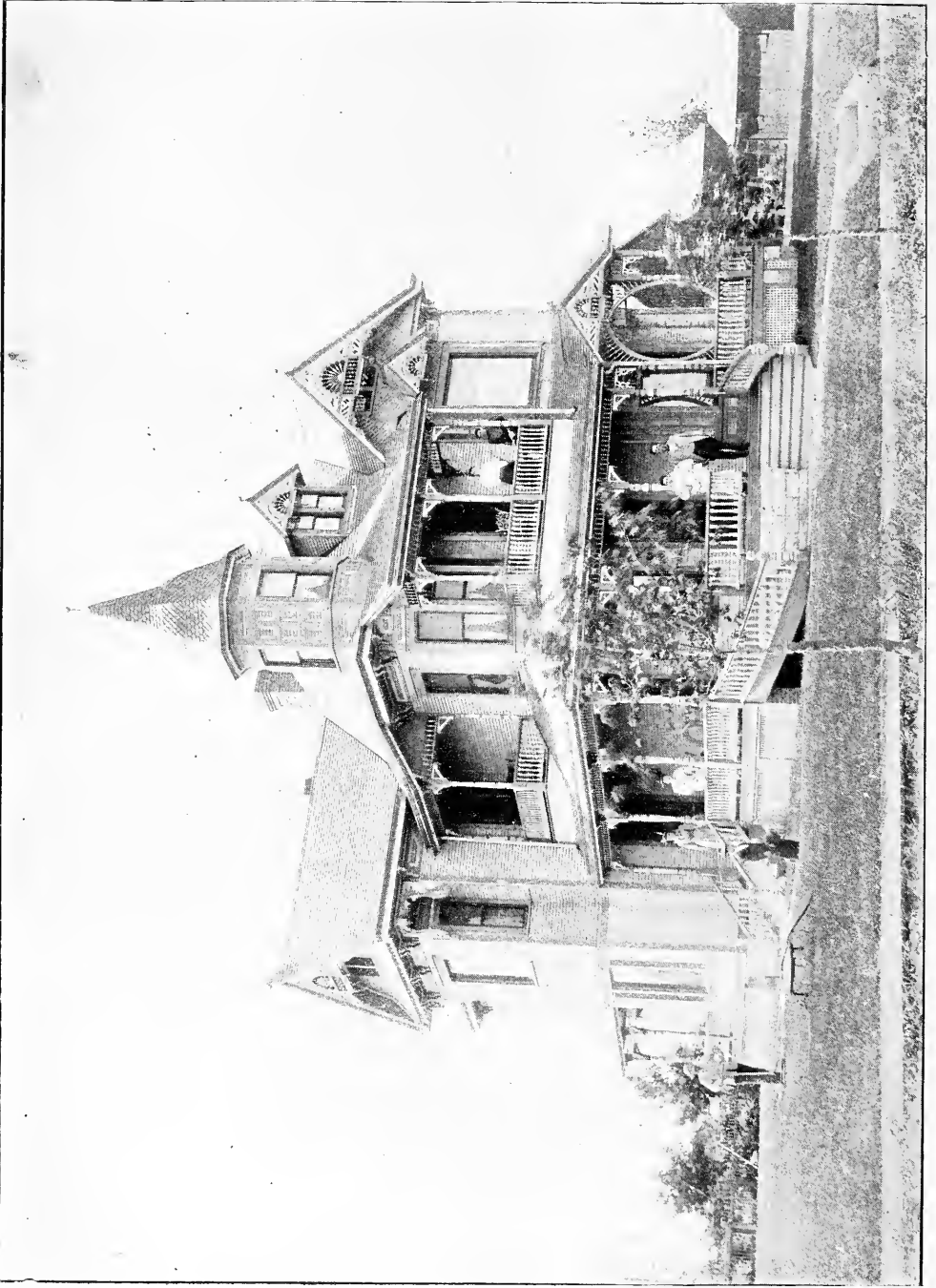




BRICK BLOCK OF C. F. GARRISON, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND  
S. A. BRIGHT, GROCER, ROLFE.



STATE SAVINGS BANK, ROLFE, W. D. McEWEN, PRESIDENT.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM D. McEWEN, Esq., ROLFE.

in carpenter work at Fort Dodge and in the spring of 1858 walked from that place to the home of Robert Struthers, his brother-in-law in Des Moines township for the purpose of locating a pre-emption claim. But finding that another man had taken the claim he had in view he returned to Fort Dodge, and remaining there during that winter and the year following, was a frequent visitor to his friends in the pioneer settlement in the northeast part of the county. In 1859 he returned to the east and spent several years in school. In 1865 he located permanently at Old Rolfe the first county seat and commencing an official career as Superintendent of the Public Schools of this county in 1866, he continued in the public service until Dec. 31, 1887, a period of 22 years. The offices filled were Co. Superintendent, 2 years, 1866 and '67, Clerk of the District Court six years, 1867 to 1872; County Judge in 1869, the last incumbent of that office; Clerk of the Board of Supervisors three years, 1867 to 1869; County Auditor four years, 1870 to 1873, the first incumbent of that office; and County Treasurer twelve years, 1874 to 1883 and 1886-87. In 1876 he was the Commissioner from this county to the Centennial at Philadelphia.

"Pay as you go" has ever been a cardinal business principle with him and finding the county \$20,000 in debt when he became Auditor, he began to use his influence to protect the credit of the county and maintain its warrants at par value. Before the close of his public career he had the pleasure to see every vestige of indebtedness removed. Few men enjoy the privilege of rendering so long a period of public service or of receiving so many proofs of appreciation from the people whom he served as W. D. McEwen. On Jan. 12, 1884, when his final accounts for the first ten years of service as treasurer were audited and ap-

proved by the Board of Supervisors, they passed a resolution expressing their sincere thanks to him for the kind, gentle and manly manner in which he had filled the office of County Treasurer so long, and presented him with the gold pen he had used, as a memento of the office. As a public officer he was uniformly courteous and considerate, and kept the records in a plain, neat and methodical manner.

He has been a loyal and ardent republican, was personally and very favorably known to every voter in the county, and no one could say aught against his qualifications or honesty. On one occasion near the close of his public career, having received the nomination for County Treasurer about the fourth time, one of his friends very wittily remarked that the only exception his opponents could take to him as a candidate, was that expressed by the young man who, being present at a wedding in a New England town, when the minister asked if any one objected to this man marrying this woman, interrupted the ceremony by stammering out, "I want her myself." So with his political opponents, they have been chiefly those who wanted the office for themselves.

He has been a persistent friend of progress and aided greatly in the development and upbuilding of the interests of this county. In 1867 he assisted in the publication of a pamphlet giving a description of Pocahontas county and inviting immigration, of which hundreds of copies were distributed in the East. In 1869 he commenced the publication of the Pocahontas Journal, the first paper published in the county, but as it could not be made a financial success it was discontinued in 1872. In 1875 he published a map of the county, and in 1876 he resumed the publication of a county paper, the Pocahontas Times, that has been continued until the

present time, though for two years under a new name—The Fonda Times. In 1878 he issued a second advertising pamphlet of the county and in 1881, 15,000 copies of another one entitled, The New Home, all for free distribution.

W. D. McEwen was born in Chateaugay county, Canada, July 9, 1838, and was the son of William and Margaret McEwen both of whom were natives of Scotland and came to the Province of Quebec in 1820. He attended public school until he was fourteen years of age and then learned the carpenter trade during the next three years, working chiefly at bridge building. This was his employment while he remained in Fort Dodge from July 1857 to the fall of 1859 and again in 1864 when he returned and completed his citizenship at that place. When he visited the Des Moines settlement in 1858 he found it a boundless wilderness and as the times were dull and his expected claim taken he decided in the fall of 1859 to enter Huntingdon Academy in the Province of Quebec and complete his education. He remained at this institution until the death of his father, who appointed him executor of his estate. As soon as the affairs of his father's estate had been settled, he arranged to return to the land of his adoption with the \$5,000 that fell to his share.

In the spring of 1865 when he located permanently in Pocahontas county, Robert Struthers, his brother-in-law, was County Recorder. Having a farm and family to look after, W. D. McEwen at once became his deputy and the work of the Recorder's office was turned over to him. As the work of this office was not very exacting nor very lucrative, he worked at his trade during the day and on the public records in the evening. Frequently the records of the entire week were written on Saturday night. During the first three years of his residence in the

county he taught school at Old Rolfe in the winter and worked at his trade in the summer. In his youth he recognized the importance of getting a good start in life; he was never idle and on several occasions, carrying his tools on his shoulder, he walked eight miles (once barefooted) in order to assist where he was needed.

On November 18, 1885, he married Jennie Matson, a lady who, like himself, was also of Puritan descent, a resident of Des Moines township and one of his own pupils when he taught at Old Rolfe. She was the daughter of William and Mary (Baxter) Matson, who located at Old Rolfe in 1867. They have one son, Donald, who is in his thirteenth year. They are still residents of the county and live at Rolfe, where he is engaged in banking and occupies one of the finest residences in the county.

#### LIZARD AND DES MOINES SETTLERS.

These were the first settlers in the Lizard and Des Moines settlements, which were the first in the county.

It may be observed that those in the Lizard settlement were all of Irish descent; most of them being natives of Ireland, who had lived a few years in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. In religious belief they were devout Catholics and as early as 1857, when a private house large enough for the purpose was erected in the eastern part of the settlement in Webster county, public worship was established that resulted in the organization of the Lizard Catholic parish in 1870, and the erection of the Lizard Catholic church in 1871. All of them, with a single exception, favored the principles of the democratic party, and under these conditions the colony was united and disposed to share each other's hardships during the period of hard times.

Those in the Des Moines settlement, on the other hand, were nearly all of

Scotch descent and had come either from Canada or New England. Most of them were Presbyterians in religious belief, and as early as 1859, under the ministry of Rev. David S. McComb, united to form the Unity Presbyterian church, the first church organized in the county. They were practical farmers and a large number of them had received a liberal education. These circumstances were of great advantage to them, enabling them to act as leaders in the organization of the county and to secure for themselves some special benefits during the first few years of the county's history. Their political faith was, for the most part, republican.

For nearly twenty years after the arrival of these first settlers the progress of the county was very slow. At that time there were no settlers west of these places except the few pioneers who had located along the Little Sioux river. The Spirit Lake Massacre had occurred early in the spring of 1857 and the excitement from it had, to a large extent subsided before the settlement of the northern part of the county had fairly commenced; yet for several years the settlers were subject to considerable anxiety lest another outbreak should occur. During the years immediately following these first settlements, many pioneers passed westward through this section and it was only occasionally that one stopped to select a claim and improve it.

For many long years Fort Dodge, distant twenty to forty miles, was the nearest trading point and postoffice for all of the settlers in the county. In 1857 there was no mail route to the west except the one from Fort Dodge via Twin Lakes and Sac City to Sioux

City and by means of a line of daily stages, that became a great thoroughfare of travel for western emigration. The route to the northwest was along the west branch of the Des Moines river. Early in the sixties a postoffice was opened in Des Moines township, and in 1865 a mail route was established from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake via Old Rolfe.

During the years 1856 to 1858 no crops were raised in the county except a little sod corn and a few potatoes, the whole amount of breaking not exceeding about thirty acres. The settlers had to live on what they brought with them or bought. The winter of 1856-7 was very severe and noted among the early settlers for its deep snows, terrible blizzards and extreme cold; but the winter following was comparatively mild.

"The pioneers who came to this county during the fifties and also the sixties, in leaving their more or less comfortable homes in the Eastern states for the western prairies, found a country so wide, so smooth and so unbroken in its painfully solemn quietude, hundreds of miles from mail facilities and neighbors so few and far between that only those who were patient, persevering, brave and courageous could achieve success. The new resident of today, after the lapse of forty years finds a land dotted with towns and villages, schools and churches, thrifty groves, broad acres of fertile soil and a country settled with a prosperous and happy people, with all the advantages and luxuries of the East brought within easy attainment by the network of iron that has spread like a civilizing web over the prairie wastes of 1857."

## VII.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

“What constitutes a state?  
 Not high raised battlements or labored mounds,  
 Thick walls or moated gate;  
 Not cities proud, with spires and turrets crowned;  
 But *men*, high-minded men;  
 Men, who their duties know,  
 And their rights dare maintain.”

1859.



**D**URING the fall and winter of 1858 the settlers discussed the propriety of effecting the organization of the county and most of them signed a petition asking the County Judge of Webster County—to which Pocahontas was then attached—to issue a call for an election and an order for organization. This petition was granted and a special election was ordered to be held on March 15, 1859, under the auspices of a Committee of County Canvassers, consisting of Luther L. Pease, County Judge, Henry Winn and Egbert Bagg, Justices of the Peace, all from Webster county. By this order Des Moines township was constituted, embracing the entire county, but as a matter of convenience to the voters it was divided into two voting precincts known as the Des Moines and Lizard precincts. Two voting places were designated, one at the house of Henry Jarvis on section 24, 93-31 (Des Moines township) and the other at the house of Chas. Kelley on Sec. 12, 90-31 (Lizard township.)

At this election 23 votes were cast and the following county officers were elected: County Judge, David Slosson;

Clerk of the District Court, A. H. Malcolm; Treasurer and Recorder, William H. Hait; Drainage Commissioner, James Edelman; County Surveyor, Guernsey Smith; Coroner, Henry Park; Sheriff, Oscar Slosson. This report of the board of County Canvassers was made at Fort Dodge March 21, 1859, and on that same day before Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, David Slosson took the oath of office and filed bonds as County Judge of Pocahontas county, his term of office to continue until his successor should be elected and qualified. All the other officers elected qualified before Judge Slosson, except A. H. Malcolm and on May 11, 1859, at the first session of the county court S. N. Harris being appointed in his stead, qualified as Clerk of the Court until his successor should be elected and qualified. This appointment was the first official act of the County Judge of Pocahontas county in open court and it was the only one at this session of the Court.

Officers for Des Moines township, which then included the entire county, were also elected as follows: Justices of the Peace, Robert Struthers and S. N. Harris and Township Clerk,

W. H. Hait. No record was made of the election of trustees or assessor. On April 19, 1859, W. H. Hait was appointed assessor, and on October 12th, following, justice of the peace in place of S. N. Harris, who did not qualify.

During the first two years of the county's organization, 1859 and 1860, the general management of the county's affairs was vested in the County Judge, the Board of Supervisors not having an existence at that time.

The County Judge held all the authority now vested in the Board of Supervisors and part of that vested in the Auditor and District Court.

The first entry in the Record Book of David Slosson, the first County Judge of Pocahontas county, is of date, May 25, 1859, and reads as follows:

STATE OF IOWA, }  
Pocahontas Co., } ss:

COUNTY COURT,  
May 25, 1859.

Now on this day comes N. W. Mills & Co., and present their bill for books furnished for said county amounting to the sum of \$285.00, as per voucher, said amount having been examined and found correct, it is therefore ordered by the Court that said claim be allowed and that a warrant be issued in favor of said N. W. Mills & Co. for \$285.00 and vouchers placed on file.

DAVID SLOSSON, County Judge.

W. H. Hait was allowed a bill of \$6.00 for bringing the above books for the County Records from Des Moines.

On the same day it was ordered that a warrant of \$100 be issued to George S. Ringland and John W. Brady in part payment of a contract made and entered into by and between Messrs. Ringland & Brady and Pocahontas county on the — day of March 1859, for the selection, surveying and making returns of the swamp and overflowed lands of the county. On this contract, for the survey of the swamp lands, there were issued that same year other warrants as follows:

July 8, 1859,	Ringland & Brady,	\$	125	00
Aug. 19, "	"	"	1003	00
Nov. 8, "	"	"	850	00
" 29, "	"	"	1920	00
Dec. 17, "	"	"	1866	50

Total for the year 1859. . . . \$5864 50

On July 9, 1859, the salary of the county officials including the Treasurer, Clerk of the Court and County Judge was fixed at \$50.00 each for that year.

W. H. Hait made a transcript of the Records relating to Pocahontas county from those of Webster county and received for this service \$30; and David Slosson, for the rent of his house for the use of the county officers during the year 1859, received \$80.

Aug. 8, 1859, on the application of a majority of the citizens of this county, A. W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, Judge of the 4th Judicial district of Iowa, appointed C. C. Carpenter, of Webster county; Niles Mahan, of Palo Alto county and Hiram Benjamin, of Humboldt county, Commissioners to locate the county seat of Pocahontas county as near the geographical center as possible, having due regard for the present and future population and to make report of their proceedings in this matter to the County Judge of Pocahontas county. In accordance with these instructions Messrs. C. C. Carpenter and Hiram Benjamin on Aug. 20, 1859, visited this county and made a report locating the county seat on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26, Des Moines township, containing 200 acres according to the original survey. The little village that grew as a result of this location of the county seat was successively called Highland City, Milton, (Old) Rolfe and Parvin, and it continued to be the county seat until Oct. 1, 1876, when the public records were removed to Pocahontas.

As soon as the county seat was located the erection of a public building or court house became the all-

absorbing topic of public discussion. There were some serious difficulties to be met and overcome. The erection of a building of suitable size would involve a large expenditure of money, and if there was any one thing that the early settlers could not give, but all alike felt the imperative need of, it was money. When the financial panic of 1857 is recalled one is not surprised at the statement that there was no money in the hands of the settlers of Pocahontas county at this early date for this public improvement. It must be remembered they were very few in number and having built their cabins, shanties or log houses, the effort to hold their claims and subsist on the productions of the soil exhausted all their resources. The only things of which they had a surplus were sunshine, fresh air and swamp land. The sunshine and wind did not "count for much" in a bargain and the swamp lands were regarded as scarcely more valuable, save that they could be measured, the mine of wealth possessed in them being both undiscovered and unappreciated.

The proposition to utilize the swamp or overflowed lands of the county, the special survey of which was then in progress, met with general favor, and on September 7, 1859, at a special election held for that purpose this proposition was submitted to a vote of the people. At the two polling places at which this election was held, sixteen votes were polled and all of them were cast in favor of this method of paying for the building, and disposing of the "waste" lands of the county.

A form of contract was then prepared that provided for the erection of a court house and also a bridge across the west branch of the Des Moines river near the proposed site of the county seat, both by William E. Clark, of Baltimore, Md., and the consideration specified therein was "all the swamp and overflowed lands in

the county."

According to the terms of this contract the public building was to be built of brick upon a stone foundation. It was to be a "court and school house combined," 36 feet wide in front, 50 feet deep and the second story 14 feet high. The brick were to be made of as good clay as could be procured in the vicinity and well burned. They were to be laid in mortar composed of well burned and well slaked stone lime and clean, sharp sand. The wall in the first story was to be 16 inches and in the second, 12 inches in thickness. All the openings for doors and windows, except the round-topped ones of the second story, were to have lintels of wood, that should not appear upon the face of the wall, and have arches of brick thrown over them. All the timber used, including the flooring, was to be of oak, elm or walnut and of the best quality obtainable in the vicinity. The roof, a plain comb, was to be supported by rafters 3x4 in. overlaid with good sheeting and covered with good shaved or cut shingles not more than four inches to the weather. The chimneys, two on each side, were to be built in the walls and extend above the roof at the eaves. The frieze and cornices were to be furnished with beads and moldings to correspond with the tools most easily obtained. The front door was to be double and have four panels on each half. The front steps were to be furnished with seven-inch risers and ten-inch treads with molded nosings; and the platform extending the full width of the entrance, was to be four feet wide and finished at each end with a square pediment. The space on the first floor was to be divided into four apartments with a hall-way through the center of it. The court or school room in the second story was to be furnished with a Judges' bench, jury and prisoners' boxes, and the stairway with newel post, hand-rail



and banisters. These were all to be of black walnut varnished. The rest of the interior woodwork was to have two coats of white lead in oil mixed with other colors to bring it to the proper tint.

The bridge was to be built at the most convenient point on section 25, Des Moines township, upon supports constructed of wood, sills and posts well framed together, the spans not to be more than thirty feet and resting on stringers not less than 10x12 in. square, four in number to each span. It was to be ten feet wide, covered with oak planks two inches in thickness and be above the high water mark.

Both the building and the bridge were to be received by the County Judge upon the approval of Egbert Bagg, of Webster county, architect and inspector. Upon the completion of this contract David Slosson issued the following proclamation calling for another special election to be held Nov. 19, 1859, to approve or disapprove this contract:

STATE OF IOWA, }  
 Pocahontas Co., } ss:

COUNTY COURT,  
 Oct. Term, 1859.

Whereas, a contract has been entered into between Wm. E. Clark, of Baltimore City, and state of Maryland, and the County Judge of Pocahontas county and state of Iowa, for the erection of a public building and bridge; and whereas, in the above referred to contract the County of Pocahontas proposes to pay the entire cost of erecting said public building and bridge by deeding her lands known as Swamp and Overflowed Lands to the said Wm. Clark, as will more fully appear by the contract hereto appended; and whereas, it is prescribed by law that the above referred to contract and the question therein involved shall be submitted to the people of the county in the manner provided for in Section No. 114 and 115 of the code. Now, therefore, be it known that I, David Slosson, Co. Judge of Pocahontas county, in compliance with the said contract and the law

in such cases made and provided, do hereby give notice to the legal voters of said county that the question will be submitted to them at a special election which is hereby called for that purpose to be held on the 19th day of November, A. D. 1859, within the several townships of said county, at the usual places of holding elections in said township and county, whether or not a public building and bridge shall be erected in said County of Pocahontas to be paid for with the swamp and overflowed lands in said county as set forth in contract and which is now submitted for satisfaction or rejection; and I do further declare that the manner of voting shall be as follows: Upon each ballot shall be written or printed, "For the contract for the erection of a public building and bridge to be paid for in swamp and overflowed lands," or "Against the contract for the erection of a public building and bridge to be paid for in swamp and overflowed lands;" and I further declare that if a majority of the votes be cast affirmatively, then such vote shall be deemed to be in favor of the contract herewith submitted, and said contract shall be binding upon the said Wm. E. Clark and upon the officers and people of Pocahontas county as therein set forth in every particular; and if a majority of the votes so cast are in the negative it shall be deemed a rejection of the contract and neither party shall in any wise be bound thereby. The votes shall be returned by the proper judges of the several precincts to the County Court of said county, on or before the 23d day of November, 1859, to be there canvassed according to law.

DAVID SLOSSON,  
 Co. Judge of Pocahontas County.

This proclamation of the County Judge was duly published by Oscar Slosson, "the high Sheriff of Pocahontas County" and, after the lapse of some thirty days according to the public records, the voters of the county in response thereto met first at the home of Henry Jarvis, but adjourned and held this election at the house of his brother William Jarvis where, according to the canvass made November 21st, it was declared twenty-one votes were cast and all of them in favor of approving the proposed contract.

This was, however, the election at which Patrick Forey cast the famous "decisive vote."\*\* According to tradition or the statements of those who participated in it, some of whom are still living, this election was the first spirited contest among the voters of this county and it became intensely interesting because the voters in the two settlements or precincts, being relatively about equal in numbers, became directly arrayed against each other, not on the lines of partisan politics, but in regard to the propriety of the proposed disposition of the swamp lands of the county.

The fact the public records contain no summary of the vote on this occasion in the Lizard precinct is no greater surprise than the general fact that they contain no summary from that precinct of any of the four elections held in the county during the year 1859. The following incidental allusions in the records of the County Judge, by way of recording payment for services rendered as election officers during that year, are very suggestive. At the first election of March 15th, Michael Collins was one of the judges and Michael Broderick one of the clerks; at the second one held on the 7th day of September, John Calligan and Peter Garrahan were judges and Philip Russell and Michael Collins were clerks; at the third or general election held on the 11th of October, Patrick McCabe, John Calligan and Peter Garrahan were judges and Michael Broderick one of the clerks. The latter was also paid \$8.00 as a messenger, for carrying the returns of Lizard township for the year 1859.

The following statements from Walter Ford, one of the Lizard voters at that time and now a resident of Clare, are pertinent: "The Lizard and Des Moines precincts were both organized in the spring of 1859.

\*See pages 165-166.

By appointment of Luther L. Pease, county judge of Webster county, at Fort Dodge, Michael Collins, Chas. Kelley and I prepared the poll-books of Lizard precinct for the first election of that year. The polling place for all the voters of the Lizard precinct, at all of the four elections held in 1859, was at the home of Charles Kelley on section 12, Lizard township. At the special election held Nov. 19, 1859, Michael Broderick was one of the clerks at the home of Charles Kelley; I voted there early in the morning of that day and then went to the polling place in the Des Moines precinct to challenge illegal voters; and Patrick Forey was the only Lizard voter who voted in the Des Moines precinct that year and he only once, namely, at this last special election."\*\*

That Walter Ford and others who assisted in preparing the first Lizard poll-books and also as clerks and judges of election in the Lizard precinct during the year 1859, are not incidentally named in the county records is no doubt due to the fact they presented no claims for the public services thus rendered.

According to the facts thus incidentally noted in the records of the County Judge and more fully stated by Walter Ford and others, the result of the special election of November 19, 1859, in regard to the contract for the erection of a court house and bridge to be paid for with the swamp lands of the county, was no doubt 11 for approval and 10 for disapproval; or a majority of one—the decisive vote of Patrick Forey—in favor of approving the contract. The votes were canvassed on the 21st day of November and as a result of the election, the contract was declared by the County Judge to be binding upon the parties.

When the fact is noted that the consideration in this contract was

\*\*Letter of Walter Ford, Clare, Iowa, March 18, 1899.

an indefinite and also an undetermined quantity, namely, "all the swamp and overflowed lands in Pocahontas county," one is not surprised there should have been a difference of opinion among these early pioneers in regard to its ratification. A great deal of space in the public records of 1859 is devoted to selections and contracts relating to the swamp lands involved in this contract. This disposal of them became an important event in the history of the county, one often referred to by the early settlers, and as it did more than all subsequent transactions to cloud the titles to lands then listed as "swamp and overflowed," a brief history of them will be appreciated.

#### THE SWAMP LANDS.\*

On the 28th of September, 1850, an act of congress was approved by which the United States granted to the state of Iowa all of the swamp and overflowed lands within the limits of the state then undisposed of. Two years later the State of Iowa, by an act of the General Assembly, approved Feb. 2, 1853, granted these "swamp and overflowed lands" to the counties in which they were situated, and made provision for their selection. This was the status of these lands when Pocahontas county was organized. David Slosson, on behalf of the county and in pursuance of these acts, as soon as he was elected County Judge—in March, 1859,—entered into a contract with Ringland & Brady, of Fort Dodge, for their special survey and selection. As this contract does not appear on the records it is impossible to give its exact terms, but it has been stated the surveyors were to receive for their services a certain compensation for each acre thus selected. Two selections were made during the year 1859. The first one, by Messrs.

Ringland & Brady, was rejected as a whole by the commissioner of the general land office; and one is not surprised at this result when it is known that the whole of township 91, range 32 (Lincoln), was included as swamp. The second one was made by G. S. Ringland and Guernsey Smith, who made their report Aug. 3, 1859. In this report they state that they were appointed commissioners by the County Judge to make selections of the swamp and overflowed lands, and it is presumed that such was the case, although no entry of their contract or appointment is found on the records. They swear that "they have examined the lines of each and every tract selected, and that the greater part of each is swamp and overflowed land." The number of acres according to their footing is 72,075.75, an amount equal to 114 sections or six sections more than three townships—about one-fifth of the entire county.

At this day it seems quite incredible that an amount of land so large should have been reported under oath as "swamp and overflowed." There are, however, three good reasons which may in a measure explain why an amount so large was selected. In the first place the compensation for the selection and survey was based on the number of acres selected; second, at that time the value of these treeless prairie lands was neither realized nor appreciated on the part of the pioneer residents of the county, many of whom were indifferent to a certain extent as to what became of them; and third, the cupidity of the parties who conspired to become possessors of so vast a domain. This second selection, however, had to be submitted to the commissioner of the general land office for his approval or rejection.

The contract with William E. Clark, of Baltimore, Md., of date Oct. 18, 1859, and declared Nov. 21st, following, as having been approved by the

\*J. J. Bruce in Pocahontas Record, May 1, 1884, and Plat Book of Pocahontas County, 1887, page 6.

people—on Nov. 14, 1860, “for good and valuable considerations in hand paid” was assigned by W. E. Clark to John M. Stockdale, of Webster county. The latter, under President Buchanan, had been register of the U. S. land office at Fort Dodge, and the former proved to be a mere figure-head working under his direction. When Lincoln was elected, the latter soon retired from the land office and assumed open control of his scheme.

The public building and bridge when completed by John M. Stockdale were accepted, and on Dec. 9, 1860, there was deeded to him, according to the government survey, 76,250 acres of land in Pocahontas county, the deed containing a clause that expressly released the county from all liability arising from the reclaiming of these lands. This deed was attested by John A. James, County Judge, and the estimated value of the lands conveyed was \$91,000.

It will be noticed that until this date the title to these lands rested upon an act of Congress and a subsequent one by the General Assembly of Iowa, both of which were of a general nature referring to a certain *class* of lands, namely, “swamp and overflowed lands” and not to particular tracts. This left the title of particular tracts without foundation until the selections should be approved by the government and their respective patents be issued. Until the land in particular tracts should be patented to the county, its title thereto would be imperfect and its deed to another would of course convey no title to the land. This was the kind of deed given to John M. Stockdale, who understood its imperfect nature, but expecting to secure the approval of his entire list, he was willing to let the entire matter rest in that condition. He began at once to sell particular tracts, putting his lists in the hands

of agents in all parts of the country. He gave warranty deeds, selling generally large quantities to each purchaser and representing to parties purchasing that patents could be procured at any time upon application, but as the land was not taxable until patented, it was better to let them lie as they were and thus avoid taxation.

Of the 76,250 acres deeded by the county to John M. Stockdale, the commissioner of the general land office approved and issued patents to him for 29,000 acres, and formally rejected the remaining 47,000 acres as not swamp land within the meaning of the act. The last were disposed of by patent as follows: about 27,000 acres in a body to the Dubuque and Pacific Ry. Co., some to the Des Moines Valley Ry. Co., some to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Ry. Co., some to the Agricultural College, some to cash purchasers and others were claimed by homesteaders. Nearly all of these lands are now occupied as farms. The tracts patented to the county on which the taxes have been paid annually, thereby avoiding entanglement by tax sales, have good and perfect title.

Another remarkable incident in the story of the swamp lands is the fact that John M. Stockdale under his imperfect deed from the county, continued to sell all the lands included therein, he seeming to be entirely indifferent about the matter of patent. The fact that most of these lands had been patented to other parties made no difference to him so long as he could find buyers willing to purchase from him. The last lot sold by him was in the year 1882; it contained 9,000 acres and the price paid was \$200. Of the 29,000 acres patented to him and upon which the taxes have been paid the county probably suffered no great loss, since the amount originally received together with the taxes and interest paid would amount to about the present value of the land. The

misfortune of the transaction came in a subsequent period of litigation over titles and consequent uncertainty in the minds of owners as to the stability of their tenures.

It will be seen, from this brief resume, that patented swamp lands have good titles and the rejected selections had no valid title through John M. Stockdale.\* The traffic in these respective swamp lands was a great scandal upon land titles and many innocent parties were bled severely.

1860.

The first officials of the county, elected at the special election of March 15, 1859, held office only during the remaining months of that year. At the general election held October 11th following, a full set of county officers for 1860 was elected as follows: John A. James, County Judge in place of David Slosson; Samuel N. Harris Clerk of the Court, a position he had filled by appointment; Wm. H. Hait was re-elected Treasurer and Recorder, Henry Jarvis, Sheriff; Robert Struthers, Surveyor; William Jarvis, Coroner and Drainage Commissioner; Perry Nowlen, Superintendent of Schools. Perry Nowlen did not qualify, and on March 20, 1860, Oscar F. Avery was appointed Superintendent by John A. James, County Judge.

At that time the entire county still formed but one township with two voting precincts, and the following township officers were elected: Trustees, William Jarvis, Perry Nowlen and Oscar Slosson; Justice of the Peace, W. H. Hait; Township Clerk, Henry Jarvis; Road Supervisors, Perry Nowlen and Patrick Fury; Constables, William Jarvis and Roderick Harris; Assessor, A. H. Malcolm. A. H. Malcolm did not qualify, and on January

\*Mr. Stockdale died in Washington, Pa., Sept. 17, 1897. He was well known to the early settlers of this county, and the titles to many farms bear his name as their first owner.

1, 1860, Oscar Slosson was appointed Assessor in his stead for one year. On January 9, 1860, David Slosson was appointed a Justice of the Peace for two years.

The election officers making the return of this general election in the fall of 1859, were those of the Des Moines precinct, namely, Perry Nowlen, Robert Struthers and Henry Jarvis, Judges; Samuel N. Harris and W. H. Hait, Clerks. At this election 34 votes were cast and all of them were credited to Des Moines township because it embraced the entire county at that time.

If the previous year (1859) was one of organization, discussion and contracts, the year 1860 was one of further development in the matter of organization and was marked by the occurrence of several interesting events.

April 1, 1860, under the appointment of John A. James, Robert Struthers and W. H. Hait, constituting the first county Board of Equalization, levied taxes for that year as follows: State tax one and one-half mills; county tax four mills; teachers' fund four mills; schoolhouse fund four mills, and for road purposes one mill.

June 23, 1860, Hiram Evans was a juror, the first and only one named at this early date. Others who served in that capacity later that year were Ora Harvey, Robert Struthers, Edward Hammond, Isaac N. Belknap, Abiel Stickney, David and Orlando Slosson, W. H. Hait, Patrick Forey, James Donahoe, Roger and Patrick Collins and William E. Clark.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The most important events that occurred during the year 1860, that render that year memorable in the history of the county were the erection and completion of the first public improvements in the county, consisting of the first court house at Highland City—the name for a short time given to the first county seat—and of the first

bridge over the west branch of the Des Moines river, a short distance northeast of the public building.

For the preparation of the materials to be used in the construction of these public improvements, a brickyard was established at Highland City for the manufacture of brick, and a sawmill was located in the timber for the purpose of sawing the lumber. The opportunity of obtaining profitable employment was afforded many of the settlers when these various enterprises were all in successful operation and the hum of business interrupting the solemn stillness of the wilderness was delightful music to every ear. Late in the fall of that year (Dec. 9, 1860) the court house and bridge were completed and both of them were sources of great convenience to the people living in that section of the county. For nearly two years the public records of their respective offices had been kept and the public business of the county transacted in the homes of David Slosson and W. H. Hait. The public records and business were now transferred to the new and comfortable quarters that had been provided for them. The occupancy of the new building was in a measure coincident with the election of the first board of county supervisors, in the fall of 1860.

Another public improvement that remains at Old Rolfe a reminder of the same eventful year, is the brick school house, located near to and just west of the court house. The contract for this building was let July 21, 1860, to W. H. Hait and Robert Struthers for \$4,850. The brick were burned in the immediate vicinity and the lumber was sawed at the steam sawmill of W. H. Hait, purchased from John M. Stockdale. It was completed and accepted March 9, 1861. This was the first school house built in the county, and as a building it is still in good condition for use.

#### FIRST PUBLIC ROADS.

August 6, 1860, in response to a petition signed by a number of the citizens of the county and presented to John A. James, County Judge, Edward Hammond was appointed a commissioner to view and locate a county road from the best point on section 4, Des Moines township, and passing southeast by the newly located county seat, extend to the line of section 7, 92-30, now Avery township, Humboldt county. This road when located, was surveyed by Robert Struthers and Edward Hammond and, on May 6, 1861, was established by the Board of County Supervisors.

On the same day, August 6, 1860, in response to a petition signed by thirteen citizens of Lizard precinct, Patrick Forey was appointed a commissioner to locate a county road, for the accommodation of the settlers along the Des Moines river and vicinity, extending from the northeast corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 93-31 (Des Moines township) southward by the best route to the southeast corner of Sec. 36, 90-31 (Lizard township.) After the completion of the Des Moines river bridge the proposed route of this highway was changed so that on May 7, 1861, when it was established by the Board of County Supervisors, it extended from the river bridge southward to Sec. 2, Lizard township, where it crossed Lizard creek on the line between sections 1 and 2, thence south and east on the west and south lines of section 1. John A. James was appointed to view the route as thus amended, and the survey of it was made by H. Morrison, of Fort Dodge, assisted by Orlando Slosson and Hiram Evans as chain carriers. These were the first public highways located in the county.

The third public road was not located until January 6, 1863, when Patrick Collins was appointed a commissioner to view and locate a road for

which Patrick McCabe and others had filed a petition, requesting that it extend from the corner stake of the east line of Sec. 24, 90-31, (Lizard township) by the most suitable route northwesterly to the quarter stake at the west line of section 13, near the house of Michael Walsh, and thence northwesterly to the Buena Vista county line at the southwest corner of Sec. 6, 92-34, (Marshall township). This diagonal road was on the direct line from Fort Dodge to Sioux Rapids, then the county seat of Buena Vista county. It passed from the northeast part of Lizard township through Lincoln and Grant to the northwest corner of Marshall township.

FIRST DIVISION OF THE COUNTY—LIZARD AND CLINTON TOWNSHIPS ORGANIZED.

When the county was organized in March, 1859, it formed one township with two voting precincts. Des Moines precinct included the four townships in the northeast part of the county and Lizard precinct the four townships in the southeast part of it.

On September 15, 1860, in response to a petition signed by a large number of the legal voters of the county and presented to John A. James, County Judge, a third election precinct (Clinton) was established, embracing all of townships 91 (Lake) and 92, (Clinton) and the south half of the south tier of sections of township 93 (Des Moines,) all of range 31. The house of Edward Hammond was designated as the polling place where at the time of the next annual election they should elect one county supervisor, township clerk, assessor, three trustees, two justices of the peace, two constables and one road supervisor, all of whom were elected November 6, 1860. Clinton township was thus established by the order of Judge John A. James, of date September 15, 1860.

In the records of the County Judge

of September 15, 1860, no mention is made of Lizard voting precinct being accorded the full rights and privileges of a township, but as a matter of fact what Clinton did Lizard did also; and at the general election of November 6, 1860, Lizard precinct elected one county supervisor, Michael Collins, who was at the same time elected *township* clerk for Lizard *township* and so qualified before John A. James, County Judge, January 7, 1861. John Calligan, Charles Kelley and Patrick Collins were elected trustees and John Quinlan assessor, all for Lizard township. Other township officers were elected but their names have not been preserved. This exercise of the rights and privileges of a township indicate that Lizard township was established September 15, 1860.\*

DES MOINES, LIZARD AND CLINTON TOWNSHIPS RE-ARRANGED.

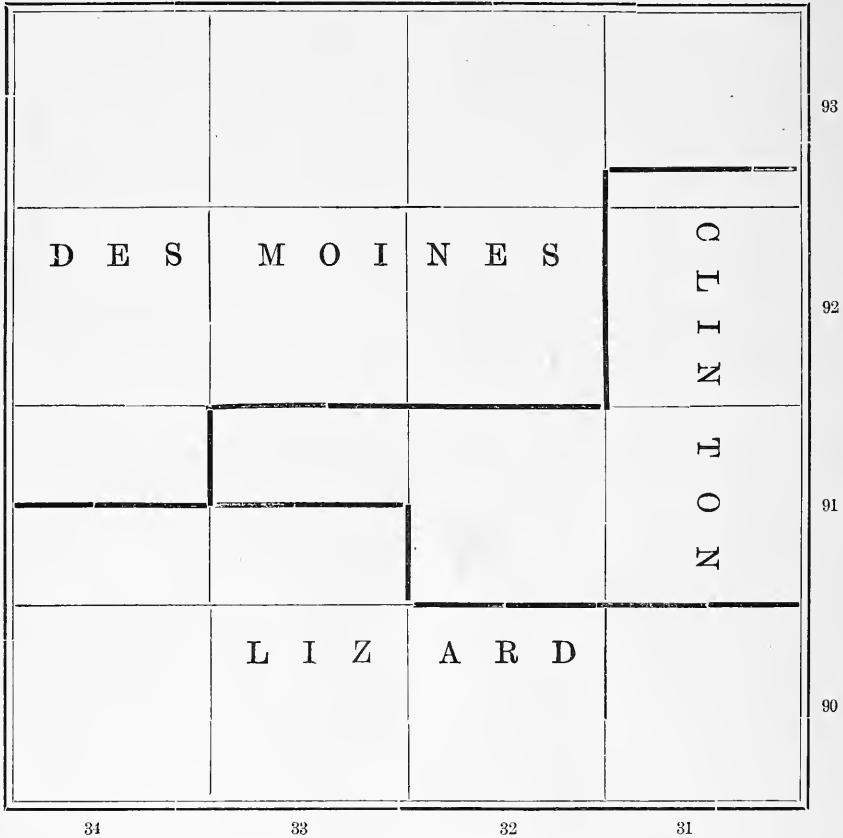
On May 7, 1861, Des Moines and Clinton townships being still included in the same school district, the county was divided by the Board of Supervisors into two districts by a line running east and west that should divide equally the entered land, for school purposes. At their next meeting, on June 4th following, this action was declared null and void.

\*These particulars have been given quite fully at this place because of the difficulty experienced in ascertaining the date when Lizard township was established. Those who have gone over this ground before, meeting with the same difficulty, have either refrained from designating the date when that township was established, or have given as the date of the establishment of both Lizard and Clinton townships, June 4, 1861. From the facts narrated above, it will be perceived that this date is nearly one year too late; that Lizard township, which was made a voting precinct of Des Moines township in March, 1859, when the county was organized, and Clinton also were both fully established in the enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of a township, from September 15, 1860.—R. E. F.

On June 4, 1861, the Board of Supervisors decided to re-arrange the three existing divisions of the county into three "townships, districts or election precincts." Under this new arrangement Des Moines township embraced the entire north half of the county

the south tier of townships (Lizard, Bellville, Colfax and Cedar), the south half of 91-33 (Grant), and south half of 91-34 (Dover). These changes left the county in the shape indicated by the accompanying cut.

On December 1, 1862, another change



**Pocahontas County, June 4, 1861.**

and the north half of township 91-34 (Dover), except township 92-31 and the south tier of sections in township 93-31 (Des Moines). Clinton township was composed of townships 92-31 (Clinton), 91-31 (Lake), 91-32 (Lincoln), north half of 91-33 (Grant), and the south tier of sections of 93-31 (Des Moines). Lizard township embraced

the boundaries of the townships by the Board of Supervisors. Lizard township was given the south tier of townships (Lizard, Bellville, Colfax and Cedar), the south half of 91-33 (Grant) and south half of 91-34 (Dover) as before, and in addition thereto the south tier of sections of townships 91-31 (Lake) and 91-32 (Lin-



coln). Clinton township was arranged so as to include all of township 92-31 (Clinton), the north five tiers of sections of townships 91-31 and 91-32 (Lake and Lincoln), and the north half of townships 91-33 and 91-34 (Grant and Dover), the south tier of sections of 93-31 (Des Moines) and the south half of township 92-34 (Marshall). Des Moines township remained the same as before, except that the north half of township 91-34 (Dover), and south half of township 92-34 (Marshall), had been assigned to Clinton.

#### THE REMAINING TOWNSHIPS ESTABLISHED.

On September 3, 1866, the township of Nunda was established, composed of township 93-32 (Powhatan), which was set off from Des Moines. Although the records do not show it, this township originally embraced also the two townships west of it now called Washington and Swan Lake; later the south half of Swan Lake was annexed to Des Moines. April 20, 1867, the name of this township was changed from "Nunda" to "Powhatan." In June, 1874, the name was again changed from Powhatan to "Jackson;" and on January 8, 1878, it was finally changed from "Jackson" to "Powhatan."

On June 2, 1868, the south tier of sections in township 93-31 (Des Moines) was taken from Clinton and annexed to Des Moines.

On June 6, 1870, several new townships were established that materially affected the map of the county. Bellville township was established on this date, embracing township 90, range 32; Cedar was established, embracing township 90, range 34, and Grant township, embracing township 91, range 33. A petition was also presented asking for the establishment of Colfax township, (90-33); for some reason this petition was not granted, and on the 6th of September following, it was separated from Lizard and annexed to

Cedar township. In the meantime townships 91-31 (Lake), and 91-32 (Lincoln), had been taken from Clinton and attached to Lizard, thus leaving Clinton to embrace township 92, range 31, as at the present time.

On September 6, 1870, Dover township was established, embracing township 91, range 34, that had previously formed a part of Lizard and Clinton townships, and on June 7, 1871, township 92-34 (Marshall), was attached to Dover.

On September 4, 1871, two new townships were established, Colfax and Swan Lake; the former embracing township 90, range 33, and the latter township 93, range 34.

On June 4, 1872, township 91, range 32 was established under the name of Carter township, but on July 8, 1873, the name "Carter" was changed to "Lincoln."

September 7, 1872, Center township, (92-32) was established.

September 5, 1876, Washington township was established, embracing townships 93-33 and 92-33, (Washington and Sherman.)

June 5, 1877, township 91-31 (Lake), was established under the name of Burke township, and on September 3d following, the name "Burke" was changed to "Lake."

April 5, 1880, Sherman township was established, embracing township 92, range 33.

June 5, 1882, township 92-34 (Marshall), was established as Laurens township, but on September 2, 1884, the name "Laurens" was changed to "Marshall." This was the last township organized and since the change of its name to Marshall, no similar changes have occurred. It may be observed that the civil townships, as at present organized, are identical in their boundaries with the congressional townships; and from the establishment of Des Moines township in 1859, the period of their organization, in-

cluding the last change noted, embraced just a quarter of a century.

COUNTY SEAT RE-LOCATED.

At the general election held Oct. 12, 1875, a proposition to re-locate or remove the county seat from (Old) Rolfe to Pocahontas Center, was submitted to a vote of the people with the result that 356 votes were cast in favor of this proposition and only 57 against it. In view of this approving vote of the people the Board of Supervisors ordered the change of county seat on October 18th following; and the public offices and records were transferred from (Old) Rolfe to Pocahontas, October 1, 1876.

ORIGINAL ORDER FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

The following order of Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, obtained after the foregoing part of this chapter had been printed, will be read with interest, since it furnishes positive information in regard to the establishment of two voting precincts at the time of the organization of the county—Lizard and Des Moines precincts—and the names of those who were appointed to serve as judges at this first election in each precinct.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
 Webster County. } ss.

COUNTY COURT,  
 FORT DODGE, Feby. 19, 1859.

On this day comes Guernsey Smith, of the county of Pocahontas, which is by law attached to the county of Webster for election purposes, and presents the petition of John A. James and twenty-six others, citizens and voters of Pocahontas county, and the said Smith makes oath that said petition contains the names of a majority of the legal voters of said Pocahontas county, and makes application for an order to hold an election for the purpose of organizing said Po-

cahontas county.

It is ordained, by the County Court of Webster county, that an election be held in said Pocahontas county on the third Tuesday in March, (15) 1859, for the purpose of organizing said county, and for electing the following county officers, to-wit: A County Judge, Clerk of the District Court, Treasurer and Recorder, Sheriff, Surveyor, Coroner and Drainage Commissioner; also the following township officers, to-wit: Three township trustees, a township clerk, two justices of the peace, two constables, one assessor and a supervisor of roads for each district.

It is further ordered that two election precincts be formed in said Pocahontas county: Townships number 90 and 91, of ranges 31 and 32, shall constitute, be designated and known as Lizard precinct; and townships number 92 and 93, of ranges 31 and 32, shall be known and designated as Des Moines precinct.

The election to organize said county shall be held in the Lizard precinct at the house of Charles Kelley; and Michael Collins, Patrick Forey and Charles Kelley shall be judges of said election at said place of voting.

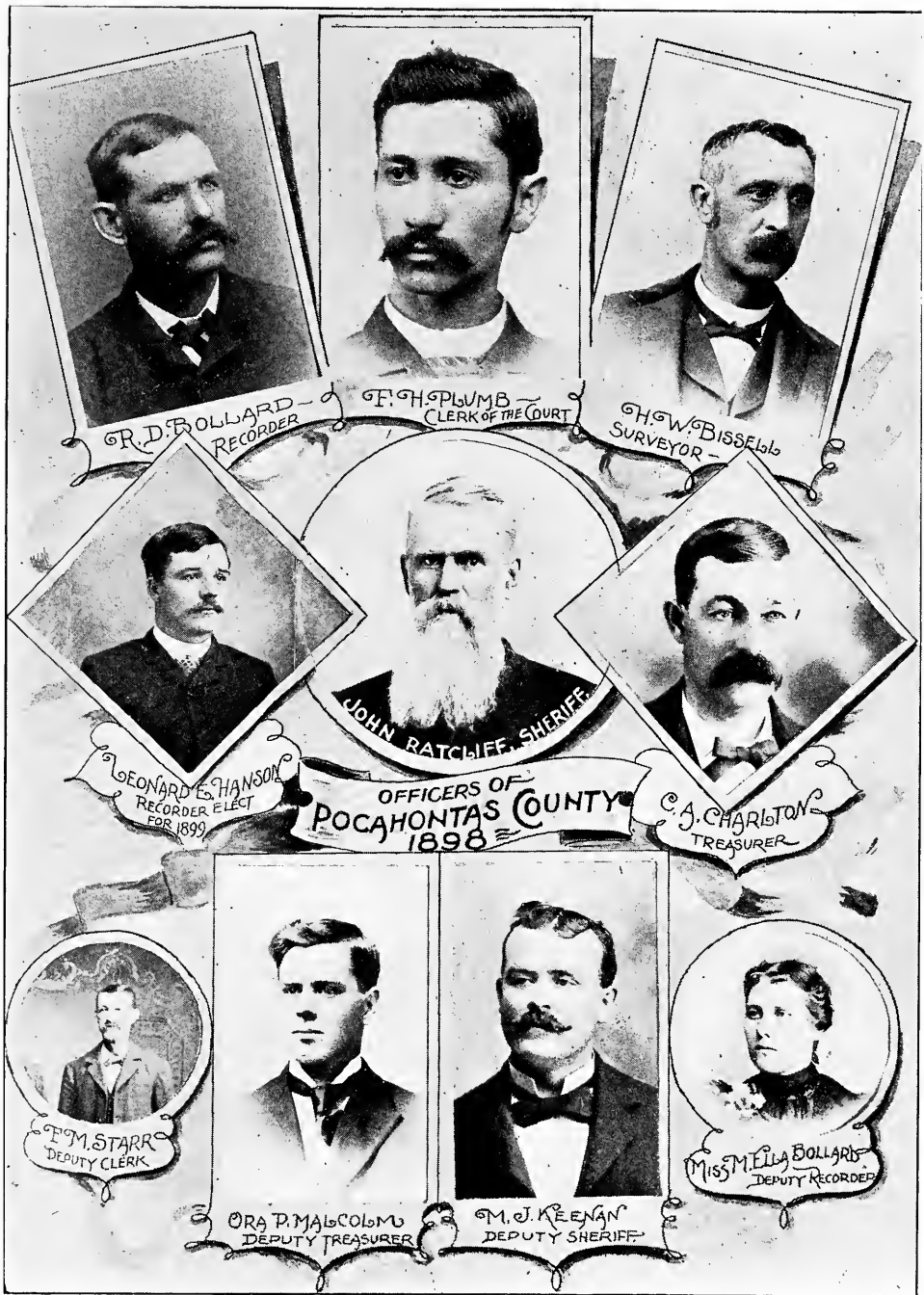
The place of voting in the Des Moines precinct shall be at the house of Henry Jarvis; and Samuel N. Harris, Perry Nowlen and Guernsey Smith shall be judges of election at said place of voting.

And it is further ordered that Guernsey Smith be directed to post three notices of said election in each precinct in said county at least fifteen days before said third Tuesday in March, 1859, one of which notices in each precinct must be at the place of holding said election.

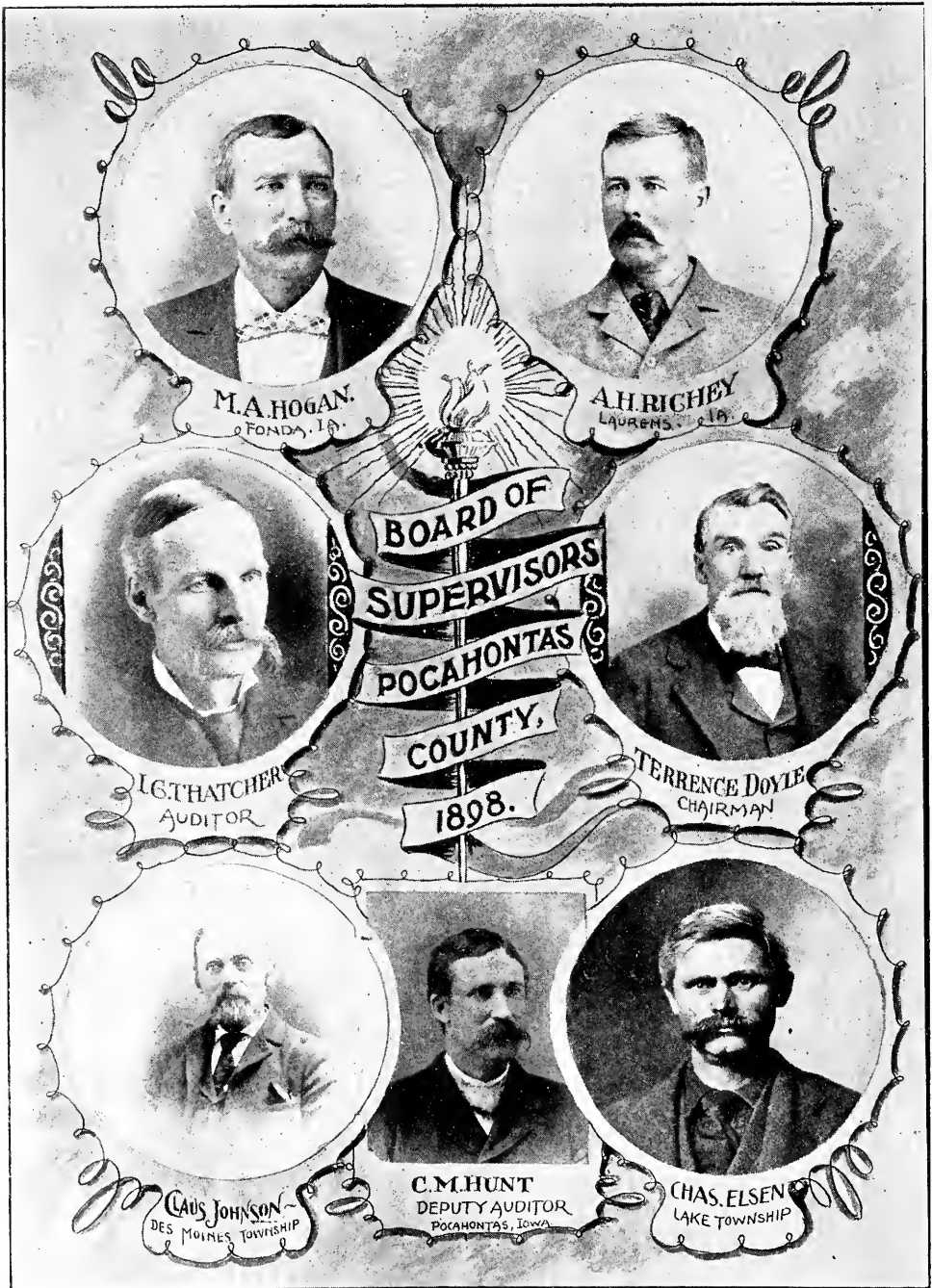
The judges of said election are required to make return of said election to the office of the County Judge of Webster county, on or before the seventh day after the holding of said election. The poll-books containing said returns are to be returned sealed, as the law directs.

Given under my hand and the seal of Webster county, the date first above written.

LUTHER L. PEASE,  
 County Judge.



Group of County Officers and their Deputies, —1898.



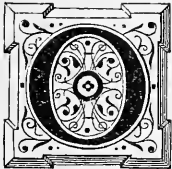
Auditor and Board of County Supervisors,—1898.

## VIII.

## THE COUNTY OFFICERS.

“We live in deeds, not years;  
 In thoughts, not breaths;  
 In feelings, not in figures  
 On a dial.”

## COUNTY JUDGE.



ON March 15, 1859, Judges and *ex officio* the first County Auditor.

when the county was organized, David Slosson was elected as the first County Judge, and six days

later qualified for that office before Luther L. Pease, County Judge of Webster county, at Fort Dodge. He was not a candidate for re-election, and on January 3, 1860, he was succeeded by John A. James who held the office until May 6, 1861, when he resigned and Isaac N. Belknap was appointed by the newly organized Board of County Supervisors to fill the vacancy. At the ensuing general election of that year Perry Nowlen was elected and qualifying as his successor January 1, 1862, served until June 2d of that year, when he resigned and Charles C. Converse was appointed to fill the vacancy. The office was vested in him from June 2, 1862, until October 19, 1863, when Fred E. Metcalf, who had been elected as his successor, qualified for a term of two years. On January 1, 1866, he was succeeded by Samuel N. Harris, who in the fall of 1867 was re-elected and held the office until January 4, 1869, when he resigned and William D. McEwen became his successor. The latter thus became the last of the County

of the County Judge became a comparatively unimportant one; the general authority previously vested in him was transferred to the Board and there was left for him only some matters pertaining to the probate court, the settlement of estates, the administration of oaths and the performance of an occasional marriage ceremony. The office of County Judge, however, continued in existence until the year 1869, when, in accordance with a law enacted the previous year, it was abolished and its incumbent made *ex officio* County Auditor, an office that was created at that same time. The circuit court, though it was afterward abolished, came into existence that same year, 1869.

On January 5, 1861, John A. James, County Judge, issued a warrant of \$100 to Edward Hammond for grading the court house yard, and seven others amounting to \$2500 to John M. Stockdale, on a contract for the erection of a bridge.

After the date on which these warrants were issued there are no further records of the proceedings of the County Judge, until April 13, 1865, a

period of more than four years, when Frederick A. Metcalf, as Judge of the County Court, issued a marriage license to Samuel A. Booth and Angie C. Keeney, with both of whom he states he was "personally acquainted and knew them to be of competent age and condition." He received \$1.00 for the license issued. On May 2d following, he issued a similar license to Orlando Slosson and Loretta L. Coffin.

The next and also the last recorded proceedings of the County Judge are of date November 25, 1868, when Samuel N. Harris served as the presiding member of the court before which was heard the first election contest in the county. This contest was instituted by Philip Russell, as member elect from the Lizard district, for the office of county supervisor against James J. Bruce, the previous incumbent. The other members of this court were W. S. Fegles, chosen by the contestant, and Patrick Forey, chosen by the incumbent. From the judgment rendered in this case it seems the contestant received a majority of the votes cast at the previous election, but the bond presented was deemed insufficient, and the case was decided in favor of the previous incumbent.

There are only two other recorded proceedings of the County Judge, not already referred to in this and the preceding chapter that are worthy of mention, and they are as follows:

Sept. 16, 1860, John A. James issued to William E. Clark, the original contractor for the erection of the court house, a warrant of \$1800.00 for sinking a well; and on Sept. 26th following he issued a warrant of \$163.00 to A. S. White for printing the first delinquent tax list of the county.

According to the records the first session of the county court was held May 25, 1859, when the claim of \$285.00 was presented by Mills & Co. for preparing the first county records; and

the first warrant of \$100.00 was issued to Geo. S. Ringland and John W. Brady on the contract for the special survey of the swamp lands of the county, which contract, it is stated on Nov. 8 following, had been concluded in the month of March, previous. Eight persons held the office of County Judge during the period 1859 to 1869, but only four of them performed any acts that were made matters of record; namely, David Slosson, John A. James, Frederick E. Metcalf and Samuel N. Harris.

#### THE BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

On March 22, 1860, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that created the Board of County Supervisors. This act provided that the Board of Supervisors in each county should consist of three persons, but on the petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters of the county, the Board might provide that their number be increased to five or even seven members.

Members of the Board were to be elected for a term of two years (in 1871 the term was increased to three years) save that those elected at the first election should draw cuts for their terms of one, and two years respectively, so that at least one member of the Board should be elected each year.

This act with subsequent amendments, now provides that the members of this Board shall meet regularly at their respective county seats on the first Mondays in January, April, June, September and the first Monday after the general election in each year.

To the Board of County Supervisors thus established there has been entrusted the general management of the business affairs of the county such as the examination and approval of all claims or expenditures from the public funds, the establishment of highways, erection of bridges, care of all public buildings and grounds, the

levying of taxes and management of the county road, school, poor, and special bounty funds, power to establish, organize and change the boundaries of townships and to constitute a board of county canvassers after all elections that may be held.

The first members of the Board of Supervisors for Pocahontas county were elected in the fall of 1860, and held their first meeting in the new court house at Old Rolfe, January 7, 1861. The members of the Board were Ora Harvey, of Clinton township; David Slosson, of Des Moines, and Michael Collins, of Lizard. The Board organized by the selection of Ora Harvey, chairman; and the appointment of W. H. Hait, the county Treasurer and Recorder, their clerk *pro tem*. They then proceeded to ballot for their respective terms of office, with the result that Ora Harvey was assigned the term of two years and each of the other two members a term of one year. Inasmuch as there was no further business to transact at this their first meeting, the Board adjourned until the first Monday in February following.

On February 4, 1861, when the second meeting of the Board was held, there were present only two members of the Board—Messrs. Ora Harvey and David Slosson—and W. H. Hait, clerk *pro tem*. The resignations of the following officers were presented and accepted, namely: David Slosson as County Supervisor of Des Moines township, John A. James as County Judge, and Samuel N. Harris as Clerk of the District Court. The Board then adjourned until the first Monday in May following. On May 6, 1861, when the Board held its third session, there were present Ora Harvey and Michael Collins, members of the Board; and Perry Nowlen, who was appointed supervisor for Des Moines township in place of David Slosson who had resigned, and he immediately qualified.

Augustus H. Malcolm was appointed Clerk of the District Court and also of the Board of Supervisors until his successor should be elected and qualified.

Isaac N. Belknap was appointed County Judge to fill the unexpired term of John A. James, who had resigned.

William H. Hait was appointed to fill the office of County Superintendent of common schools until his successor should be elected and qualified.

It was decided to allow the clerk of the Board of Supervisors \$2.50 a day for his services and to allow the same compensation to all township officers whose fees were not prescribed by law.

The county was divided into two school districts and the teachers' fund in the hands of the County Treasurer was apportioned to the districts according to the number of children in each district.

The first two roads, already named, were established and the Clerk of the District Court was authorized to take counsel concerning the legality of certain bridge contracts made by John M. Stockdale and the County Judge of Pocahontas county during the previous year.

Appropriations were made for the purchase of a "desk for each of the township clerks also a desk and bookcase for the use of the Board of Supervisors."

The claims of a number of township officers were allowed, among which we note \$15.20 paid to Charles Kelley, of Lizard for clerk's fees, house rent and mileage during the previous year; \$2.00 to Perry Nowlen for one wolf scalp, and \$22.00 to Edward Hammond for wood for the court house during the previous winter.

During the first six years, 1861 to 1866, the Board consisted of only three members, one from each of the three townships then organized in the county. During the next five years, 1867

to 1871, it consisted of four members, Powhatan township, organized in 1866, having been accorded a representative on the Board. In 1870 several new townships were organized and the propriety of increasing the membership of the Board was submitted to a vote of the people. A large majority were in favor of this measure, and before the general election of the ensuing year the county was arranged into five supervisor districts and from January 1, 1872, until the present time the Board has consisted of five members, one from each district.

The Supervisor Districts are now arranged as follows:

1st—Des Moines, Clinton and Powhatan townships.

2d—Swan Lake, Washington and Marshall townships.

3d—Cedar, Dover and Colfax townships.

4th—Lizard, Bellville and Lake townships.

5th—Center, Sherman, Grant and Lincoln townships.

The present division of the county into supervisor districts is certainly an ideal one. Each of the four corner townships of the county is the central one of the three townships comprising their respective districts, which are numbered one, two, three and four respectively, commencing at the northeast corner and ending at the southeast corner of the county; and the fifth district is composed of the four central townships of the county. That which gives ideality or uniqueness to these districts is the fact that the county seat is central to all of them and then the largest town or postoffice in each district, where the triennial nominating conventions are naturally held, is located near the center of it, namely, Rolfe in the first, Laurens in the second, Fonda in the third, Lizard postoffice in the fourth and Pocahontas in the fifth. It is doubtful if these ideal conditions can

be duplicated by any county in the state.

#### SUCCESSION OF SUPERVISORS.

The first one named each year was chairman that year; the township in which he lived is also indicated.

*Board, three members; term, two years.*

1861. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, (resigned), Perry Nowlen (appointed May 6, 1861), Des Moines; and Michael Collins, Lizard.

1862. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1863. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1864. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1865. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; and Patrick McCabe, Lizard.

1866. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; Philip Russell, Lizard.

*Board increased to four members.*

1867. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; Philip Russell, Lizard; Henry Thomas, Powhatan.

1868. Ora Harvey, Clinton; David J. Bishop, Des Moines; James J. Bruce, Lizard; and Henry Thomas, Powhatan.

1869. James J. Bruce, Lizard; David J. Bishop, Des Moines; A. H. Malcolm, Clinton; and Ira Strong, Powhatan.

1870. A. H. Malcolm, Clinton; David Slosson, Des Moines; David Miller, Lizard; and Ira Strong, Powhatan.

1871. M. A. Moore, Lizard; David Slosson, (resigned), John Heald (appointed April 3, 1871), Des Moines; and John A. Hay, Cedar.

*Board, five members; term, three years.*

1872. John A. Hay, Cedar; R. B. Fish, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Walter Ford, Lizard; and A.





THE COURT HOUSE AT POCAHONTAS, ERECTED IN 1876.



THE COUNTY ASYLUM AND POOR HOUSE GRANT TOWNSHIP.



**OLD ROLFE AND VICINITY. THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT, 1859 TO 1876  
DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.**



**PILOT CREEK AND DES MOINES RIVER VALLEYS. SCENE OF INDIAN BATTLE,  
FROM THE SOUTH, A KNOLL ON SEC. 12, CLINTON TOWNSHIP.**

- W. Rake, Grant.
1873. Romeyn B. Fish, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Ray C. Brownell, Colfax; Walter Ford, Lizard; and A. W. Rake, Grant.
1874. Walter Ford, Lizard; David Slosson, Des Moines; Andrew Jackson, Powhatan; Bernard McCartan, Cedar; and Ray C. Brownell, Colfax.
1875. Bernard McCartan, Cedar; David Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; Ray C. Brownell, Colfax; William Stenson, Lizard.
1876. J. C. Strong, Washington; David Slosson, Des Moines; Bernard McCartan, Cedar; William Brownlee, Bellville; and William Stenson, Lizard.
1877. William Brownlee, Bellville; David Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; William Stenson, Lizard.
1878. Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; David Slosson, Des Moines; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1879. J. C. Strong, Washington; David Slosson, Des Moines; Harvey W. Hay, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville, Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1880. Carl Steinbrink, Lizard; James J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Bott, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville.
1881. William Bott, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; William Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1882. James J. Bruce, Clinton; J. C. Strong, Washington; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1883. J. C. Strong, Washington; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; James Mercer, Cedar; Wm. Brownlee, Bellville; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard.
1884. James Mercer, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; Charles G. Perkins, Colfax, (by appointment, Jan. 7, 1884, in place of Wm. Brownlee, the Treasurer elect, resigned); T. J. Calligan, Lizard; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1885. James Mercer, Cedar; J. J. Bruce, Clinton; Swan Nelson, Bellville; T. J. Calligan, Lizard; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1886. T. J. Calligan, Lizard; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Swan Nelson, Bellville; J. W. O'Brien, Sherman.
1887. Wm. Bott, Cedar; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1888. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Wm. Bott, Cedar; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1889. L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1890. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan;

#### OLD ROLFE AND VICINITY.

This view is taken from a point a little east of south, and one-half mile distant. The highway shown runs north and south through the center of section 26, Des Moines township, and through W. H. Hait's farm. The old court house site is on the crest of the hill to the left of the road. The grove on the west side of the road surrounds the home of Mr. Hait, his barn and pasture appear on the east side of the road.

The house and barn, that appear southwest of the court house site, belonged to the farm of William Matson, now owned by R. B. Fish, of Rolfe. North of this and through the open grove can be seen the Old Rolfe brick school house, and west of that, near the left edge of the picture, is the home so long occupied by Wm. Jarvis, and now owned by W. Woodruff, of Marshalltown. The timber that appears on the horizon near the right hand edge, is on the Des Moines river south of the farm of Wm. Struthers. Of Old Rolfe it may be said:

"Sweet smelling village  
Loveliest of the lawn,  
Thy sports are fled,  
And all thy charms withdrawn."

- L. D. Beardsley, Swan Lake; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Swan Nelson, Bellville; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1891. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; J. L. Hopkins, Swan Lake; Wm. Fitzgerald, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1892. J. L. Hopkins, Swan Lake; Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; Frank A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; M. T. Collins, Lizard.
1893. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; F. A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1894. Alexander McEwen, Powhatan; F. A. Thompson, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1895. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Samuel Powell, Center.
1896. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Louie E. Lange, Swan Lake.
1897. J. J. Bruce, Clinton; M. A. Hogan, Dover; Alexander Peterson, Colfax; Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; C. B. Elsen, Lake.
1898. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Claus Johnson, Des Moines; A. H. Richey, Marshall; M. A. Hogan, Dover; C. B. Elsen, Lake.
1899. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln; Claus Johnson, Des Moines; A. H. Richey, Marshall; M. A. Hogan, Dover; C. B. Elsen, Lake.

#### COUNTY AUDITORS.

In 1869 the office of county auditor was created by the same law that abolished the office of county judge, and William D. McEwen, on Jan. 4th, that year, by appointment of the board of supervisors, became the first Auditor of Pocahontas county. At the general election in the fall of 1869, he was elected to that office and, being re-elected two years later, held it until January, 1, 1874, a period of five

years.

Abram O. Garlock, elected in the fall of 1873, and three times thereafter re-elected, became his successor and held that office until January 1, 1882, a period of eight years. He was succeeded by C. H. Tollefsrude, who served two terms, or a period of four years—1882 to 1885. The next incumbent was T. F. McCartan, who was twice re-elected, his third term being one of three years. By the act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved April 5, 1890,\* for the purpose of having the election of the county Auditor and Treasurer come on alternate years, an additional year was added to his third term, making his period of service seven years—1886 to 1892. F. G. Thornton, his successor, served two terms, or four years—1893 to 1896. I. C. Thatcher, the present incumbent, is now serving his second term.

All of the gentlemen who have held this office, with the single exception of A. O. Garlock, (Des Moines) are still residents of this county.

It is the duty of the Auditor to record all the proceedings of the board of supervisors in books printed for that purpose; to sign all orders issued by the board for the payment of money; to preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the board and perform such other special duties as are or may be required of him by law. The County Auditor has also the general custody of the court house, subject to the direction of the board of supervisors.

#### CLERKS OF THE COURT.

The office of Clerk of the Court was first filled by appointment. In March,

\*The law as amended April 5, 1890, provides that there shall be elected in each county at the general election in each even-numbered year, a Clerk of the District Court, a Recorder of Deeds, an Auditor and a County Attorney; and in each odd-numbered year, a Treasurer, a Sheriff, a Coroner, a County Superintendent and a Surveyor, all of whom shall hold office for the term of two years.

1859, A. H. Malcolm was elected to the office, but as he did not qualify, the County Judge, on May 1st, 1859, filled the vacancy by the appointment of S. N. Harris. In the fall of that year he was elected for the term of one year, and in the fall of 1860 he was re-elected, but resigned the office on February 4th, 1861. On May 4th following, A. H. Malcolm was appointed his successor but served only until September 2d following, when he was succeeded by Edward Hammond, also by appointment. In October following, Philip Russell was elected for a term of one year and, at the next election in 1862, was re-elected for a term of two years, making his period of service three years—1862 to 1864. W. H. Hait, who had been elected his successor, on Jan. 3, 1865, appointed Mr. Russell his deputy and left him in charge of the office, and resigning the office on March 20th following, the board of supervisors appointed Mr. Russell Clerk of the Court for the remainder of that year. In October, 1865, A. H. Malcolm was elected for the remaining year of that term and served during 1866. W. D. McEwen, as his successor, was elected for a term of two years and, being twice re-elected, served as Clerk of the Court six years—1867 to 1872.

The next incumbent was M. E. Owen, who held the office two years—1873 and 1874. "He became involved in financial troubles and just before the expiration of his term fled the country, taking with him about \$1000 of the public funds belonging to his office. He was indicted by the grand jury and the board of supervisors offered a reward of \$200 for his arrest and delivery, but he was never apprehended."

In the fall of 1874, J. W. Wallace was elected Clerk of the Court and was re-elected five times, making his term of service twelve years—1875 to 1886. Whilst several others rendered

public service to the county in different offices for a longer series of years, this is the longest period of consecutive service in the same office rendered by any of the public servants of Pocahontas county.\*

On January 1, 1887, W. C. Ralston, Esq., became his successor and, being re-elected three times, served eight years—1887 to 1894. On January 1, 1895, Frank H. Plumb, the present incumbent, became his successor and he is now serving his third term.

The clerk of the district court was by virtue of his office clerk also of the circuit court and it is his duty to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the court.

#### COUNTY TREASURERS.

During the first six years after the organization of the county, or until January 1, 1865, the offices of county treasurer and county recorder were united under the name of "treasurer and recorder."

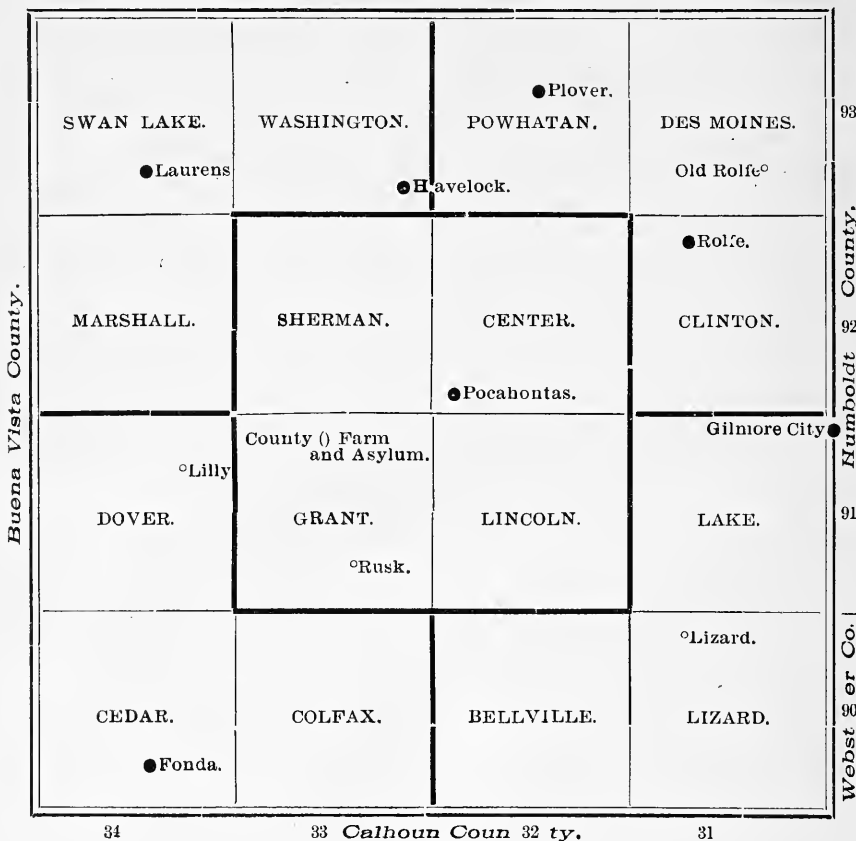
W. H. Hait was the first one to fill the double office. He was elected March 15, 1859, and being re-elected for a full term at the general election in October following, held these two offices during the first three years of the county's history, 1859 to 1861.

On Jan. 1, 1862, Michael Collins became his successor in the double office and in 1863 was re-elected to the same offices for a second term. In the spring of 1864, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that divided these two offices and provided that the "treasurer and recorder" should hold the office of treasurer only, after that year. By reason of this act of the legislature, Michael Collins held the double office of treasurer and recorder only three years, 1862 to 1864, while he served as treas-

\*W. D. McEwen held the office of County Treasurer the same number of years, and during the same period of time, except that the period of continuous service was broken by an interval of two years between the fifth and sixth terms—1884 and 1885.

urer four years, 1862 to 1865. urer and, being re-elected five times—  
 On Jan. 1, 1866, W. H. Hait again in 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881 and 1885—held  
 succeeded to the office of county treas- the office for a period of twelve years,  
 urer and, being re-elected the ensuing 1874 to 1883, and 1886 to 1887—a period  
 year, served two terms or four years, unbroken except by the two years in-

*Palo Alto County.*



**POCAHONTAS COUNTY,**

**Showing the Townships, Towns, Postoffices and Supervisor Districts in 1898.**

<sup>o</sup>SUPERVISOR DISTRICTS—No. 1, Des Moines, Clinton, Powhatan; No. 2, Swan Lake, Marshall, Washington; No. 3, Cedar, Dover, Colfax; No. 4, Lizard, Bellville, Lake; No. 5, Center, Sherman, Grant, Lincoln.

1866 to 1869. He was succeeded by James J. Bruce who, being re-elected in 1871, served four years, 1870 to 1873. W. D. McEwen then became Treasurer during the fifth and sixth terms, 1884 and 1885, when he was not a candidate for re-election. William Brownlee served as Treasurer during

the two years, 1884 and 1885. On Jan. 1, 1888, J. N. McClellan became Treasurer and being twice re-elected, held the office during a period of six years, 1888 to 1893. On Jan. 1, 1894, he was succeeded by C. A. Charlton, who is now serving his third term.

#### COUNTY RECORDERS.

On January 1, 1865, the offices of treasurer and recorder having been separated the previous year, Robert Struthers became County Recorder and served one term of two years, 1865 and 1866. During his first year he was invested with the duties of an office to which Michael Collins, then serving as county treasurer, had been duly elected in the fall of 1863. On Jan. 1, 1867, E. C. Brown succeeded Robert Struthers and served one term of two years, 1867 and 1868. On Jan. 1, 1869, Thomas L. MacVey became the next incumbent and, being twice re-elected, held the office of recorder for six years, 1869 to 1874. He was succeeded by Andrew Jackson, who served one term of two years, 1875 and 1876.

On Jan. 1, 1877, Oscar I. Strong became Recorder and performed the duties of the office until May 1, 1878, when on account of failing health, he appointed Jason H. Lowrey deputy recorder and, placing him in charge of the office, made a trip east. On June 5th following, he resigned the office and the board of supervisors appointed Jason H. Lowrey Recorder in his stead for the remainder of that year.

On Jan. 6, 1879, Geo. Wallace, of Colfax township, entered upon the duties of this office, and two days later the board of supervisors approved the appointment of O. I. Strong as deputy recorder. Mr. Wallace held the office until the time of his decease, August 20, 1880, and the board of supervisors, at their session in September following, appointed C. A. Bryant recorder to fill the vacancy thus occurring, which included the remaining months

of that year.

Michael Crahan was the next Recorder and he served during the two years, 1881 and 1882.

A. L. Thornton was his successor, and being re-elected in 1884, he served from Jan. 1, 1883, until the time of his decease, May 13, 1885. Nine days later, or on May 22, 1885, the board of supervisors appointed Miss May E. Thornton, his daughter (now Mrs. Port C. Barron) to fill the vacancy thus occurring, until the end of that year. At the ensuing election in the fall of 1885, she was elected Recorder by the people and served the remaining year of that term—1886. Whilst other ladies have rendered very efficient service as deputies, this is the only instance in which a lady has served as one of the public officers of this county previous to this date.

W. F. Atkinson was the next incumbent and, being re-elected in 1888, he served a period of four years, 1887 to 1890. He was succeeded by R. D. Bollard who, being thrice re-elected, held the office a period of eight years, 1891 to 1898. On the first Monday in January, 1899, he was succeeded by Leonard E. Hanson, the present incumbent.

It is the duty of the county recorder to make and keep a record of all deeds, mortgages and other instruments in writing that may be delivered to him for record.

#### SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY.

The first Sheriff of Pocahontas county was Oscar Slosson, who was elected March 15, 1859. On Jan. 1, 1860, Henry Jarvis succeeded him and being re-elected in 1861, 1864 (for one year—an unexpired term) and in 1865, filled that office seven years, 1860 to 1863, and 1865 to 1867. For the term commencing Jan. 1, 1864, he was not a candidate, and Abiel Stickney, who had been elected, having resigned the office March 21, 1864, Edward Hammond, by appointment of the board of

supervisors on that date, performed the duties of that office until the end of that year.

It is of interest to note that Abiel Stickney was the one candidate in this county who was elected by the soldier vote. At the general election of Oct. 13, 1863, the home vote for the candidates for sheriff was as follows: John A. James, 16 votes; Abiel Stickney, 14; and John A. James was declared elected by a majority of two votes. But one month later when the four soldier votes were canvassed and all of them were in favor of Stickney, they gave him a majority of two votes and he was then declared elected.

On Jan. 1, 1868, Oscar Slosson became the successor of Henry Jarvis, and being re-elected in 1869, served four years, 1868 to 1871. At the general election held in the fall of 1867, the contest for sheriff became a very spirited one and each of the candidates, Oscar Slosson and George Spragg, received 50 of the 100 votes polled in the county at that election. On drawing cuts the tie was decided in favor of Oscar Slosson.

T. J. Curtis was the next incumbent and he served two years, 1872 and 1873.

Joseph Breitenbach in 1874 became his successor, and in 1875 he was re-elected. In 1877 he was again a candidate for re-election, his opponent being T. L. Dean, and the vote was very close. The board of canvassers found Dean had received 269 votes and Breitenbach 266, and declared the former duly elected; but the latter contested the election and retained the office until the time of his decease, Sept. 13, 1878.

This election contest was first tried, Nov. 24, 1877, before a court consisting of William Brownlee, chairman of the board of supervisors, Judge *ex officio*; W. H. Hait and J. E. Pattee associate judges, appointed by the contestants respectively. Captain J.

A. O. Yeoman, of Fort Dodge, appeared as attorney for the contestant, P. C. Hudson, of the same place, and J. A. Gould, of Pomeroy, for the incumbent. Two days were spent in receiving the testimony of witnesses and hearing the explanatory addresses of the attorneys. The court then by a majority of one, gave its decision in favor of Thomas L. Dean. The dissenting judge, however, filed three reasons for his dissent, one of which was, that owing to the irregularities that had been proven the entire vote of Center township (27 votes) was illegal and, not counting it, the contestant had a majority of 24 votes. The case was then appealed to the district court and before it was decided Mr. Breitenbach met with the runaway accident, one mile south of Pocahontas, that caused his death on the day following.

Thomas L. Dean, who had qualified Jan. 6, 1877, by appointment of the board of supervisors served as Sheriff during the unexpired term, Oct. 1, 1878, to Dec. 31, 1879. He was succeeded by Capt. Joseph Mallison who, being re-elected in 1881, held the office four years, 1880 to 1883. J. F. Pattee was his successor and he being twice re-elected, in 1885 and 1887, held the office six years, 1884 to 1889. John A. Crummer was the next incumbent and he was three times re-elected—in 1891, 1893 and 1895. He held the office eight years, 1890 to 1897. John Ratcliff, the present Sheriff, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1898.

The sheriff is the custodian of the jail and of the prisoners confined in it. He and his deputies are conservators of the peace and in the effort to prevent crime, arrest criminals or execute the processes of the law they have the power, when necessary, to summon others to their assistance. It is the duty of the Sheriff to attend all the sessions of the court, to execute



all orders placed in his hands by the court, the public and peace officers of the county and to make due return of them.

#### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

Perry Nowlen, of Des Moines township, was the first one elected to the office of Superintendent of Schools in Pocahontas county. It was at the second election of county officers, held Oct. 11, 1859, that he was elected but he did not qualify. On March 20, 1860, the County Judge, John A. James, appointed Oscar F. Avery to fill the vacancy, and as its first incumbent, he held this office from the date of his appointment until May 6, 1861, when he resigned. W. H. Hait was appointed as his successor on that same date, by the board of county supervisors, and held the office of county superintendent until April 22, 1862, when he also resigned. Ora Harvey on that day was appointed to fill the vacancy and served as County Superintendent during the remaining months of that year. On Jan. 7, 1863, Michael Collins was appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Board of Supervisors and held the office during that year.

Fred E. Metcalf, the next County Superintendent, was elected by the people and served one term of two years, 1864 and 1865. He was succeeded by W. D. McEwen, who served one term, 1866 and 1867; James J. Bruce one term, 1868 and 1869; David Miller one term, 1870 and 1871; and Geo. W. Hathaway one term, 1872 and 1873.

Oscar I. Strong was elected as the next incumbent and served from Jan. 1, 1874, to June 9, 1875, when he resigned on account of poor health and went to California. J. F. Clark on Oct. 12th, following, was elected to fill the vacancy thus occurring, and being re-elected the ensuing year, held the office from the date of his appointment until the first Monday in January,

1878, a period of three and one-half years.

David Miller, being re-elected, served the next term, 1878 and 1879; and he was succeeded by Oscar I. Strong, who served his second term during the years 1880 and 1881.

J. P. Robinson was the next incumbent and, being re-elected in 1883, served as County Superintendent four years, 1882 to 1885. J. H. Campbell was his successor and also served four years, 1886 to 1889.

Fred C. Gilchrist held the office during the next two years, 1890 and 1891; and Clel Gilchrist, his elder brother, during the next three terms, or six years, 1892 to 1897. Arthur W. Davis, the present incumbent, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1898.

It is the duty of the County Superintendent to serve as the organ of communication between the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the school authorities of the district or township; to furnish the latter with all necessary blanks, circulars and other communications directed to them and to visit each school in his county once each year. It is also his duty to provide an opportunity for the examination of teachers at the county seat on the last Saturday in each month and to issue certificates to those who are competent to teach, good for a term not exceeding one year; and to hold annually a normal institute for the instruction of teachers and those who may desire to teach. To defray the expenses of the institute he shall require the payment of a registration fee of one dollar from each person attending the institute and the same amount from every applicant for a certificate. It is also his duty on the first day of November each year to report to the superintendent of the Iowa College for the Blind (Vinton) the name and address of every blind person residing in the coun-

ty, who may be of suitable age and capacity to be entitled to an education at that institution at the expense of the state; and to the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf (Council Bluffs) the name of any deaf and dumb person between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

#### COUNTY SURVEYORS.

At the first election held March 15, 1859, Guernsey Smith was elected as the first County Surveyor for the remaining months of that year. The records do not show that he qualified for this office, but only that, in partnership with Geo. S. Ringland, he assisted in making the second special survey of the swamp lands of the county during that summer, under a special contract with Oscar Slosson, the County Judge.

At the general election held in the fall of 1859, Robert Struthers was elected County Surveyor and seems to have been the first to qualify for that office. He was re-elected in 1863 and resigned Nov. 11, 1864. No one was appointed to fill the vacancy, and in the fall of 1865 he was again re-elected, and qualified. He was the only incumbent of the office during the ten years from Jan. 1, 1860, to Jan. 1, 1870.

Geo. W. Strong was elected as his successor and held the office from Jan. 1, 1870, to April 3, 1871, when he resigned and Oscar I. Strong, his cousin, was appointed to fill the vacancy during the remaining months of that year. Geo. Van Natta was elected as his successor and served as County Surveyor from Jan. 1, 1872, to June 3, 1873, when he resigned and William Marshall the next day was appointed to fill the vacancy during the remaining months of that year. In the fall of that year William Marshall was elected for the ensuing term and being re-elected in 1875, 1877, 1879 and 1881, held the office from the time of his appointment, June 4, 1873, until Jan. 4, 1884, a period of ten and one-

half years. On Jan. 6, 1874, when he qualified for his first full term, he had Oscar I. Strong appointed as his deputy, and the latter, who was County Superintendent, had William Marshall appointed deputy Superintendent. These were the first deputies in these two public offices.

Lute C. Thornton served the next term during the years 1884 and 1885, and after the lapse of two years, served another term during 1888 and 1889. John J. Cullen served the intervening term, during 1886 and 1887. H. W. Bissell became the next County Surveyor and being re-elected, served four years, 1890 to 1893, when Fred A. Malcolm served two terms, 1894 to 1897, and H. W. Bissell, on Jan. 3, 1898, became his successor and is now serving his third term.

It is the duty of the County Surveyor to make all surveys of land within the county that he may be called upon to make, and his surveys are presumed to be correct. He is required to establish corners and mark them by stones firmly placed in the ground, or by mounds. All plats and records made by him must show at whose personal request they were made, the names of the chainmen and that they were approved and sworn by the surveyor, the date of the new survey and the variation of the magnetic from the true meridian stated.

#### COUNTY CORONERS.

The office of County Coroner is not very lucrative and for this reason nobody fights for it. It is the one public office that is allowed to "seek the man" rather than the "man seek the office." Frequently those who have been nominated and elected have not sufficiently appreciated the honor as to qualify for the performance of the duties pertaining to this office.

At the first election for the organization of the county, William Park was elected as the first coroner but it does not appear that he qualified. At

the general election in the fall of 1859, William Jarvis was elected and held the office during the four years, 1860 to 1863. Edward Hammond was elected for two terms covering the four years, 1864 to 1867; but qualified only for the first term. John H. Johnson was elected for the next term, 1868 and 1869. Joseph Clason served two terms, 1870 to 1873. J. M. Carroll, M. D., served the next term, 1874 and 1875; and he was succeeded by John H. Johnson, who was re-elected for the years 1876 and 1877. J. C. Enfield served two terms, 1878 and 1879, and 1882 and 1883; J. M. Brown serving the intervening term 1880 and 1881. M. F. Patterson, M. D., served during 1884 and 1885, J. M. Carroll, M. D., during 1886, W. W. Beam, M. D. during the next three years, 1887 to 1889. For the year 1890 this office was conferred upon C. C. Delle, Esq., and for 1891 upon J. M. Carroll, M. D. O. A. Pease held it during 1892 and 1893; and Frank Reyburn the next four years, 1894 to 1897. C. B. Lawrence, the present incumbent, has held the office since Jan. 3, 1898.

It is the duty of the coroner to perform all the duties of the sheriff when there is no sheriff, and in all cases before the court when it appears from the papers that the sheriff is a party to the action.

It is his special duty to hold an inquest or official inquiry as to the cause of death, upon the dead bodies of those persons who are supposed to have died by unlawful means. When there is no coroner, and in case of his absence or inability to act, any justice of the peace of the same county is authorized to perform the duties of the coroner in relation to the dead.

#### DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS.

In the early days there existed an unimportant office called "drainage commissioner." In the spring of 1872 the General Assembly of Iowa transferred the duties of this office to the

board of county supervisors and abolished the office after the end of that year.

At the first election in the spring of 1859, James Edelman, and in the fall of that year, as his successor, William Jarvis were elected drainage commissioners for this county. During the next ten years, or until the general election held in the fall of 1869, no one was elected to this office. In October, 1869, W. S. Fegles was elected to this office and two years later he was re-elected for a second term; but neither he nor his predecessors in this office had any official duties to perform.

The duties of this officer related to the location and construction of ditches or drains, or changes in the direction of any watercourse, as a matter of public benefit, in response to petitions signed by a majority of persons residing in the county and owning the land adjacent to the proposed improvement.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

The office of county attorney was created by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa in the spring of 1886 and at the ensuing election William G. Bradley was elected as the first County Attorney of Pocahontas county and he served one term of two years, 1887 and 1888. He was succeeded by Byron J. Allen and C. C. Delle, each of whom served one term. Frank L. Dinsmore held the office four years, 1893 to 1896. William Hazlett, the present incumbent, entered upon the duties of this office Jan. 3, 1897, and is now serving his second term.

The county attorney is elected in the even-numbered years and for a term of two years. It is his duty to appear for the state and county in all cases and proceedings in the courts of his county to which the state or county is a party. He is the legal adviser of the board of supervisors and other county officers in all matters in

which the state or county is interested. His annual salary is fixed by the board of supervisors and he may not accept any fee or reward from or on behalf of any one for services rendered in any prosecution commenced in the name of the state or county, or for the conduct of any official business as the county attorney.

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

Previous to the establishment of the office of county attorney the functions and duties of that officer were performed by district attorneys, one of whom was elected in each judicial district for a term of four years. He appeared for the state and the several counties composing his district, in all matters in which the state or any county he represented was a party both in the district and circuit courts of his district.

In this county the following persons have rendered service as district attorneys:

O. C. Howe, Dickinson Co.,	1859-1862
Henry Ford, Harrison county	1863-1866
Orson Rice, Dickinson	" 1867-1870
C. H. Lewis, Cherokee	" 1871-1874
G. B. McCarty, Palo Alto	" 1875-1876
J. M. Toliver, Calhoun	" 1877-1884
John W. Cory, Dickinson	" 1885-1886

The office was then abolished.

#### I. DISTRICT JUDGES.

(4th District.)

A. W. Hubbard, Woodb'ry Co.	1859-1862
Isaac Pendleton, "	" 1863-1866
Henry Ford, Harrison	" 1867-1874
C. H. Lewis, Cherokee	" 1875-1886

(14th District, 1877, Jan. 1.)

Edward R. Duffie, Sac	" 1877-1884
Lot Thomas, Buena Vista	" 1885-1898
F. H. Helsell, †	" 1898-date
George H. Carr, Palo Alto Co.	1887-1894
W. B. Quarton,* Palo Alto	" 1894-date

#### II. CIRCUIT JUDGES.

J. M. Snyder, Humboldt Co.	1869-1872
Addison Oliver, ‡ Monona Co.	1873-1874

†Appointed Aug. 16, 1898, in place of Lot Thomas, resigned; elected Nov. 8, 1898.

\*Appointed Oct. 13, 1894, to fill vacancy; elected Nov. 6, 1894.

‡Resigned.

J. R. Zouver, Harrison Co.	...1875-1876
Jno. N. Weaver, Kossuth Co.	...1877-1884
J. H. Macomber, Sac Co.	...1885-1886

#### JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

On Feb. 20, 1852, which was soon after the establishment of Pocahontas county, and before there were any settlements in it, this county was assigned to the 5th Judicial district; on Jan. 22, 1853, it was attached to Boone county, and on Jan. 24, 1855, to Webster county for judicial purposes.

After the adoption of the state constitution of 1857, the judicial districts in Iowa were re-arranged by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved March 20, 1858, the change taking effect Jan. 1, 1859. At this date Pocahontas and twenty-one other counties in Northwest Iowa were included in the *Fourth* Judicial district and so remained until July 4, 1876, when by an act approved March 8th previous, the counties of Kossuth, Humboldt, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Dickinson, Clay, Buena Vista, Sac and Ida were detached to form the new Fourteenth district, but for the purpose of holding court remained connected with the former district until Jan. 1, 1877. On Jan. 1, 1887, when the circuit court was abolished and the judicial districts were re-arranged, Pocahontas county remained as a part of the Fourteenth district together with Buena Vista, Palo Alto, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Humboldt and Kossuth counties. For the district and circuit courts the judicial districts were the same. The judges in both courts were elected for a term of four years.

The Circuit court, established Jan. 1, 1866, had general original jurisdiction in all civil and special proceedings, and exclusive jurisdiction in all appeals and writs of error from inferior courts or officers. This court was abolished Jan. 1, 1887, by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa, approved

April 10, 1886; but the judges of the circuit court whose terms of office had not expired Jan. 1, 1887, became judges of the district court in the district in which they resided.

The District court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all actions, proceedings and remedies, both civil and criminal, and exercises all the powers possessed by courts of record. It has the power to probate wills, grant letters of administration and appoint guardians of persons and property, subject to guardianship. It succeeded to and exercises full authority over the records of the circuit court and is invested with all the

of the Sixth congressional district, in 1872 a part of the Ninth and in 1882 a part of the Tenth district to which it still belongs. Members of the lower house of congress are elected for a term of two years and in this district in the even-numbered years. The representatives from this district have been as follows:

Dist.	Name.	Address.	Date
II.	Wm. Vandever,	Dubuque,	1859-1862
VI.	A. W. Hubbard,	Sioux City,	1863-1868
	Charles Pomeroy,	Webster Co.	1869-1870
	Jackson Orr,	Boonesboro,	1871-1874
IX.	Addison Oliver,	Onawa,	1875-1878
	Cyrus C. Carpenter,	Fort Dodge,	1879-1882
X.	A. J. Holmes,	Boone,	1883-1888
	J. P. Dolliver,	Fort Dodge,	1889-date

**Representatives in the General Assembly of Iowa.**

SENATORS.				REPRESENTATIVES.		
G. A.	Dist.	Name.	County.	District.	Name.	County.
1860.	8th	32d, J. F. Dnncombe,	Webster	51st.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1861.*	"	" " " "	"	51st.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1862.	9th	" " " "	"	58th .....	Chas. C. Smeltzer	Webster
" *	"	" " " "	"	58th .....	Chas. C. Smeltzer	Webster
1861.	10th	43d, Geo. W. Bassett,	Webster	60th.....	James W. Logan	Harrison
1866.	11th	44th, " " " "	"	57th.....	Robert Alcorn	Webster
1868.	12th	45th, Theo. Hawley,	Webster	62d.....	Samuel Rees	Webster
1870.	13th	" " " "	"	59th.....	G. S. Toliver	Greene
1872.	14th	47th, Wm. H. Fitch,	Calhoun	67th.....	Robt. Struthers	Pocahontas
1873.*	"	" " " "	"	67th.....	Robt. Struthers	Pocahontas
1874.	15th	" " " "	"	71st .....	E. J. Hartshorn	Palo Alto
1876.	16th	47th, E. J. Hartshorn,	Palo Alto	51st.....	G. S. Robinson	Buena Vista
1878.	17th	" " " "	"	72d.....	L. H. Gordon	Buena Vista
1880.	18th	49th, E. J. Hartshorn,	"	72d.....	D. J. McDavid	Sac
1882.	19th	" " " "	"	72d.....	Horatio Pitcher	Cherokee
1884.	20th	47th, Chas. C. Chubb,	Kossuth	78th.....	Josiah D. McVay	Calhoun
1886.	21st	" " " "	"	78th.....	James J. Bruce	Pocahontas
1888.	22d	50th, A. O. Garlock,	Pocahontas	77th.....	Chas. W. Fillmore	Clay
1890.	23d	50th, Edgar E. Mack,	Buena Vista	77th.....	James Mercer	Pocahontas
1892.	24th	" " " "	"	76th.....	F. E. Carpenter	Humboldt
1894.	25th	50th, G. W. Henders'n	Pocahontas	76th .....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1896.	26th	" " " "	"	76th.....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1897.*	"	" " " "	"	76th.....	Parley Finch	Humboldt
1898.	27th	50th, Parley Finch,	Humboldt	79th.....	M. E. DeWolf	Pocahontas
1899.	"	" " " "	"	"	"	"

\*Extra sessions of the General Assembly were held in 1861, 1862, 1873 and 1897.

powers of a court of law and equity.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

At the time of its organization in 1859, Pocahontas county was a part of the Second congressional district which then embraced the north half of the state. In 1862 it became a part

Mr. Dolliver, the present representative, has been five times re-elected and when his present term expires in 1900, his period of service from this district will have included twelve years.

The legislative authority in Iowa is vested in a General Assembly that con-

GENERAL EXHIBIT OF COUNTY OFFICERS,  
1859 TO 1899.

	County Judge.	Auditor.	Clerk of Court.	Treasurer.	Recorder.
1859	David Slosson		A. H. Malcolm*	W. H. Hait	
1860	J. A. James		S. N. Harris†	W. H. Hait	
1861	I. N. Belknap†		S. N. Harris	"	
1862	Perry Nowlen		Ed. Hammond	Michael Collins	
1863	C. C. Converse†		Philip Russell	"	
1864	F. E. Metcalf		"	Michael Collins	
1865	F. E. Metcalf		W. H. Hait	Michael Collins	Robert Struthers
1866	S. N. Harris		Philip Russell†	W. H. Hait	"
1867	"		A. H. Malcolm	"	E. C. Brown
1868	S. N. Harris		W. D. McEwen	W. H. Hait	"
1869	W. D. McEwen†	W. D. McEwen†	W. D. McEwen	W. H. Hait	Thos. L. MacVey
1870	"	"	"	"	"
1871	"	W. D. McEwen	W. D. McEwen	J. J. Bruce	Thos. L. MacVey
1872	"	"	"	"	"
1873	"	W. D. McEwen	M. E. Owen	J. J. Bruce	Thos. L. MacVey
1874	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1875	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Andrew Jackson
1876	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1877	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Oscar I. Strong
1878	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	J. H. Lowrey†
1879	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Geo. Wallace†
1880	"	A. O. Garlock	"	W. D. McEwen	C. A. Bryant†
1881	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	Michael Crahan
1882	"	C. H. Tollefsrude	"	W. D. McEwen	"
1883	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	A. L. Thornton
1884	"	C. H. Tollefsrude	"	Wm. Brownlee	"
1885	"	"	J. W. Wallace	"	A. L. Thornton†
1886	"	T. F. McCartan	"	W. D. McEwen	May E. Thornton
1887	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	W. F. Atkinson
1888	"	T. F. McCartan	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1889	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	W. F. Atkinson
1890	"	T. F. McCartan	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1891	"	"	W. C. Ralston	"	R. D. Bollard
1892	"	"	"	J. N. McClellan	"
1893	"	F. G. Thornton†	W. C. Ralston	"	R. D. Bollard
1894	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1895	"	F. G. Thornton	F. H. Plumb	"	R. D. Bollard
1896	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1897	"	I. C. Thatcher	F. H. Plumb	"	R. D. Bollard
1898	"	"	"	C. A. Charlton	"
1899	"	I. C. Thatcher	F. H. Plumb	"	L. E. Hauson
	<u>Sheriff.</u>	<u>Superintendent.</u>	<u>Surveyor.</u>	<u>Coroner.</u>	<u>Drainage Com.</u>
1859	Oscar Slosson	Perry Nowlen*	Guernsey Smith*	Henry Park	J. Edelman
1860	Henry Jarvis	O. F. Avery†	Robert Struthers	Wm. Jarvis	Wm. Jarvis
1861	"	W. H. Hait†	"	"	"
1862	Henry Jarvis	Ora Harvey†	Robert Struthers	Wm. Jarvis	"
1863	"	Michael Collins†	"	"	"
1864	Abiel Stickney	Fred E. Metcalf	Robert Struthers	Ed. Hammond	"
1865	Ed. Hammond†	"	"	"	"
1866	Henry Jarvis	"	"	"	"
1867	"	W. D. McEwen	Robert Struthers	Ed. Hammond	"
1868	Henry Jarvis	"	"	"	"
1869	Oscar Slosson	J. J. Bruce	Robert Struthers	John H. Johnson	"
1870	"	"	"	"	"
1871	Oscar Slosson	Dayld Miller	G. W. Strong	Joseph Clason	W. S. Fegles
1872	"	"	O. I. Strong†	"	"
1873	T. J. Curtis	G. W. Hathaway	Geo. Van Natta	Joseph Clason	W. S. Fegles
1874	"	"	Wm. Marshall†	"	"
1875	J. Breitenbach	O. I. Strong	Wm. Marshall	J. M. Carroll	"
1876	"	J. F. Clark†	"	"	"
1877	J. Breitenbach†	J. F. Clark	Wm. Marshall	John H. Johnson	"
1878	"	"	"	"	"
1879	T. L. Dean	David Miller	Wm. Marshall	J. C. Enfield	"
1880	"	"	"	"	"
1881	Jos. Mallison	O. I. Strong	Wm. Marshall	J. M. Brown	"
1882	"	"	"	"	"
1883	Jos. Mallison	J. P. Robinson	Wm. Marshall	J. C. Enfield	"
1884	"	"	"	"	"
1885	J. F. Pattee	J. P. Robinson	Lute C. Thornton	M. F. Patterson	"
1886	"	"	"	"	"
1887	J. F. Pattee	J. H. Campbell	John J. Cullen	J. M. Carroll	<u>Co. Attorney.</u>
1888	"	"	"	W. W. Bean	W. G. Bradley.
1889	J. F. Pattee	J. H. Campbell	L. C. Thornton	"	Byron J. Allen
1890	"	"	"	W. W. Bean	"
1891	J. A. Cramer	F. C. Gilchrist	H. W. Bissell	C. T. Delle	"
1892	"	"	"	J. M. Carroll	C. C. Delle

**General Exhibit of County Officers, 1859 to 1899—Continued.**

	Sheriff.	Superintendent.	Surveyor.	Coroner.	County Attorney
1892	J. A. Crummer	Ciel. Gilchrist	H. W. Bissell	O. A. Pease	" "
1893	" "	" "	" "	" "	F. L. Dinsmore
1894	J. A. Crummer	Ciel. Gilchrist	F. A. Malcolm	Frank Reyburn	" "
1895	" "	" "	" "	" "	F. L. Dinsmore
1896	J. A. Crummer	Ciel. Gilchrist	F. A. Malcolm	Frank Reyburn	" "
1897	" "	" "	" "	" "	Wm. Hazlett
1898	John Ratcliff	A. W. Davis	H. W. Bissell	C. B. Lawrence	" "
1899	" "	" "	" "	" "	Wm. Hazlett

\* Did not qualify.

† Appointed.

‡ Died while in office.

sists of a senate and house of representatives. The sessions of the General Assembly are held biennially and convene in the capitol at Des Moines, on the second Monday in January in each even-numbered year. Members of the house of representatives must be twenty-one years of age and are elected for a term of two years. State senators must be twenty-five years of age and are elected for a term of four

years. It will be perceived that during the past history of this county it has been represented in the state senate by two of its own citizens; Abram O. Garlock in 1888-89, and Geo. W. Henderson, 1894 to 1897. In the house it has been represented by Robert Struthers, in 1872 and 1873; James J. Bruce in 1886-87; James Mercer, 1890-91, and M. E. DeWolf, 1898-99.

IX.

**PIONEER PERIOD, 1855 TO 1869—OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS**

“As I sit in my home in the fire-light glow,  
 Watching the shadows flit to and fro,  
 My mind wanders back  
 Over life’s thorny track,  
 To the bright golden days of long ago.

A feeling of sadness comes stealing along,  
 And with it some strains of a dear old song,  
 That calls from the shadowy past  
 Visions of joy too sweet to last:  
 How the years with their treasures roll swiftly along!”

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1862 TO 1869.



THE first settlements in the southeast and northeast parts of the county previous to the year 1860, have already been noted; also the principal events of that and the previous years when the county was organized and the first court house built. All the proceedings of the county judges worthy of mention have also been noted and those of the board of supervisors during the year 1861.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Iowa Homestead, a weekly farmers’ journal, published in Des Moines in the early sixties by Mark Miller and later by G. Sprague, at \$2.00 a year, was subscribed for by the county board July 1, 1862; and this subscription for the Homestead was continued until 1869. In 1870, the board subscribed for a copy of the Western Farm Journal and it was continued until 1877, when the custom of the board to subscribe for an agricultural paper seems to have been

abandoned.

The delinquent tax list, in 1862, was published by John F. Duncombe, at Fort Dodge for \$130.00, and for several successive years by B. F. Gue, at the same place.

In 1869, the county printing was done for the first time in a home paper by local parties. For that year the delinquent tax list, the proceedings of the board and the advertisements of the sale of the school lands of Des Moines, Clinton, Lizard and Powhatan townships, the only ones then organized, were printed in the Pocahontas Journal, of which Wm. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce were the proprietors. They received for this work \$237.00, and on Feb. 9, 1870, the Journal was again selected to do the county printing, including the publication of the laws of the 13th General Assembly that year.

HONOR ROLL.

On June 6, 1863, by the appointment of

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Edw. Hammond   | for Clinton Twp. |
| Philip Russell | “ Lizard “       |
| W. H. Hait     | “ Des Moines “   |



an arrangement was made for the enrollment of the militia of the county which included all the able-bodied male citizens between the years of eighteen and forty-five, who were not exempt from military duty.

At their meeting held Jan. 2, 1865, the board agreed to pay a bounty of \$900 to each volunteer who would enter the army or navy of the United States, and the later records show that Dennis Quigley and Thos. Quigley were recipients of this special bounty. This volunteer *bounty* fund was raised by an assessment of four mills on the dollar during the year of 1865. A soldiers' *relief* fund of two mills on the dollar had been raised for the benefit of those who had enlisted at the beginning of the war, namely:

A. H. Malcolm, Henry Cooper,  
Oscar Slosson, Henry Tilley,  
Chas. W. Jarvis, Hiram Evans,  
W. S. Fegles, John Gayler,  
Andrew Mills.

“For those true men who fought to lift  
Our country's banner high in air,  
Wreaths of lilies we weave and bring  
Roses and star-eyed pansies fair.”

During the war, Pocahontas county furnished eleven men, which was one-third of the able-bodied residents of the county at the time. This was her full quota and there was no need of a resort to a draft.

Four of those named above, namely, A. H. Malcolm, Henry Cooper, Hiram Evans and Oscar Slosson enlisted at the same time—Sept. 2., 1861, at Fort Dodge—and became members of Co. A, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Captain Franklin A. Stratton, of Fort Dodge. This company went by stage to Cedar Falls, the nearest railroad station, and in due season arrived at Dubuque where they were mustered in, September 21st, following.

On October 6th they were transported via Chicago and Pittsburg to Washington. At Newton Hamilton, Pa., where the train stopped to let another

one pass it, a member of the company, Peter Bowers, was killed by falling under the wheels in trying to board the train while in motion. With others he had gone to get some ripe apples from a tree near the railroad and the train was moving slowly from the station when he returned.

At Washington the company found their tents, horses, bridles, saddles and sabers awaiting them, and on December 24th they passed to Annapolis, where they embarked on an old worn-out propeller—Pocahontas—and landed at Fortress Monroe. Here in March, 1862, they witnessed the destruction of the Congress and the grounding of the Minnesota by the rebel ram, “Merrimac,” and its destruction by the Monitor on the day following. Other places where the company was located were Norfolk, Suffolk, Gatesville, North Carolina; Windsor, Hanover Court House, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Gloucester and Petersburg. On September 20, 1864, only 37 of the 83 men comprising the company remained with it to be mustered out at Jones' Landing, and of this number were Henry Cooper, John Gayler, trumpeter, and Sergeant A. H. Malcolm, from Pocahontas county. The company had been constantly engaged doing scouting work in front of the rebel lines, and many had become victims of disease, died in rebel prisons or had fallen in conflicts with the enemy. Their return was via Bermuda Hundred, Fortress Monroe (where they waited three days for their pay) and Baltimore.

FIRST TAX SALE.

The first instructions of the board to the assessors seem to have been given on Jan. 6, 1863, when the assessors of the three townships then organized were directed to estimate the value of the taxable property of the county as follows:

Working oxen (pair)...\$25 00 to \$50 00  
3-yr-old steers..... 12 00 “ 18 00

Horses.....	15 00	“	75 00
Cows.....	7 00	“	10 00
Real estate.....	2 00	per acre	

For the year 1864, this valuation was directed to be considerably higher, so that a pair of oxen should rate \$40 to \$80; 1-year-old steers, \$6 to \$10 each; horses, \$15 to \$100 each, and swine 50 cents to \$1.50 a head. The land continued to be rated at \$2.00 an acre until the last year of the period, (1869) when it was raised to \$2.50 an acre.

The first sale of lands for the non-payment of taxes, seems to have occurred at the court house, May 15, 1862, under the direction of Michael Collins, county treasurer. At this sale a large number of lands were sold for delinquent taxes, and Pitt Cook was the principal purchaser. After the sale some doubts arose in regard to its legality, owing to the fact no warrant had been endorsed on the tax lists by the proper officers of the county to the treasurer, authorizing him to collect the taxes, and some of the previous owners threatened to commence legal proceedings against the treasurer of the county for the recovery of the lands. On March 3, 1863, the board of supervisors found it necessary to sign a bond of \$10,000 to indemnify the county treasurer before it was deemed advisable for him to disburse the funds received from this tax sale. Later, \$62.08 was returned to Pitt Cook for lands erroneously sold, and to Caspar Rice were returned all funds received from him, with interest; and to Widow Washburn was restored the title to her lands, and in 1868 to E. G. Morgan, also.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

The first three county roads have already been noted. During the latter part of this pioneer period a number of new roads were laid out, of which the principal ones were as follows: On Nov. 6, 1865, Hugh Collins was appointed to view and locate a road from the northeast corner of sec-

tion 24, Lizard township, westward to the Buena Vista county line.

The next year Jeremiah Young was appointed to locate the Des Moines river and Swan Lake road, commencing at the northeast corner of the NW¼ Sec. 26, Des Moines township, and running west to intersect the Buena Vista county road as near Swan Lake as practicable. In the survey of this road Oscar I. Strong was assisted by Henry Thomas as carrier. On the petition of Patrick Forey and others the Branch road was established extending from the Des Moines river to the north line of section 1, Lizard township; thence to Lizard creek and thence on the nearest and most practicable route to the county road in Buena Vista county. This road was located by Henry Cooper and surveyed by O. I. Strong, assisted by Charles and Geo. W. Strong, chain carriers.

At the request of A. H. Malcolm and others, the same year a road was established, commencing at the north line of section 4, Des Moines township, extending thence south to the quarter stake on the east line of section 28, thence east to the center of section 26, until it intersected the Des Moines river and Lizard road. A. H. Malcolm was appointed to view and locate this road and it was surveyed by Robert Struthers assisted by Oscar Slosson and Joseph Clason, chain carriers, and James Drown, axeman.

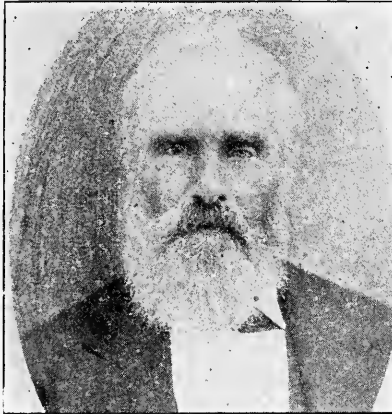
In 1867, the Clinton road was established at the request of Daniel W. Hunt and others, and it was located by Samuel N. Harris; and the next year the Barrett and Boyd road was established in Lizard township. This road was located by R. L. Sherman, and surveyed by D. C. Russell assisted by John Price, axeman. The Powhatan and Lizard road was established the same year at the request of Daniel Thomas and others. It was located by B. L. Inman and



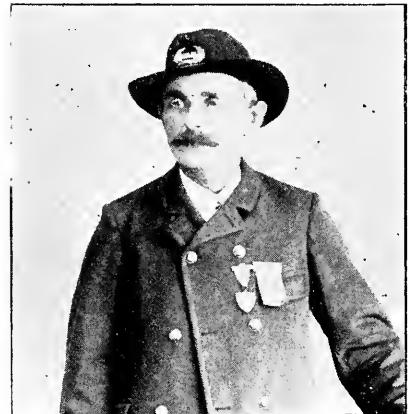
ORA HARVEY, Clinton Twp.  
Co. Supervisor, 1861-1868



MRS. ORA HARVEY



DAVID SLOSSON,  
First Co. Judge, Mar. 15 to Dec. 31, 1859.  
Co. Sup'v'r, 1861, 63-67, 70-71, 74-79.



ROMEYN B. FISH,  
County Supervisor, 1872-73



Bruce & McEwen's Store



Brick School House 1861

OLD ROLFE.



VIEW OF THE DES MOINES RIVER VALLEY LOOKING SOUTH-EAST FROM OLD ROLFE COURT HOUSE SITE.

The barn at the left is W. H. Hait's; the timber belt is along the river and the horizon line is over in Humboldt County. Chas. E. Fraser, a Pocahontas County boy, appears in his rig.

surveyed by O. I. Strong assisted by E. J. and D. Strong.

In 1866, Henry Cooper and others petitioned for a road extending from the south line of section 4, Des Moines township, so as to intersect the Fort Dodge and Spirit Lake road, and thence west to the west line of Powhatan township. This road was located and surveyed by Henry Cooper and it was known as the Coopertown road.

In 1869, the Depot road was established in Lizard township at the request of H. B. Vaughn, and it was located by E. V. Brown.

In 1862 arrangements were made for the erection of three important bridges—one over the Des Moines river, by W. H. Hait, and two over the Lizard, one by Charles Kelley and the other over the north fork by Michael Morissey. The two latter were inspected by Robert Struthers, and his report, which was spread upon the records, shows the discriminating judgment and sterling integrity of that worthy pioneer. His report was as follows:

MILTON, Jan. 2, 1866.

TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

GENTLEMEN—According to appointment, I did visit on the 15th day of July, 1865, the two bridges built over the Lizard. I found the one built by Charles Kelly complete, but the other one was very imperfect both as regards material and workmanship.

ROBERT STRUTHERS.

On October 18, 1865, Messrs. Elijah D. Seeley, Charles Campbell and Wm. D. McEwen reported favorably on the completion of the bridge built over the Des Moines river by W. H. Hait.

The dates of these reports indicate that these public improvements moved slowly in those days. It was the period of the war when public attention was directed to the scene of conflict, and every available man had enlisted. It was also the period of hard times and there was not to be found either the men or the money to secure the

speedy erection of these public improvements. When these contracts were let there was no money in the county treasury to pay for them. The funds were provided by voting a special three-mill tax in November, 1862, for the Des Moines river bridge and a two and one-half mill tax, on September 5, 1863, for the two bridges over the Lizard, that cost \$1,396. The whole number of votes polled at this last election was twenty-four, and twenty-three of them were for the special levy.

During the sixties two other bridges were built, one by W. H. Hait, over Pilot creek in 1865, at a cost of \$250; and one by Charles Kelley, over the Lizard, and inspected by W. H. Hait, Robert Struthers and Jas. McCaskey. In the last year of this period (1869) provision was made for the erection of a number of bridges. Thomas L. MacVey was appointed to view the ground and prepare the specifications for one where the Branch road crossed Pilot creek, near the home of D. W. Hunt, and another one over Beaver creek, where it is crossed by the line of section 27, Des Moines township. The latter was erected by Henry Jarvis, for \$167.00. Andrew Jackson built one over the Big Slough on the Branch road and another one on the Swan Lake road where it crossed the Lizard, each of them costing \$175.00. J. C. VanNatta built one over Beaver creek on the North Branch road for \$255.00. Contracts were also made with Michael Wiese for the erection of two bridges over the Lizard, one on the Depot road for \$445 and the other on the Barrett and Boyd road for \$425.00.

In 1867, the fourth member was added to the board of supervisors, Nunda (now Powhatan) township being represented. On June 6th, Galusha Parsons, of Fort Dodge, was employed as an attorney for the county at a salary of \$25.00 a year. The dis-

trict attorney at this time lived in Dickinson county. The first fees for services as constable seem to have been paid this year to Joseph Clason who received \$1.00 for services rendered under the direction of the district court. The first of the county coroners to receive compensation seems to have been John H. Johnson, of Lizard township, who received \$16.90 for services in 1869. The salary of the sheriff in 1864 was \$20.00; in 1869 it was raised to \$50.00 and in 1870 to \$100.00. The salary of the county superintendent from 1868 to 1870 averaged \$100.00 a year. The salary of the double office of treasurer and recorder in 1864 was \$840; the next year these offices were separated, and in 1870 the salary of the treasurer was fixed at \$1000, and that of the auditor at \$800.

#### WOLF BOUNTY.

On Nov. 15, 1864, the board agreed to give a bounty of \$2.00 each for wolf scalps in addition to the \$1.00 provided by the state. Those who were recipients of this wolf bounty in 1865, were Wm. Harris for one and Charles Kelley for two scalps. In 1866, Joseph Clason received \$21.00 for five scalps. Some of these were timber and others were prairie wolves, and two of them were claimed to be a cross between the timber and prairie wolf, and for these two he received \$5.00 each.

On Jan. 8, 1867, the board increased the bounty on wolves to \$5.00 each, and the recipients that year were Joseph Clason, \$25.00; David J. Bishop, \$5.00; Richard Chatfield, \$10.00 and Samuel Bowman, \$6.00 for six swifts. The swift was an animal having the color and habits of a small fox, but with a darker head, more slender form and swifter movement. The prairie wolf was a little larger and darker in color than the coyote and the timber wolf was about twice as large as the prairie wolf.

On Feb. 29, 1868, the board rescind-

ed the act allowing a county bounty on wolves, but before this act was passed, Wm. L. Clason and Richard Chatfield each reported the capture of two wolves that day.

On Jan. 4, 1869, the board agreed to give a bounty of \$3.00 each for wolves caught in this county. On the next day, however, when it was known that O. F. Avery, of Humboldt county, but county superintendent in 1861, was in town with seventeen wolf scalps, the board hastily rescinded its action of the previous day and gave him a warrant for the state bounty at \$1.00 each. The other recipients of the state bounty that year were Richard Chatfield, Wm. L. and Henry Clason.

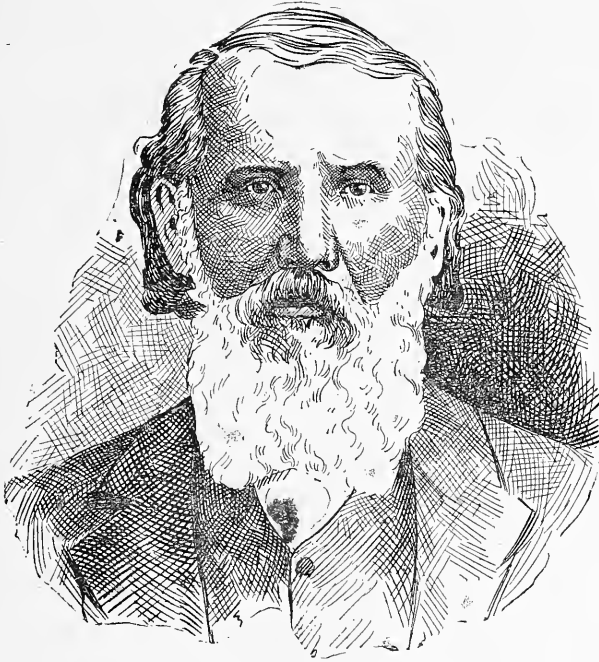
#### UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first religious services held in Pocahontas county were conducted by Rev. David S. McComb, of Algona, who, visiting the northeast part of this county in the spring of 1859, organized the Unity Presbyterian church with a membership consisting of the following persons: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Struthers, of Pocahontas county; Mr. and Mrs. John McCormack, Sr., Thomas and John McCormack, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McClellan, of Palo Alto county; Mr. and Mrs. Seth G. Sharp and Mrs. Hannah Evans, of Humboldt county, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward McNight. At the time of its organization John McCormack, Sr., John McCormack, Jr., and S. G. Sharp were appointed elders, and a little later Joseph Clason was added to their number. Others who served in this capacity during the later years of this organization were Robert Lothian, James Dean, Robert Struthers and Robert Anderson.

The services were held once in two weeks and at the homes of the settlers. A frequent place of meeting was the cabin of Edward McNight, a settler from Pennsylvania, who in 1856 had

erected a substantial log cabin in the grove of natural timber near the county line on the eastward curve of the Des Moines river, now known as McNight's Point. As soon as it was ready for occupancy in 1860, the court house at Old Rolfe became the regular place of meeting and later the brick school house when it was com-

Dubuque, Maquoketa and Delaware county, in 1856 he located at Algona, then a mere hamlet, where he organized a church. In October, 1861, he was elected county judge of Kossuth county for one year. He was the first moderator of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, November 2, 1865. In 1868 he located on a homestead in Palo Alto



**REV. DAVID S. McCOMB,**

The pioneer preacher of Pocahontas County. Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church, Old Rolfe, 1859 to 1871.

pleted in 1861.

Rev. David S. McComb ministered to this congregation nearly thirteen years, 1859 to 1871. He was a native of Washington county, Pa., a graduate of Jefferson college and Allegheny Theological seminary. He was ordained in 1841 and four years later came to Iowa where he spent a life-long service in pioneer missionary work. After pastorates in Oskaloosa,

county, one mile west of Rodman, where he died June 12, 1888. As a minister he was always very prompt in meeting his appointments. In storm and wind as well as sunshine he was seeking out the destitute and bringing to them the tidings of the gospel. So fearless was he in his work that riding in a severe gale to meet one of his appointments, he lost the sight of one of his eyes. Of this pio-

near preacher it may be said:  
 "This man never preached for money,  
 If he did he never got it;  
 He had faults and many virtues,  
 He was conscientious and devoted,  
 Persevering and determined.  
 Long his name will be remembered."

Other pastors who served this Unity church were Mr. Hugh McGuire, in 1872; Rev. Walter L. Lyons, three years, 1873 to 1875; Mr. F. F. Young, a student of Park college, two years, 1876 to 1878, and Lyman C. Gray, two years, 1879 and 1880. At this date the new town of Rolfe was located in Clinton township, the place of meeting was changed and a new organization being effected known as the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe, the former organization known as the Unity Presbyterian church, after an existence of twenty-one years, became obsolete.

#### THE LAST BUFFALO CHASE.

The buffalo, that noble specimen of the ox species, that once grazed in almost countless numbers on these beautiful prairies, afforded the red man abundance of meat, and so much did he prefer it to all others while it was available, that deer, elk and other smaller kinds of game were left to sport upon the prairies undisturbed, unless their hides were needed for dress or tent coverings. The buffalo, or more properly speaking, the bison, is a noble animal and it once roamed over the vast prairies from the borders of Mexico on the south to Hudson's bay on the north. Their size was somewhat larger than that of common cattle and their flesh, which had a delicious flavor resembling and equaling that of fat beef, furnished the savages of these vast regions a wholesome and substantial element of food upon which they sometimes lived almost exclusively; while their hides, horns, hoofs and bones were utilized for clothing, tenting and the construction of bows, shields and ornaments. The male when fully grown, was one of

the most formidable and frightful looking animals in the world when excited to resistance; his long, shaggy mane hung in great profusion over his neck and shoulders and often extended quite down to the ground. The cow was less in stature and less ferocious, but just about as wild and frightful in her appearance.

In noting the large boulders in this county a reference was made to the supposed "buffalo wallow" at the base of the one in Lincoln township. An account of these old landmarks is now appropriate.

Like a "buffalo in his wallow," is an old adage that had a very significant meaning to those who have seen the male buffalo perform his ablutions, or rather cool his heated sides in the warmer weather by tumbling about in a mud puddle.

In the heat of summer these huge animals, that no doubt suffer great discomfort from the profusion of their long and shaggy hair, while grazing on the low grounds or sloughs on the prairies where there is a little standing water upon the surface and the ground underneath is soft, lowered upon one knee will plunge first their horns and then their head, shoving out the earth and making an excavation in the ground into which the water filters from the surrounding surface and forms for them a cool and comfortable bathing place into which they plunge like a pig in the mire. Into this delightful laver the buffalo throws himself flat upon his side and forcing himself violently around, with his horns and huge hump on his shoulders he continues to plow up the ground by a rotary motion and sinks himself deeper and deeper by the constant enlargement of the place until he becomes nearly immersed.

"Oft in the full descending flood he  
 tries,  
 To lose the scent and lave his burn-  
 ing sides."



It is generally the leader of the herd that makes the wallow, and when he has cooled his sides in the water and mud mixed into a perfect mortar that completely changes his color, he comes forth a walking mass of dripping, black mortar—a hideous monster of mud and ugliness too frightful and eccentric to describe.

One wallow served for a herd, and when the leader came forth from it another and another stood ready to enjoy this luxury until the entire herd had their turn, each adding a little to its size and carrying away an equal share of the dirty, black mortar. These wallows were often left fifteen to twenty feet in diameter and two feet deep; and when filled with vegetable deposits through the lapse of years they have yielded an unusual growth of grass and herbage in circular form that has attracted the attention of the traveler and awakened his curiosity.\*

The chief hunting amusement of the Indians consisted in the chase of the buffalo which was almost invariably done on horseback with bow and arrow. Mounted on his little wild horse, which had also been caught on the prairies and trained for the chase, without bit or bridle the Indian dashed off at a full speed for the herd, and when alongside his game, sent his deadly arrows to their hearts from the back of his pony.

And now the morning sun ascends the sky,  
The armed hunters after the buffalo  
hie. —VIRGIL.

On August 20, 1863, the last buffalo seen in Pocahontas county was chased and killed by W. H. Hait assisted by Orlando Slosson, Robinson Gordon and Abiel Stickney.

Mrs. Charles Jarvis, whose husband that year was running Mr. Hait's sawmill and with her living in his home, and now a resident of Bradgate,

\*George Catlin, in *North American Indians*.

was the first to see this one in the distance. On going to milk the cows at the barn in the morning before breakfast she found them missing, and viewing the country around to see where they were, her eye fell on a strange looking object capering on a little knoll on section 22, about one and one-half miles northwest of the court house, that awakened her surprise. Mr. Hait was in the court house at this time, and when he returned home for breakfast and his attention was called to it he recognized it as a buffalo.

Mr. Hait hurriedly partook of some breakfast and then began to prepare for the chase by summoning to his assistance the men named above. Three things were needed—fleet horses, good weapons and ammunition. In the court house there were some old Springfield army muskets, but there was no ammunition suited for them. The only ammunition available was in the form of some little cartridges for a small (No. 32) revolver owned by Mr. Hait. As it was deemed advisable that each man should have a loaded weapon, the muskets were loaded as best they could be with that kind of ammunition, and while Mr. Hait took his revolver, each of his assistants was armed with a musket. Unfortunately suitable horses were as scarce as the weapons, there being but one horse available that could run as fast as a buffalo. Happily this one belonged to Mr. Hait, and he mounted it while the others took such as they could get. Thus equipped—  
“They to the buffalo's pursuit,  
With spurring put their horses to it;  
And, till all four were out of wind  
And their game captured, never looked  
behind.”\*

As the buffalo was capering with manifest enjoyment, they did not plan to flank or surround him, but started off in high glee expecting to give him a general broadside that would lay

\*Hudibras.

him low; but when they had proceeded a short distance the buffalo perceived them and avoided the broadside by quitting his capering, turning tail and speeding away in a northwesterly direction. The chase was now begun with all possible earnestness, each hunter urging his steed to make his utmost speed.

Mr. Hait, who was riding a horse bred in Kentucky and one of the fleetest ever brought to this county, was soon a considerable distance ahead of the others, and it became apparent that his steed was the only one in the lot that could run as fast as the buffalo. After a chase of two miles or more he overtook the buffalo and galloping by his side, at the distance of one rod, he fired in quick succession as many shots as he could from his little revolver, aiming at the heart of the brute.

When the third wound had been inflicted the buffalo became enraged and, charging furiously at the steed of his pursuer, compelled Mr. Hait to beat a hasty retreat. This retreat took the form of a semi-circle, and the buffalo followed Mr. Hait until his companions arrived, when each of them fired a shot as he had opportunity. About the only effect of these shots was to lead the buffalo to attack each man as he inflicted a wound. One of the men in his effort to avoid the charge of the buffalo, dropped and lost his musket in the grass.

Mr. Hait having reloaded, and seeing the danger of his companions who were scarcely able to keep out of his way when pursued by the enraged brute, for the purpose of attracting him from them, again rode close by and fired another series of shots at his heart. This was the crisis or turning point in the battle with this buffalo. The buffalo did not now attack Mr. Hait as before but sought shelter from his pursuers and relief from the

oppressive heat by running in a westerly direction to the center of a large slough. All the men now realized the danger connected with their undertaking. The retreat of the buffalo was a source of great relief, affording them time to reload their weapons and give their exhausted steeds a few moments of greatly needed rest.

The battle after this point took the form of a series of skirmishes in as many as four or five different sloughs, each one being some distance further westward. In these skirmishes in the sloughs, the men would go as near to the buffalo as they could safely with their horses and firing at him he would charge upon them, compel them to retreat and then seek refuge in another one further west.

At last the buffalo became too weak and weary to charge upon his pursuers and finding they could not kill him outright, they drove him back about a half-mile when, exhausted and dying, he lay down on that part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 24, Powhatan township, that is now owned by Dora Strong. When he lay down Orlando Slosson ventured close to him and fired two more shots into him after which he soon expired. About three hours had been occupied in the chase, and the place where he fell was about five miles northwest of Old Rolfe.

Mr. Hait and two of the men now returned home for a team and left Oscar Slosson to guard their game and enable them to find the place where he was lying. The latter, however, became very dry, and going some distance in search of a stream of running water, lost his bearing and was vainly trying to find the buffalo, now concealed from view at a distance by the tall grass of the prairie in the midst of which he was lying, when his companions returned with the team. By following his trail in the grass the buffalo was finally located.

This buffalo was a very large one and

his weight was estimated at 1400 pounds. His horns were not very long but were very strong, being fully three inches in diameter at the base and each had seventeen rings. They removed his hide and the hump of lean meat on the top of his neck and shoulders. The latter was about the size of the drum of an old-fashioned cook stove, weighed over one hundred pounds, and being divided among the settlers who lived in the vicinity of Old Rolfe, furnished them a good, tender steak as long as they were able to keep it in the hot weather.

This was the last buffalo known to have grazed on the prairies of this county. This largest of American game, like the Indian to whom he was the principal means of subsistence, is fast passing away at the approach of civilized man. In the winter of 1881 and 1882 there were killed in this country 80,000 of these noble creatures. At this time there remains only a few small herds of them and they are in the region of country drained by the head waters of the Missouri river west of the Black Hills. In a very few years the wild buffalo will live only in books that contain his history and in pictures upon canvas.

#### THE LAST INDIAN HUNT, JULY 13, 1864.

Among the many incidents of interest that happened to the early pioneers of this county were those caused by Indian scares. The Spirit Lake Massacre occurred in 1857 and the greater one at New Ulm a few miles further north in 1862, and one is not surprised at the statement that the mere report of the red man advancing upon the defenceless and unprotected settlers always had a very disquieting effect; and when the report was communicated by one who had a sight of the real Indian dressed in war costume with feathers and gun, as was the case in 1864, the effect was magical.

In the month of July, 1864, what

was believed to be a lone Indian was reported to have been seen passing down Pilot creek amid the timber in Clinton township. He was decked with war-paint, had the ominous feathers in his cap and carried his gun in his hand. This report excited and aroused all the settlers for many miles around Old Rolfe, and they deemed it expedient to take immediate steps for their mutual protection. The fact that the Indian disappeared as suddenly as he had made his appearance, left the community in a state of bewilderment almost unendurable.

Scouting parties scoured the country for a short distance around, the first evening, but did not discover any trace of the Indians. On the following morning about sixty of the settlers of Pocahontas and Humboldt counties assembled at a place in the southeastern part of Powhatan township, then known by the euphonious name of Gandertown, and a council of war was held. It was finally decided to divide their number into two companies, one of which under the command of Oscar F. Avery, should go west to Swan Lake, and the other under the leadership of Edward Hammond, should go south to Lizard lake.

The first party, under O. F. Avery, started in a westerly direction but the day being cloudy and dark, the tall grass of the prairies trackless and the region traversed uninhabited, they found it a difficult matter to keep the right course. At three o'clock in the afternoon they discovered they were at the southern extremity of Rush lake, which is about six miles north-east of Swan Lake. They arrived at the latter place about five o'clock.

This long and tedious ride, like other similar ones, was not lacking in its amusing features. Its tediousness was somewhat mellowed by listening to the many and various plans that some of the brave members of the

party proposed to execute in the event they had the good fortune to find the fiendish and brutal Sioux.

As they neared the timber that skirted the outlet at the southeast part of the lake they began to discover trails made by the passing and re-passing of Indian ponies along the lake; signs that told quite plainly that the much hated red man had occupied this locality, but just how long before that day it was impossible to tell.

While the leader of the party was searching intently for newly made signs of the presence of Indians and was about to enter the timber, he was surprised to find that the horses of a large number of the party had suddenly become very tired on arriving at a shooting distance of the timber, and refused to advance any nearer. The only remaining horses, that retained vigor enough to carry their riders to the timber with their leader, were those in charge of W. H. Hait, Fred E. Metcalf and A. M. Adams, who is now editor of the Humboldt Independent.

These four men proceeded cautiously through the narrow belt of timber and across the outlet of the lake. There they found, not the Indians they were looking for, but a deserted place where seven tepees or Indian tents had been recently pitched and the campfire was still burning; and strewn promiscuously around it were the fresh remains of elk, deer and fish. A careful inspection led to the conclusion that this camp had been deserted about twenty-four hours before and they dismounted for the purpose of resting their tired limbs.

A few moments later Metcalf discovered a sand-hill crane a few rods distant and, thinking no harm would result, shot the bird; but before the echo of the gun had died away they were startled by the sound of horses galloping at a distance. This led

them to feel they had misinterpreted the deserted camp and that they were soon going to be surrounded by a band of the treacherous and savage Sioux.

Hastily remounting their steeds and recrossing the belt of timber, they were surprised to find that none of the horses of their brave comrades were near at hand but at the distance of a mile or more were passing over the brow of a slight elevation, bearing their riders at a breakneck speed in the direction of Old Rolfe. At the distance of two miles some of them halted to investigate the cause of alarm, but of two of their number it is said, they were so badly frightened they were unable to check their horses until they were once more within sight of the old court house.

On realizing, with considerable feeling of amusement, the new situation of affairs, Mr. Avery and his companions again dismounted for a short time to let their horses rest and feed. They then returned to Old Rolfe, where they arrived about eleven o'clock that night. Edward Hammond and his party, whose trip to Lizard lake had been without incident save the disappointment in not finding some trace of Indians, had returned to this place, and about two hundred others, old and young, had also gathered here from the surrounding country for their better protection from the Indians and to hear the news. About midnight O. F. Avery, Edward Hammond, Ora Harvey, A. M. Adams, W. H. Hait and their families with an armament from the court house armory, consisting of a half dozen Harper's Ferry muskets of the patent of 1827, returned to Avery's Park Grove farm, located across the line in Humboldt county. The others also sought places of safety and rest for the night.

Thus ended one of the most exciting incidents in the early history of Pocahontas county. No event connected

with the quiet life of the little village of Old Rolfe ever developed anything like the intense and long sustained excitement of this memorable 13th day of July, 1864.

Time hath wrought a wond'rous change,  
The painted warrior is no more;  
The pale intruders' herds now range  
Along the lake and river shore.

#### THE GRASS AND MOSQUITOES.

The grass of the prairies in these early days was very luxuriant. The prevalence of a large amount of surface water in the sloughs and ponds resulted in the luxuriant growth of several varieties of tall grasses that was neither cut nor pastured, and in midsummer this growth of grass to a great extent prevented the evaporation of the surface water. Illustrations of three kinds of native grasses appear in the frontispiece of this volume. The samples of wild rye at the left and of panic or upland prairie grass at the right were each three and one-half feet in height, and the sample of fresh water cord or fine slough grass in the center, measured seven and one-half feet. Another variety known as coarse slough grass and also the iron weed, both grew to the height of seven to eight feet, so that a man riding horseback amid these tall grasses in the low places could knot them over his head and ride forth from under the knot.

The sloughs with their moisture and luxuriant vegetation became breeding places for the mosquitoes, and from early spring until the first frost of autumn their musical notes were heard. It was impossible to milk the cows after sundown without a smudge (a smoky fire) or a protection of mosquito bar over the face. It was conceded by all who spoke of the mosquitoes that they were the "toughest and longest bill of fare the pioneer had to contend with."

The mosquito has been described as "the smallest fowl that navigates the

air." Although they do not soar so high as other fowls they make fouler sores than any other and are so tame that they will eat out of your hand. They are not very devout and yet they sing. As songsters they are a success, making some of the sweetest sounds ever heard. One was sometimes constrained to lie awake all night to listen to their strains even if it was a confounded strain on the sleeper. If any one did not like their music and "got on his ear" about it, they were very accommodating and pretty sure to light on his ear. One naturally liked their music better than anything else about them. Many a time has an early settler, as he lay upon his downy bed, listened to their charming music until he, too, would join their melody by shouting "Shoo fly!" and clap his hands together in the hope of capturing some of his interesting little serenaders.

#### TRIALS AND PRIVATIONS.

The early settlers in a homestead country are usually not very rich in this world's goods, and their first years in the new country are invariably characterized by privation and hardship, especially if the promised railroad lags at an eastern terminus. The markets are at a great distance from home, the rivers and sloughs are unbridged and during a considerable portion of the year impassable, thus forcing the pioneer to depend on his own resources.

In the spring of 1867 the streams were unusually high and the dam of the mill at Fort Dodge, which was the nearest one accessible to the pioneers of this county, was swept away. No flour could then be procured nearer than Boonesboro, Nevada or Webster City, and it was impossible to reach these places for several weeks, because nearly all the bridges were also swept away.

Very few of the settlers had any great quantity of flour or meal on

hand for they had neither the room nor the receptacles for it, and long before the waters subsided so that the streams could be forded or the mills repaired the supply of these necessities of life in the northeast part of the county was exhausted. The outlook was dark and discouraging. Nearly all had grain of some kind in the crib or bin, but they had no means of converting it into meal or flour. The settlers of Powhatan township, being the furthest from all sources of supply, were the worst off.

During this period many of them lived on johnny-cake and hominy. The corn was converted into meal by running it through a coffee-mill. Unfortunately there were but two or three coffee-mills in the township at this time and the settlers had to take their turns in grinding their little grists, each doing his own turning.

The grinding of the flinty corn on the coffee-mill was a slow process and hard work. The mill had to be set so as to grind it coarsely the first time and when set closer the grist was run through it a second time before it was fine enough for use. The effort to "keep the wolf from the door" by this means was declared by one to be a real "ground-hog case," and one of the good ladies remarked that there was always a "bear in the house" whenever her husband run the mill, which was three times a day. The time required to grind a one-meal grist for a family of four was three quarters of an hour, and the head of the family was usually glad there were no more. The first flour, that was brought into the Powhatan settlement after the spring floods of 1867 had subsided, was hauled on wagons from Iowa Falls to Humboldt and cost there \$11.00 a hundred weight.

Sometimes when the corn began to mature in the fall of the year, ears that were soft enough were reduced

to a coarse meal by rubbing them over a rude grate made by punching holes in the bottom of a tin pan; and when the grain became drier many an ear was reduced by means of a jack-plane. Wheat from the bin was often boiled and eaten with a fair degree of thankfulness, and hominy was made from the corn in the crib. When coffee and tea could not be obtained or afforded, a substitute was found in a decoction made from corn and peas mixed together, roasted and ground.

This coarse, rough food, consisting of boiled wheat, whole or cracked corn, agreed very well with the young and vigorous but it was not a suitable diet for the sick and aged. An elderly lady, (Mrs. Lowrey) who had been in the settlement only a short time and was in poor health, failed rapidly when the supply of nourishing food was exhausted and, her immortal spirit passing to that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, on the morning of May 15, 1867, she was buried at Old Rolfe the next day.

The year 1869 was also remarkable for an unusual rainfall. The heavy rains of the spring filled all the sloughs, ponds and streams. During the months of July, August and September that year it rained about four days in each week and the streams were full of water all that year.

On March 27th that year, the mill-dam at Fort Dodge was again swept away. Among the first to discover this fact were James J. Bruce, William Price and Charles Kelley, of Lizard township, as they were returning home from Fort Dodge. Knowing this event was not known in Fort Dodge they immediately returned to that city and bought all the flour available on that market at \$7.00 a barrel. When the dealers later learned of the washout and found they could not get another supply of flour except by team from Webster City after the floods should subside,

they created quite a row until they succeeded in buying back their own stocks at an advanced price.

In the month of June following, a little incident occurred in Lizard township that illustrates the inconvenience of living in a country where the streams are unbridged. At the county convention that year Messrs. W. D. McEwen and James J. Bruce were appointed delegates from this county to attend the senatorial nominating convention. A couple of days before the senatorial convention the former came on horseback to Lizard township, where the latter was still making his home. The next morning they started on their trip to the convention, having only one horse between them. When they came to the Lizard, near the line between section 29 and 30, it was bankfull and too deep for them both to ride across on the back of the same pony. The crossing was, however, successfully effected by one of them taking the pony and the clothing of the other while the latter swam across. The public spirit of these men, or their interest in the convention, was not dampened by the high water and their inconvenience was not an infrequent experience in the early days.

#### PIONEER DWELLINGS.

The dwelling places of most of the settlers during this early period were small, rude structures and were built either of logs in the vicinity of native timber, or of sod on the distant prairie. The supply of oak timber along the Des Moines river suited for building purposes was soon exhausted, and although there was a market at Fort Dodge for groceries, provisions and other supplies, the nearest places where pine lumber and building material could be obtained were at Boonesboro and Nevada, sixty to eighty miles distant, and the price of it was exorbitant.

The first log houses, especially in

the northeastern part of the county, were low structures protected with a shed roof of common boards, and they were called "shanties" or "cabins." During the sixties, when the comb-roof covered with shingles came into use, they were called "log houses."

On the prairie the first dwellings during the sixties and early seventies were usually constructed of the prairie sod. The tough, virgin sod was turned with a breaking plow and cut into pieces of a suitable length that were laid one upon the other to form the outer walls of the structure, which were about eighteen inches in thickness and never more than one story in height. Occasionally these sod houses were covered with a roof of boards, but most frequently the roof was constructed of wood overlaid with earth and sod.

The "sod house" thus constructed, though not without its inconveniences, was nevertheless cool in summer, warm in winter and formed a cozy and quiet retreat in the time of storm. It was not, however, a very permanent structure and had to be rebuilt every one or two years. The frost in winter and dampness in the spring of the year seriously affected the walls, causing them to heave or spread, thus endangering the lives of the occupants by the falling of the heavy roof.

A family in an adjoining county (Palo Alto) was aroused from sleep by a crackling sound that came from the inner supports to the roof. They hastily arose and went to the home of a neighbor for the remainder of the night. In the morning when they returned they found their sod house a mass of ruins. The walls had spread and the heavy roof had fallen to the ground; had they remained the entire family might have perished.

When an excavation of two feet or more was made for the sod house located on the slope of a little knoll, it was called a "dug-out." Sometimes

the only openings in a dug-out were the door of entrance and the exit for the smoke in the comb of the roof.

In the center of the frontispiece may be seen the cut of an improved, enlarged and substantial dwelling of this sort built and still occupied by John Woods and family, in the southeastern part of Cedar township. The first building on this site had a board roof and sides; and in 1882 it was rebuilt with walls of rock, a shingle roof and an addition to the front of it. This dwelling is located near the path traversed by several of the cyclones, that have visited this section, and its inmates have dwelt in safety and security. On the morning after the cyclone that came from the southwest on April 11, 1893, overturning all the buildings within three quarters of a mile of it, the writer found this home a veritable hospital, where four of the injured in other families were lying abed in one of its apartments and others were enjoying the hospitality of this home and family.

In the frontispiece may also be seen two other illustrations of pioneer homes; first, the log house of John Fraser, built in 1868, on section 36, Powhatan township, and in which all of his children were born; and underneath it a cut of the log cabin built by Henry Thomas\* near the southwest corner of section 24 of the same township, in 1866. This relic of pioneer days, now owned by Miss Dora, a grand-daughter of Ira Strong, is still used as a dwelling house, and the grove of cotton-wood trees around it, planted by Henry Thomas in 1865, are believed to be the oldest and many of the trees the largest of their kind in the county, being about three feet in diameter.

The log cabins built along the Des Moines river and Lizard creek were quite substantial and rendered good

\*Erroneously credited to Ira Strong, in the frontispiece.

service for many years. Mrs. Charles Kelley and family, of Lizard township, are still living comfortably in one of the first log houses erected in this county. It is located on section 12, was built of oak in 1856, and after forty-three years of constant use, looks as though it would last as many more.

“From cabins such as these  
Come our sturdy natures,  
Who give proud inspiration to a state,  
Who fight its battles and decide its fate,  
Who make its courts  
And shape its legislatures.”

The first settlers in the wilderness of the west, like the savages whom they displaced, contented themselves with very humble and inexpensive dwellings, but the modest log cabin was a palace compared with the tepee or wigwam of the Indian. The log house, with its many cracks and chinks between the logs and its great open fire-place almost large enough for a small bedroom, was just the right place in which to lay the foundation for that soundness and hardness of constitution which is the most reliable basis for the highest usefulness.

The men born and reared in the modern well built frame or brick house, that has succeeded the log cabin in due course of time as wealth increased, and replaced the yawning fire-place—the best of ventilators—by the air-tight stove and room, are the ones who fill the growing ranks of consumptives, dyspeptics and rheumatics.

The pioneer's humble home,  
His log cabin in the grove,  
Was the seat of contentment,  
Of health, gratitude and love.  
—LEONARD BROWN.

#### LOST ON THE PRAIRIE.

In these early days on the prairies at a distance from the Des Moines river, there were no groves and but very few houses to serve as way-marks for the traveler, and as a natural result the pioneer of these days when



overtaken on a journey either by night-fall or a snow storm, was liable to lose his direction and be compelled to spend the night alone on the prairie. In the summer season this experience was one to be feared because there was no refuge from the bloodthirsty mosquitoes, whose constant attentions prevented the approach of "tired Nature's sweet restorer," and the barking of prairie wolves in the vicinity was sure to awaken feelings of discomfort; but to lose one's way in the winter by reason of the falling snow, and especially to become bewildered in a blinding and freezing blizzard, was fearful and sometimes proved fatal to the lost ones.

Among the number of those who experienced a night on the prairie in a lost condition, we note three instances during this period—Robert Struthers, John B. Joliffe and one other who perished, whose name is unknown.

About the year 1869 and in the month of June, Robert Struthers, of Des Moines township, found that three of his colts had strayed away. In a lumber wagon, accompanied by his hired man and horse, he started in search of them, first to Dakota City, then northward. Learning they were in the vicinity of Algona, he sent his hired man for them and started homeward with the wagon. When the shades of night began to fall upon him it also began to rain and he was then on the open prairie in an uninhabited and trackless section of Palo Alto county. It was impossible for him to see in front of his team and before he was aware of it the horses mired in a slough and stopped. Relieving the horses and hitching them by means of a chain to the rear end of the wagon, he drew it out of the slough but did not then know how to cross it. He therefore prepared for the night by removing the harness from the horses, tying their halter

straps to the lines and the latter to the clips on the singletrees and then placed the doubletree under the wagon. Removing his boots which were full of water, he lay down under the wagon, having only the wild grass of the prairie for a bed and using the doubletree for a pillow.

A little later the running of a wolf or fox frightened the horses and they ran away dragging the eveners and whiffletrees with them. Not seeing but hearing them, he ran after them and succeeded in catching them at a distance of three quarters of a mile and, placing the eveners on his shoulder he endeavored to lead them back to the wagon. All his efforts to find the wagon in the darkness were unavailing and he was compelled to plan to spend the remainder of the night without its comfort and protection. This was done by tying the horses as before to the singletrees and letting them feed while he lay down again on the doubletree, but this time hatless, bootless and exposed to the drizzling rain. When morning dawned he was pleasantly surprised to find he was not more than five rods from the wagon and it was headed toward his home.

On February 15th and 16th, 1868, John B. Joliffe, of Powhatan township, came near losing his life in a blizzard. While returning from the home of Henry Cooper, whither he had gone to borrow some meal, he was caught in a blizzard, lost his direction and aimlessly wandered about in the blinding, drifting snow all night. The home of Henry Cooper was on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, Des Moines township, and that of Mr. Joliffe on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, Powhatan township, two miles distant to the northwest, the direction from whence the storm came. His own thrilling account of his terrible experience is as follows:

"Sometimes I sank down in a snow-drift, but my freezing hands and feet warned me that if I expected to survive I must keep moving and await

the light of day. When the daylight came it brought no relief; there was no cessation of the terrible storm and it was impossible to see more than a few feet in advance of me. My feet and limbs being frozen I felt as though I was walking on sticks, and the almost superhuman will that had sustained me in the weary hours of anguish in the night, now seemed about to yield to the inevitable—to lie down and die. But just when the feeling of drowsiness was about to overcome me there came to me bright visions of all that I held dear in life, visions of home and friends, and a thought of their feelings should they find my body frozen and the snow my winding sheet; my thoughts also ascended to the throne of the Invisible and amid the blinding storm I knelt and prayed for deliverance, and He whose ear is open to the heartfelt prayer, answered mine. I rose from my knees with the assurance that my prayer had been heard and deliverance was near at hand. On walking a few rods farther I came to a wire fence, and following it slowly around to the buildings, found I was about to enter again the home of Henry Cooper that I had left the previous evening. When I entered this home, scarcely more alive than dead, I fell prostrate and remained in it until my frozen hands and feet had been thawed out and I had regained my strength."

In the spring of 1866, there was found on the homestead of Robert Anderson, Powhatan township, by his brother John Anderson, the whitening bones of a man who became lost and perished in a blizzard two years before. A part of a woolen mitten still encased a fleshless hand, and his boots, charred by the prairie fires, clung to his feet. His relatives, who lived near Tobin's ford, gathered his bones and gave them christian burial.

In January, 1869, a severe blizzard passed over this section, that caught Charley Hale, the stage-driver, on the road between Fort Dodge and Twin Lakes. The following account of his experience is from the pen of Thomas L. MacVey, one of the pioneers of Powhatan township, who met him the following summer and listened to his own recital of his terrible experience

with the Storm King:

Charley Hale left Twin Lakes for Fort Dodge just before the storm came and was caught in its fury at a distance from any settlement. When the falling snow had covered the trail before him and he had driven several hours drifting before the wind, he unhitched the team from the sleigh, adjusted the harness on each of them and turned them loose while he remained at the sleigh until near morning, vainly hoping the storm would abate. Notwithstanding he was warmly clad, the increasing fury of the storm and intense cold warned him that if he would survive, he must move with the storm and trust to providence that, as he drifted to the southeast, he might live to reach a settlement along the Des Moines river in the southern part of Webster county. Turning his back to the storm he began a lonely and perilous journey upon a blinding desert of ed-dying snow.

For three days and nights the storm raged with unrelenting fury and during this period he was driven before it, save at short intervals when nearly exhausted he would bury himself in the snow and snatch a few minutes of rest and sleep, with little hope that he would ever awake again. Possessing an iron constitution and indomitable will he would rise from his fleecy bed, brush the snow from his aching eyes and, with failing strength but determined perseverance continue the unequal contest between life and death. The day passed into night and the night into day but the storm still raged. Hunger, cold and fatigue were proving more than equal to his iron will, yet he struggled on with frozen feet and limbs, so nearly exhausted that to make any headway he had to use his hands to lift his numb and useless feet. The morning of the fourth day finally dawned upon the sufferer and, the storm having passed, the rising sun cast his bright rays over the desert waste. Hale was still alive but no longer able to walk. Working himself along upon his hands and knees he moved slowly toward a house that finally appeared in the distance. He at last arrived at the door and managed to enter it but found no one at home. This family had gone to visit a neighbor just before the storm and had not been able to return. They however returned in time to aid the sufferer and to procure

for him medical assistance by means of which his life was saved but with the loss of both of his feet. His place of rescue was in the settlement just west of Dayton, and during the progress of the storm he had been driven about thirty miles before it.

#### POSTOFFICES.

During this early period there were but two postoffices in the county. Early in the sixties a postoffice was established at Old Rolfe in Des Moines township, and the mail for the northeast part of the county was received once a week from Fort Dodge. In 1865 a mail route was established from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake via Old Rolfe, and the mail was received more frequently. The postmasters at this place were W. H. Hait and J. J. Bruce during this period and later, Geo. W. Horton, who was in charge of the office at the time of the removal of the county seat in 1876.

The first postoffice in the south part of the county was established in December, 1868, and William Stenson, now in Manson, but then the occupant of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 14, Lizard township, was the first postmaster. He held the office nearly four years and received a salary of one dollar a month. He was succeeded by M. E. Owens, who moved the office to section 10. The postoffice at Manson having been established, this one was discontinued about the year 1873.

#### TRIALS ON THE WAY.

Many of the settlers of this period had a trying time in getting their families to their intended homes on the frontier while the terminus of the railroad remained at Dubuque or later, at Iowa Falls. Some of them traveled this remaining distance on foot rather than pay the high rates by stage.

John Calligan, in the spring of 1856 at Dubuque, put his wife and four children on the stage and paid \$45.00 for their fares to Fort Dodge while he

made the trip of 200 miles on foot. The spring was a wet one, the trails were muddy and swampy, and the streams were unbridged except at Cedar Falls. A ferry boat for a traveler would consist of a wagonbox set on a few pieces of timber and it would be propelled either by rude paddles or a pole. He waded through the sloughs and smaller streams and was ready to swim when it became necessary.

In the Lizard settlement he and others experienced the same inconvenience in crossing Lizard creek during the three wet seasons (1856-1858) that followed their settlement there. His own account of going to mill, with his first crop of wheat, is as follows:

"I had to go to the woods, get a tree and hollow it out for a canoe, then I would transfer the grain across the creek in the canoe, and when the wagon had been transferred in the same way, piece by piece, I would swim the oxen across, taking one at a time. On my return I had to work the flour, the wagon and the oxen in the very same way."

Walter Ford relates how he and Thomas (a brother of John) Calligan came very near losing their lives by drowning, in Lizard creek in the spring of 1858. At that time there were only three "dug outs" or canoes from basswood trees, along Lizard creek from its sources in this county to its mouth near Fort Dodge. Traveling on foot from Fort Dodge, they came to what was then known as the Snodgrass ford in Webster county, and George Smith undertook to ferry them across in a dug-out. The wind struck the side of their little craft causing it to roll and when they were in the middle of the stream it cap-sized, throwing all of them into the deep water. Mr. Ford, who could not swim, caught the boat and clung to it until he was drawn ashore. After wringing the water out of their clothing as much as possible they went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael

Collins where they were very kindly received.

James J. Bruce in March, 1866, on his way to the Lizard settlement carried his grip and footed it from Iowa Falls, a distance of 77 miles, and made the trip in three days. From Fort Dodge he was accompanied by Mr. Wallace and when they arrived at the Des Moines river they saw no one in sight but did see a boat at the other side. He waded the stream and returning with the boat took his companion and their luggage across. By this time the wife of the owner of the boat was at hand and gave them the assurance that it was a fortunate thing her husband was not at home or he would have given them a good thrashing for taking the boat without her permission. She was however, unwilling to take anything for the use of the boat.

#### THE PRAIRIE FIRE.

To the early settler of this period, who lived out upon the prairie at a distance from the timber, the dread of the "prairie fire" was as great as his fear of the Sioux Indians.

They were exposed to the prairie fire in the early spring, if the season was dry, but the period of special danger was the fall of the year, particularly the months of October and November when the luxuriant grasses of the prairie had fully matured and the sloughs were dry. Many severe and apparently irreparable losses did they sustain from this cause. Frequently did they see their hay and grain, in the field or stack, go up in smoke in an unexpected moment, and sometimes their hard earned improvements including their dwellings met with the same fate. It was just as liable to come upon the lonely settler during the night as in the daytime; and it has been said that many of them, in this section in dry seasons, "did fret day and night" lest they should be surprised by finding they

were in the way of one of these raging demons of the wilderness that should arouse them from their midnight slumber and sweep away their property. His only protection from the prairie fire-fiend was the fire-guard which consisted of a number of fresh furrows plowed around his buildings or stacks; and if the wind was high these afforded but little or no protection.

If the reader will turn to the frontispiece there will be seen the cut of a tumble weed. This cut is from a sample that was three feet high and four feet wide. This weed matures early and as soon as it attains its growth it becomes loose at the root and is then ready to commence the tumbling process by rolling over and over with the first breeze that blows. When dry they are very light and a strong wind will even pick them up and carry them a considerable distance. The tumble weed aflame has never been a respecter of fire-guards and when the fire on the prairie has been driven by a high wind the thatched roofs of buildings have been seen ablaze before the fire on the ground had reached them.

Sometimes the prairie fire would originate by getting beyond the control of a settler while burning off a pasture or field, but more frequently they occurred by some careless traveler throwing a burning match into the dry grass after lighting his pipe. The paper wadding used in the old shotgun and musket, was also sufficient under favorable circumstances to start a fire on the prairie and this fact made the hunter a menace to the safety of the pioneer.

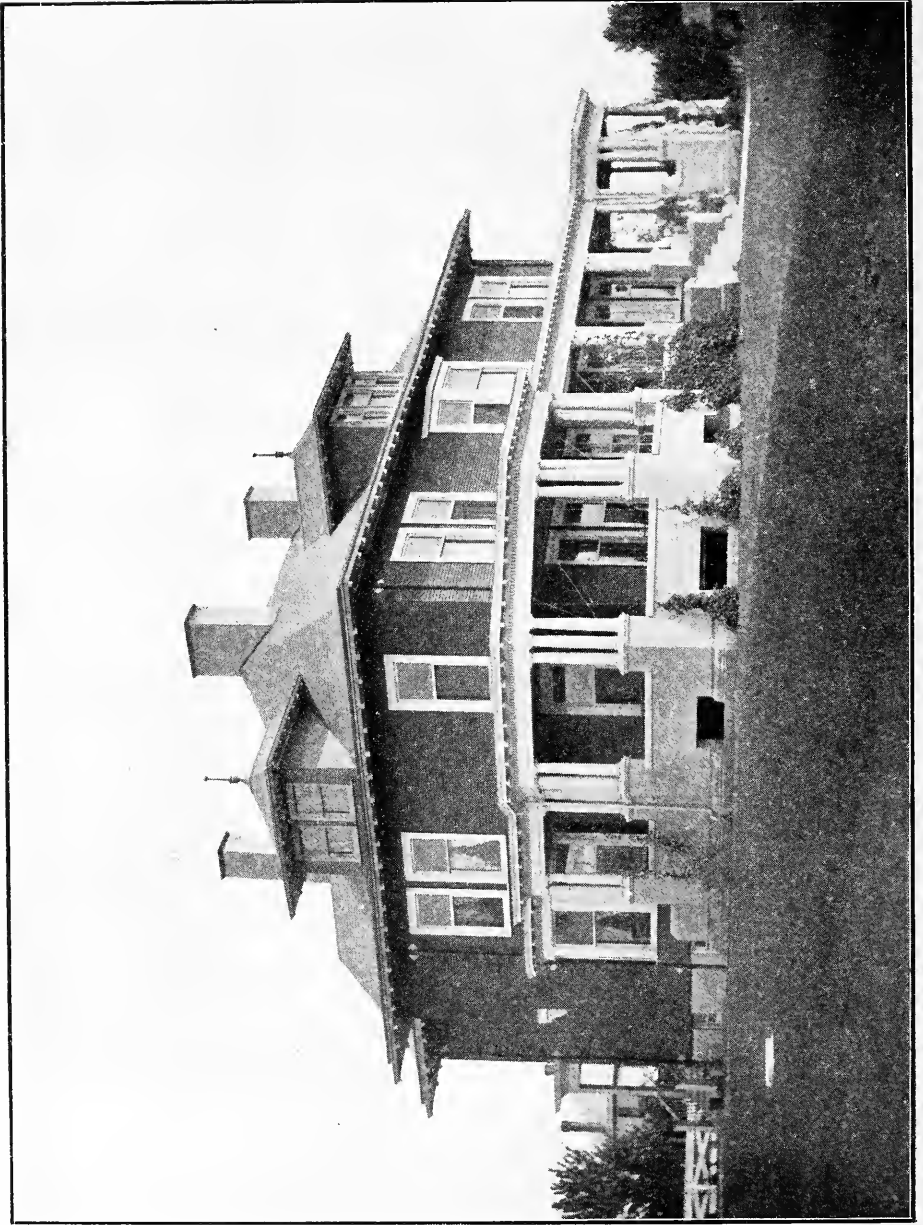
These prairie fires moving with the wind would travel with alarming rapidity and leap over creeks, in some instances, as many as four rods in width. In a gentle breeze the fire would travel as fast as a man walks, but when the wind was high the



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE SANBORN, FONDA.



MANSE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FONDA, 1893.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE FAIRBURN, FONDA, 1901.

"head-fire" would rush through brush and brake with loud crackling sound "as fast as a horse could run."

The prairie fire, as it used to be, is now an event of the past in this county, and the following vivid description of a fearful one that passed over the county during this period of its history, (just after the war) from the pen of John M. Russell, of Lizard township, will be read with interest:

One fine evening, about the middle of autumn and after the close of the war, the wind, as it oftentimes does, suddenly turned and came from the northwest. The weather for several weeks had been dry, and a hot wind from the south had prevailed for several days, withering the ripened grass on the prairie and rendering it inflammable as tinder.

About dusk a faint glow was observed in the sky to the northwest, the appearance of which was similar to that seen in the east on a clear night just before the rising of the full moon. This glow, as it was afterward learned, was caused by a fire on the prairie started by a settler several days previous along the Little Sioux river far to the southwest. Driven by the hot wind it had moved northward many miles through an uninhabited section and the side-fire had widened eastward to the west line of Pochahontas county. When the wind changed, this long line of fire began to move in a southeasterly direction over a vast expanse of territory.

To the observer in the Lizard settlement no flame was at first visible, but as the moments passed the horizon gradually grew brighter and about eight o'clock the flames of the "head-fire" could be distinctly seen. A little later several fine, luminous lines, like threads of tiny, sparkling beads, became visible. "Distance lends enchantment to the view" but the observers well knew that in those faint, glimmering lines of beauty there dwelt, in an ungovernable form, the most fiendish of devouring elements, fed by an abundance of dry prairie grass and driven by a powerful wind. In this instance the warning came before bedtime and opportunity was afforded to provide some protection against it. Those who were not already secure now went scurrying about with plows, scythes, matches,

mops and buckets of water.

The fire had crossed Cedar creek in several places in the north part of the county, and the head-fire when first seen was sweeping down the north flank of the Lizard creek bottom. Another head of the fire, separated from the other by a large slough near the source of the west branch of the Lizard, was coming down the west and south branches of the Lizard and moving in the direction of the present town of Barnum. The progress of this line of fire seemed now more rapid than the other, which was impeded in its course by the curves of the west branch of the Lizard which it jumped in several places, thus forming a series of new head-fires on the south side of that stream.

Thus this great fire came sweeping across this county like a messenger of vengeance set loose from the kingdom of Tartarus to scorch, as it were, the "Lizards" and see who could stand before its chargers armed with an hundred heats.

About nine o'clock it had come within a short distance of the settlers and was practically upon them. It was in the dark of the moon and the brilliancy of the fire was even greater on this account. The smoky firmament was gorgeously illumined with lurid splendor and together with the numerous lines of side-fire, far and near, interspersed with the black, burnt sections, presented a spectacle of appalling magnitude that was both grand and dismal.

The noise of this immense display of fireworks was like the continuous roar of distant thunder and the thick columns of curling smoke, that issued petulantly from some deep sloughs, reminded one of those scenes described in Milton's *Paradise Lost* or Dante's *Inferno*.

No one along the Lizard dared to close his eyes in slumber that night until all felt sure that the impending danger had passed. On the next morning they awoke to find the prairie bare, the air rank with the smell of burnt grass and entire counties a blackened waste. A considerable amount of hay and timber along the branches of the Lizard and several bridges over those streams were destroyed. These streams and the belts of timber along them were a natural protection to the early settler both from the blizzards in winter and the prairie fire in summer.

The severest fire in the Lizard settlement during this early period was in the fall of 1859, their first dry year. The ponds were dry for several months that year and when the fire came, late in the season, it burned everything; and the peat in the dry bottoms of the ponds continued to burn for more than a week after the fire had passed.

POPULATION.

The population of the county during this period was as follows:

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1855	7	1860	103
1856	45	1863	122
1857	75	1865	215
1858	90	1867	453
1859	108	1869	637
		1870	1446

These figures indicate that there was no perceptible increase in the population of this county from the year 1859, when it was organized, until the year 1865 which was at the close of the civil war, and that it was even less in 1860 than in 1859, and only a few more in 1863. Three unfavorable circumstances tended to prevent the growth and development of this county during this period. These were the years of distrust and hard times that followed the financial panic of 1857 and 1858, the fact that the settlements in this county, contrary to all expectation, remained 230 miles distant from the terminus of the nearest railroad, and further, every able-bodied man, responding to the call of his country, had entered the army.

At the close of the war the construction of the railroads across this state was resumed and the Dubuque & Sioux City road (Ill. Central) was built as far as Ackley. The building of the railroads attracted the public attention again to western Iowa and a new impulse was given to the settlement of this county.

It is worthy of note that this new immigration commenced in the year 1865, just ten years after the first one

began, and with it came the era of sod shanties in both the north and south parts of the county, a circumstance due to the fact they had to build at a distance from the timber and at a time when lumber was not available.

The leading attraction at this period was the *homestead* and among the number of those who located in this county at this date—1865 to 1869—we note the following, most of whom were heads of families:

I.—IN NORTH PART OF THE COUNTY.

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Beriah Cooper,       | Wm. D. McEwen,      |
| Henry Cooper,        | Alex. McEwen,       |
| Thos. E. Cooper,     | Wm. Matson,         |
| James Drown,         | Wm. Struthers ('60) |
| Roswell Drown,       | Lot Fisher,         |
| Chas. C. Converse,   | Daniel W. Hunt,     |
| R. B. Fish,          | Marcus Lind,        |
| Park C. Harder,      | E. Northrop,        |
| Elijah D. Seeley,    | W. F. Seaman,       |
| George Stevens,      | Isaac Peed,         |
| Thomas Rogers,       | Gilbert G. Wheeler, |
| Edward Tilley,       | Geo. Goodchild,     |
| A. H. Hancher,       | Henry Thomas,       |
| Henry Fulcomer,      | Robert Lothian,     |
| Edw. Anderson,       | John Fraser,        |
| Geo. Henderson,      | Robert Anderson,    |
| Jno. B. Joliffe,     | Jas. Henderson,     |
| Samuel N. Strong,    | Edward Hammond      |
| F. A. Metcalf, ('62) | S. E. Heathman,     |
| Thos. L. MacVey,     | Ira Strong,         |
| Geo. W. Proctor,     | Geo. W. Strong,     |
| Andrew Jackson,      | Oscar I. Strong,    |
| Wm. S. Fegels,       | A. M. Thornton,     |
| John B. Strouse,     | Frank G. Thornton,  |
| David Hays,          | Oscar A. Pease.     |

II.—IN SOUTH PART OF THE COUNTY.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Carl Steinbrink,  | Wm. Westlake,     |
| Wm. Price,        | John F. Hintz,    |
| James J. Bruce,   | G. Schoonmaker,   |
| Jacob Carstens,   | John Weise,       |
| G. B. Carstens,   | Michael Weise,    |
| David Wallace,    | John Julius,      |
| John W. Wallace,  | M. McCormick,     |
| H. Stickelberg,   | M. Fitzgerald,    |
| A. H. Van V'lnb'g | Patrick Crahan,   |
| Patrick Enright,  | Michael Crahan,   |
| Ferdinand Zanter, | James Sinnott,    |
| Michael O'Shea,   | Dennis Mulholland |
| David Miller,     | Henry Shields,    |
| John Donahoe,     | David Brown,      |
| John H. Johnson,  | Joseph Fell,      |
| *Julia A Johnson, | John Harrold,     |
| Isaac W. Johnson, | Thos. Harrold,    |

\*Widow of Marshall Johnson, later married to Robert Russell.



Daniel Johnson,	R. F. Cedarstrom,
Wm. Stenson,	C. F. Hillstrom,
Wm. Boyd,	Chas. P. Peterson,
J. D. Hoefing,	Fred Smith,
Jos. Brittenbach,	William Bell,
Wm. Brownlee,	Nils Hanson,
Swan Nelson,	W. B. Dickinson,
John Lampe,	R. Ziemann, Sr.,
F. J. Lampe,	H. Helmich,
Henry Lampe,	August Mullen,
John W. O'Keefe,	John Kreul,
Benjamin Rost,	Bernard Stegge,
Henry Shields,	William Tobin,
Carl Rodman,	E. K. Cain,
Patrick Riley,	Bernard Niehouse,
J. C. Carey,	Michael Rankin,
Elijah Chase,	John C. Evervine,
Geo. Spragg,	Horace Skinner,
Ephraim Garlock,	Charles Skinner,
A. O. Garlock,	John Dunkerly,
W. E. Garlock,	H. C. Tollefsrude,
Geo. W. Smith,	C. H. Tollefsrude,
Fred Steendorf,	E. M. Tollefsrude,
Geo. Sanborn,	H. L. Norton,
Joseph Brinker,	S. W. Norton,
C. M. Saylor,	J. S. Howell,
Felix W. Parrish,	I. E. Parrish,
Rev. J. A. Griffin,	Rudolf Ziemann,
August Prange,	Amandus Ziemann,
Gad C. Lowrey,	Ludwick Turner,
John Russell,	John A. Hay.

These hopefully came to the west.

A wilderness before them lay,  
 A garden that should bloom one day.  
 No castles were here but all were free  
 To found a home in a land of liberty.

These pioneers, like the few who had arrived before them, did not come to this section to mine gold, to gain wealth by lumbering or make their living by hunting game with the gun, or fish with the rod and net; they came for higher and nobler purposes; to found homes, to convert these desolate wilds into fruitful fields and develop a christian civilization that would secure to every citizen the same privileges and advantages in solving the problem of their individual destiny. Their first concern was to provide a place of shelter and then for the cultivation of the soil. All that they found was Nature's handiwork.

Pocahontas then was seen,  
 Arrayed in her robe of green;  
 A maid of more than usual charms,  
 A prairie destined for a thousand farms.

#### GROVE PLANTING.

The date of this second immigration marks the era of grove planting. The first settlers located along the streams where there were narrow belts of natural timber and they had secured all of these apparently most desirable locations. The newcomers were therefore obliged to build on the open prairie and a grove of timber around their buildings became necessary as a protection from the high winds and storms. In the course of a few years the prairies were dotted with beautiful groves of maple, willow and cottonwood, and these gave a finer appearance to the country.

One can no longer see the long distances that were possible to an observer before the era of artificial groves. Citizens of Bellville township state that, during this early period and from elevated points in that township, it was possible to see the grove of natural timber at Sunk Grove in the northwest part of Cedar township, and also buildings in process of erection at Sac City.

#### TRAPPING.

The coming of this second immigration marks also the beginning of the period when "trapping" became a popular and profitable business among the settlers. During the winter of 1859 a hunter by the name of Jacob Mirale, shot and killed along the Des Moines river ninety-six deer, six elk and one buffalo. Nearly all the large game in Northwestern Iowa, however, disappeared during the early sixties, and hunting, except for small game and waterfowl, was no longer profitable. Trapping muskrats now became not only the most interesting diversion in the fall of the year, but to some their most profitable avocation.

The first settlers of this county were neither hunters nor trappers. This fact is worthy of note, for if they had

engaged in trapping they might have secured a larger income from this source than from their little patches of corn and wheat. They were no doubt aware of the fact that mink and otter were plenty, that beavers had built numerous dams along the streams and that muskrats, building their slough grass houses in the sloughs had made them look like real cities of rats where they multiplied from five to fifteen fold each year; also that professional trappers and bands of peaceful Indians made annual pilgrimages to this "trappers' paradise" along the Lizard streams, but not having come to this section attracted by these aquatic rodents, it required the lapse of several years before they came to an appreciation of the value their hides might have been to them. The furs of these animals at that time brought a high price, as follows: Muskrats 20 to 35 cents each; mink \$5.00 and upwards; beaver and otter \$5.00 to \$15.00 each.

All the settlers of this entire pioneer period enjoyed unrestricted privileges for raising cattle. Their herds roamed over the prairies for miles in all directions without the least hindrance, and the income realized from this free pasturage was, in most cases, greater than that derived from their cultivated farms.

#### THE PRE-EMPTION CLAIM.

The only title to the soil that has ever been recognized in the aboriginal inhabitants of this country was that of occupation. This right has generally been respected until it has been extinguished by treaty, purchase or conquest under the authority of the nation exercising dominion over them, but they have never been permitted to dispose of their possessions except to the nation to which they were thus bound by a qualified dependence. The United States, or the state government, thus becomes the original source of title to all lands in this

country; and the official certificate of the government, by which the title of the public lands is conveyed to individual holders, is called a "patent," to denote that it is the original certificate of conveyance and to distinguish it from all subsequent ones, which are called "deeds."

By an act of congress approved September 4, 1841, all lands then belonging to the United States or to which the Indian title might later be extinguished, were subject to the right of pre-emption under the conditions prescribed in that law. Under this "pre-emption law" any one who was the head of a family, a widow or a single person over the age of twenty-one years and a citizen of the United States, (or had filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen as required by the naturalization laws) might locate on these unoccupied lands, and file a claim with the register of the land office for that district for any number of acres not exceeding one hundred and sixty, if it was beyond the limits of any railway grant.

The first step in securing a pre-emption was to go upon the land and commence improvements. When this was done, if the land had been offered at public sale, the applicant within thirty days from the date of his settlement, filed his claim and within one year made proof of actual residence on and cultivation of the land. On the payment of \$1.25 an acre, (or \$2.50 if within a railway grant) he received a patent, or certificate of ownership, from the government.

The first settlers in Lizard and Des Moines townships secured their homes under this law. They were called "pre-emptors" and their claims "pre-emptions."

By an act of congress approved May 15, 1856, a grant of every alternate section designated by the odd numbers for six sections in width on each side

of the road, was made to the state of Iowa for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a railroad from the city of Dubuque to Sioux City; and on December 27, 1858, this belt of alternate sections, twelve miles in width across this state, was certified and approved by the Department of the Interior as belonging to the Dubuque & Pacific (now Ill. Central) railway Co.

The pre-emptor who had located on an odd-numbered section and had obtained his patent before these lands were certified to the railway company, was not affected by this grant save that he found all lands adjoining had doubled in value; but the pre-emptor who had not gained previous possession now found that his improvements were upon the lands of another owner, and in changing his location to the even-numbered sections within the railroad limits, he could pre-empt only eighty acres and had to pay \$2.50 an acre.

On May 20, 1862, the time for a pre-emptor to make his final proof and payment was extended from one year to two and one-half years, and to all persons rendering military or naval service the time was indefinitely extended to six months after the expiration of their term of service.

In the north part of the county there were pre-emptors in two of the townships as follows:

**DES MOINES**—A. H. Malcolm, Guernsey Smith, Robert Struthers, Wm. Struthers, Wm. Jarvis, Henry Jarvis, Samuel N. Harris, David Slosson, Orlando Slosson, John Strait, James Smith, John A. James, James Edelman, Julia A. Nowlan and Daniel W. Hunt.

**CLINTON**—Ora Harvey.

In the south part of the county the following residents of Lizard township were pre-emptors: John Calligan, Michael Collins, Roger Collins, Charles Kelley, Philip Russell, Walter Ford, Dennis Connors, Chris No-

lan, Nicholas Nolan, James Gorman, Peter McCabe, Michael Broderick, Michael Walsh, James Donahoe, John Quinlan and Thomas Crowell.

In Lake township the only pre-emptors were Patrick Forey, Henry Brockschink and John Russell.

#### THE HOMESTEAD.

The homestead law was framed by Galusha A. Grow and approved by President Lincoln May 20, 1862.

Under the homestead law the land is virtually a gift to the settler by the government in consideration of settlement and cultivation, the fees charged being about sufficient to cover the cost of entry and conveyance. Under the pre-emption law the right of purchase was conceded only to the actual settler, and under both laws the lands occupied were exempt from taxation during the term necessary to acquire a title, or a patent was issued.

The homestead consisted of eighty acres or less within, and of 160 acres or less, beyond the limits of a railway grant, save that all honorably discharged soldiers from the army and sailors from the navy, by the act of June 8, 1872, were entitled to 160 acres within as well as beyond the railway limits. The entry fee for eighty acres or less was \$5.00 and for more than that amount, \$10.00. The commissions within the railway limits were double those beyond and made the total cost of the land to the homesteader as follows: For 40, 80 and 160 acres beyond the railway limits—the land being valued at \$1.25 an acre—\$7.00, \$9.00 and \$18.00 respectively; and within these limits—the land being valued at \$2.50 an acre—\$9.00, \$13.00 and \$26.00 respectively. On July 1, 1879, this law was amended so that citizens as well as soldiers might homestead 160 acres within the railway limits.

In favor of the soldiers of the war of the rebellion it was provided that the term of their service during the war

to the extent of four years, might be deducted from the five years' residence required by law; and a soldier honorably discharged by reason of wounds or disability contracted in the service might be so credited with the entire term of his enlistment.

In order to obtain a homestead, the applicant filed with the register of the U. S. land office a declaration that he was over twenty-one years of age, that he was a citizen of the United States or intended to become one, and that the entry was made for his exclusive use and benefit for actual settlement and cultivation. The entry thus made vested in the homesteader only an inceptive right. He had a claim to the land which no one could dispute so long as he complied with the law requiring him to live upon and cultivate it for five years; but he had no title to the land whereby he could convey it. If he abandoned the land or remained absent from it more than six months his entry was liable to be contested and cancelled; and then the land was again open to the first legal applicant. Having resided upon and cultivated his claim for five years the settler was allowed two years more, but no longer, in which to make his "final proof." This final proof consisted in the affidavit of the settler and another one signed by two disinterested witnesses, showing that the claimant was a citizen of the United States, that he had made actual settlement upon and cultivated the land in good faith for the time required and that he had never perfected or abandoned an entry made under the homestead laws.

"Happy the man whose wish and care  
A few productive acres bound;  
Content to breathe the balmy air

On his own ground;  
Whose herds yield milk,  
Whose fields yield bread,  
Whose trees in summer yield him shade  
In winter, fire."

The townships in which most of the

"homestead" claims were located were Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Cedar, Dover, Grant, Lincoln, Powhatan and Des Moines. From one to three claims were located in Clinton, Lake and Swan Lake townships, but none in Center, Sherman, Marshall and Washington townships. The lands in these last named townships were bought by non-resident purchasers before the settlement of the county had been extended to them; there were no permanent settlements in them until the spring of 1870. The only advantage the pre-emptor had when compared with the cash purchaser was, that he obtained possession of his lands without advance payment and held them without taxation until his final payment was made the same as the homesteader. As soon as the first railroad grants were made, thereby doubling the price of all lands within their limits, the attention of cash purchasers was directed to the lands just beyond those limits, and in a very short time they had gained possession of them.

The feeling that one was settled and fixed on a "homestead" was an inducement to improve it by the erection of comfortable buildings, by enclosing fields and planting shade trees, groves and orchards. Each successive improvement was a bond binding the settler still closer to his home, and this brought contentment to his family. His wife and daughters fell in love with the country, his sons, appreciating the home founded for them on the farm more than places of dissipation, preferred farming to professional loafing, and the father was happy in seeing the contented and cheerful faces of his family.

The home may be humble, but make it convenient and beautiful, and the children will love it above all other places; they will leave it with regret, think of it with fondness, come back to it joyfully and seek their chief hap-

plness around the cozy and familiar fireside.

The effort to improve and beautify the old homestead gave unusual pleasure and delight. It awakened the feeling that

“There is something to live for  
And something to love,  
Wherever we linger,  
Wherever we rove;  
For the spirit of man  
Is like garden or grove;  
It will yield a sweet fragrance,  
If by unremitting toil  
He develops the spring blossoms  
And cultivates the soil.”

Women and children need more than bread and raiment. They have a love for the beautiful that seeks expression as well as tastes that may be cultivated. Their ingenuity was taxed and their time employed in efforts to make their humble home on the prairie a lovely one, by constant efforts to multiply its comforts and conveniences. They planted the fragrant flowers and trailing vines while others set the trees for their shade and luscious fruit.

When necessary, the little cabin on the old homestead was opened for school and public worship. Thus their minds and hearts were cultivated as well as the fields, and intelligence and contentment became the rule instead of the exception.

The difficulties to be surmounted by the occupant of the old homestead in this county during this period were certainly very great. He obtained land, plenty of it; it was fertile and he could claim it as his own, but he had little else. The produce of the soil had to be consumed at home or near it; ready money was scarce, distant products were scarcer and comforts, other than the modest substitutes of home manufacture, were unobtainable. The experience of privation and hardship usually fell most heavily upon the wives and mothers, and no estimate of the heroism needed

to achieve final success in the old homestead would be adequate that did not include woman's share in it.

The women, who by the sides of their husbands have endured the privations and hardships incident to the development of new countries, are among the noblest of their sex. Their self-sacrifice and devotion have marked every age in the settlement of the American continent, and looking back to the early days of this county we see that here they maintained that reputation. In the early settlement of this county they ground the corn for the stock, held the plow, went often without the necessaries of life; they helped to gather the scanty crops, and, amid the heat of summer and the cold of winter, they wavered not because of want and exposure.

As unto the bow the cord is,  
So unto the man is woman;  
Though she bends him, she obeys him,  
Though she draws him, yet she follows;  
Useless each without the other.

—LONGFELLOW.

#### THE TIMBER CLAIM.

On March 3, 1873, an act was approved known as the “timber culture act,” the purpose of which was to encourage the growth of timber on the western prairie where large portions of the unoccupied public lands were destitute of timber. Under this act anyone entitled to claim a homestead, might enter as a “timber culture” claim one quarter section (160 acres) of prairie land, upon making affidavit to the fact that he desired it for his own benefit and for the purpose of planting and cultivating timber upon it.

The person making the entry for a “tree” or “timber claim” of 160 acres was required to break or plow five acres during the first year; and during the second year to cultivate them and plow five additional acres. During the third year he was required to cultivate the second plot that had been broken and plant the first

one with timber seeds or cuttings. During the fourth year he was required to plant the second plot with timber, seeds or cuttings, and to protect and cultivate both of them. Fruit trees and shrubbery were not regarded as timber under this act. Timber claims of less than 160 acres were to be cultivated and planted during the same periods and in the same proportion, namely, to the amount of one-sixteenth of the area claimed. The land office fees for the timber claim were \$9.00 for 80 acres or less, and \$14.00 if more than that.

If at the expiration of eight years from date of entry or at any time within five years thereafter the claimant proved by two witnesses that he had successfully cultivated the required amount of timber for not less than eight years according to the provisions of the act of June 14, 1878, he was entitled to a patent for the land embraced in the entry. But if at any time after one year from the date of entry, the claimant failed to comply with any of the requirements of the act, his claim became liable to contest; and upon due proof of such failure his entry was cancelled and the land again became subject to entry, either as a homestead or timber claim by some other persons. If, however, his trees were destroyed by fire, drought or grasshoppers, his time for final proof was extended.

It will be perceived that the "timber culture" act did not require the settler to live upon the claim as the pre-emptor and homesteader were required to do. By reason of this fact the homesteader, if he wished, could also enter a timber claim. In fact, after a settler had exercised his right of pre-emption and obtained a title to his claim, there was nothing in the laws subsequently enacted to prevent him from proceeding to settle upon another tract under the homestead law; and if, during the period of his

residence on the homestead, he made another entry for a "timber claim," it was possible in this way for the settler to acquire a title to an aggregate of 480 acres. This was done occasionally, but more frequently the additional claims were taken by different members of the same family.

So far as we have been able to learn, fifteen "timber claims" were located in Pocahontas county, and J. A. Sayre located the first one on section 18, Dover township, July 13, 1875. During the next year Joseph Southworth located one on the same section and Swan Peterson one on section 36, Bellville township. The other timber claims were filed by Abraham Borjenson on section 18, and C. G. Blenden on section 24, Bellville township; George Garlock (cancelled) and John C. Williams on section 18, Dover township; John Lemp on section 18, Cedar township, and Emma Hirshfield on section 28, Swan Lake township. The application for this last one was filed August 18, 1883; Blenden's claim was filed in November following. A little later Wm. H. Burnett made an entry of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, (40 acres) Cedar township, as a timber claim, and it is now held as such by Henry Voss.

The other timber claims were secured by J. B. Joliffe on Sec. 2 and J. B. Kent on Sec. 4, Powhatan township; L. C. Coffin on Sec. 7 and Thomas Enright on Sec. —, Clinton township; W. F. Atkinson on Sec. 10, Marshall township.

#### THE SOURCE OF SUPPLIES.

During this entire period, which preceded the advent of any of the present railway facilities, Fort Dodge was the source of supplies to all the settlers of this county. The following facts in regard to this city are of historic interest:

The town of Fort Dodge was platted in March, 1854, at which time the only residents were Major Williams, James B. Williams, John M. Hefley

and the family of Wm. R. Miller, who kept the hotel. During that same month, John Scott and his brother Robert and family arrived; and on June 28th following, ex-Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter, walking the distance from Des Moines to that place. He taught the first school in that town the ensuing winter, in a small log building back of the Wahkonsa hotel. In the spring of 1855, John F. Duncombe, Geo. B. Sherman and a host of others arrived, and so great was the crowd for the size and capacity of the town that when the dinner bell at the hotel rang, fifty persons would make a rush for the table, which could accommodate only ten. In May, Wm. Hodges bought the hotel and enlarged the table to a capacity for one hundred guests. The population of the town was then about 150 persons and the greater part of them were young men. A postoffice was established and Major Williams became the first postmaster. John F. Duncombe was the first lawyer, and Geo. B. Sherman established the first grocery store, where he furnished the early settlers with groceries, often exchanging them for furs, deer skins or any other commodity that would bear transportation to Muscatine and other places along the Mississippi river. The first frame building in the town was erected in May, that year, and was used for a public office, and the first brick building was erected that fall. As winter approached, the squatters on the pre-emption claims in the country around returned to the town, and the hotel and boarding houses being full, they established bachelor halls where the young men broiled their own venison and provided for their hungry comrades. In 1856, the grant of lands was made to the Dubuque & Pacific railway, and this company giving the assurance that their road would be built at once and Fort Dodge be made an important station, it gave the town

an additional impulse, new sections were platted and the city grew rapidly.

The wonderful advance of civilization is frequently remarked in a general way, but few of us practically realize the progress of settlement during the past forty years in this section of the country. In 1859, when this county was organized, there was not a single postoffice within the territory now included in the states of North and South Dakota, whose population is now counted by hundreds of thousands. Ten counties in Northwestern Iowa, among which were Buena Vista, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth and Pocahontas, had not a postoffice. The counties of Clay, Cherokee, Emmet, Carroll, Ida and Sac had one each, while Crawford, Dickinson and Palo Alto had two each.

#### THE U. S. LAND OFFICES.

The first United States land office in Iowa was established at Burlington. In January, 1848, one was established at Iowa City, where it remained until the capital of the state was transferred to Des Moines, in 1857. On November 5, 1855, the state of Iowa was divided into four districts, viz: Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Sioux City and Council Bluffs, and a land office was established in each of them, in the city giving name to the district.

The Fort Dodge district extended along the north boundary line of the state from the line between ranges 33 and 34, to the line between ranges 24 and 25; thence south along this range line to the corner common to townships 93 and 94; thence east to the line between ranges 18 and 19, and thence south to the line between townships 85 and 86; thence west to the line between ranges 33 and 34, and thence north to the north line of the state.

The U. S. land offices at Fort Dodge and Council Bluffs were continued for the convenience of settlers in making their entry of the public lands, until

June 1, 1873, and at Sioux City until December 31, 1877, when by executive orders issued by the president of the United States, they were consolidated with the office at Des Moines. At the time of the last named date there were less than 2000. acres of lands in Iowa subject to the disposal of the government; and arrangements were made for homesteaders to obtain complete title by making final proof before the courts of record in the counties where the land was situated. This county belonged to the Fort Dodge district, except the west range of townships, including Cedar, Dover, Marshall and Swan Lake, which belonged to the Sioux City district.

The land office at Fort Dodge was a matter of great convenience to all the settlers in the eastern part of this county, for they had opportunity to visit the office and report their intended settlement while on the way to their lands. By this means they were freed from all anxiety and fear on the part of the "claim jumper." Those who located claims in the west range of townships, had to go to the office at Sioux City and it was not an unusual occurrence for the settler to find that the lands he had selected were either bought or taken by others before he arrived and gained the attention of the register of the land office, especially if he discovered to others on the way the location of his claim and spoke very highly of its merits. We learn there are residents of this county today who had this experience when the rush of settlers came to this section with the advent of the railway, about the year 1870.

The story is told that a certain chap, who selected a claim a little further west, made a free use of the names of several of the most prominent men in this country at that time in order to hold it while he went to the land office. This was done in a very effective manner by tacking to a stake set

on the claim the following notice:

☞ N. B.\* ☞

We, the undersigned, claim this homestead. Pass on.

U. S. GRANT.  
BRIGHAM YOUNG.  
SITTING BULL.

Of course no one dared to meddle with this claim.

#### THE RAILROAD LANDS.

A reference has been made to the act of congress approved May 15, 1856,† granting to the state of Iowa, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of railroads across the state, every alternate odd-numbered section for a distance of six miles on each side of the road. This act provided that when the lines of these roads should be definitely fixed, if it should appear that any section or part thereof thus granted had been previously sold or pre-empted, then the railway companies might select, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, from the unoccupied and unsold lands nearest their line of railway, so much land in alternate sections as should equal the amount thereof sold or pre-empted; but the lands thus located should in no case be more than fifteen miles distant from the line of the railroad. Under this provision, it will be perceived, the belt of railroad lands would naturally vary all the way from six to fifteen miles on each side of the line of the railway.

The legislature of Iowa, by an act at a special session held in Iowa City and approved July 14, 1856, made a grant of these lands to the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. upon the condition that the company should complete and equip 75 miles of its main line within three years from Dec. 1, 1856, 30 miles in addition each year thereafter for five years, and the remainder of their road including a

\*From "Not a bene" and means "Take Notice."

†Page 81.



branch from Dubuque to the mouth of the *Tete des Morts*,‡ within one year thereafter,—Dec. 1, 1865. The main line of this company was to extend from Dubuque to Sioux City.

All persons who, at the time this grant was made, held valid claims by actual occupation and improvement upon any of these railway sections were protected in their rights, but to secure this protection, within three months from the passage of this act, they had to prove to the satisfaction of the county judge that their claim was valid and existed at the time the grant was made; then on the payment of \$2.50 an acre they were entitled to a patent for the land.

By an act of the legislature of Iowa, approved Jan. 28, 1857, the five railway companies in Iowa, to whom the first grants in Iowa had been made,\* were allowed to execute mortgages or deeds of trust upon these odd-numbered sections of railroad lands for the purpose of securing the funds necessary to complete the construction of their respective railroads.

Under the provisions of this act the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. on March 14, 1857, executed a trust deed of all their lands along their proposed route, to Abram S. Hewitt, Thomas E. Walker, Frederick Schuchardt and Curtis B. Raymond, trustees of said company, for the sum of \$12,000,000 secured by 12,000 construction bonds of \$1000 each, with the right to issue a further amount of 3,000 similar bonds, making on the whole a sum not exceeding \$15,000,000. To secure the payment of these bonds the railway company conveyed to these trustees all their right, title and interest in the public lands granted to it.

‡Ta'ta de More, a creek near Sabula.

\*Burlington & Missouri River, (now C. E. & Q.) Mississippi and Missouri River, (now the C. R. I. & P.) Iowa Central Air Line, (now C. & N. W.) Dubuque & Pacific, (now Ill. Central,) and McGregor & Missouri River (now C. M. & St. P.)

In the year 1860, Morris K. Jesup, Platt Smith, W. W. Hamilton and Herman Gelpecke had become the successors of Messrs. Hewitt, Walker, Schuchardt and Raymond as trustees of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. A large amount of bonds had been issued under the mortgage of March 14, 1857, and default in the payment of the interest having been made, these trustees brought an action of foreclosure in the district court of Dubuque county at the August term, 1860, against the railway company and a decree of foreclosure was entered August 21, 1860, by which it was ordered that these trustees recover of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. the sum of \$1,722,510, and if payment of this amount was not made in ten days then the equity of redemption should be forever barred and foreclosed. In contemplation of this foreclosure, a large number of persons who were interested in the railway company, as holders of its bonds and stock, formed a new company under the name of the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., to become the successor of the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co., for the purpose of acquiring all their rights, privileges and land grants, and to complete the construction of the railroad. This deed was executed by the president and secretary of the railway company and also by Morris K. Jesup and others, trustees, default having been made.

On April 7, 1862, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved requiring the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. to release all the "swamp and overflowed" lands within the fifteen-mile limit of the road to the county in which they were situated, according to the act of congress approved March 3, 1857. In consideration of this relinquishment of the "swamp and overflowed" lands, the time of completion of any part of the road was extended one year.

On December 1, 1866, when it should have been completed, this road extended only to Iowa Falls, and the company failed and refused to execute the release of the swamp and overflowed lands as required by the act of the legislature of Iowa, April 7, 1862. By an act approved March 10, 1868, the General Assembly of Iowa declared the forfeiture of the lands granted to the Dubuque & Pacific (now Dubuque & Sioux City) R. R. Co. beyond the extension of their line and their reversion to the state of Iowa.

On January 7, 1868, the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. conveyed so much of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad as remained to be constructed at that time and the pro ratio of six sections a mile of the lands granted by congress to aid in the construction of this road west of Iowa Falls, to the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co.

The Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co. was formed to complete the construction of the road from Iowa Falls to Sioux City, and the Dubuque, Bellevue & Sabula R. R. Co. was organized to construct the *Tete des Morts* branch along the west bank of the Mississippi river south from Dubuque. On April 7, 1868, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved that renewed the grant of lands forfeited by the Dubuque & Pacific (per the Dubuque & Sioux City) R. R. Co. to the two companies last named, upon the condition that the main line be completed to Fort Dodge by July 1, 1869 and to Sioux City before January 1, 1872.

**DUBUQUE & SIOUX CITY R. R. LANDS.**—Under these enactments the following lands in Pocahontas county were assigned to the Dubuque & Pacific (Illinois Central) R. R. Co., namely: All the odd-numbered sections in Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Cedar, Dover, Grant, Lincoln and Lake townships, embracing the two south tiers, and in

the south half of Center, Sherman and Marshall, in the third tier of townships, and all or parts of sections 29, 31, 32, 33 and 35, Swan Lake township.

Previous to the transfer of its interest to the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., Aug. 24, 1860, the Dubuque & Pacific Co. had built the road to Waterloo, a distance of 80 miles, and had disposed of a large amount of their lands to eastern capitalists, who in turn sold them to settlers at \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre and all the titles thus given were good.

All their lands in Lincoln township were sold to the Artisan's Bank of New York city, and this bank becoming insolvent, the railroad lands in that township were ordered by the courts of the state of New York to be sold at public auction. This sale was held in the city of New York, July 23, 1862, and the purchasers were Geo. W. Powers, Jacob S. Carter, John E. Corwith and Charles J. Forrest.

They also sold a great many of their lands in this county to a company composed of some twelve men in Boston, who organized themselves into the corporation known as the "Iowa Homestead Company," and appointed Geo. J. Forrest, Wm. J. Barney and Frederick C. Gebhardt their trustees. These trustees acquired the title to these lands direct from the railroad company and held them for the Iowa Homestead Co. until about March, 1880, when they sold them to the Iowa Land & Loan Co., of which Joseph Sampson, of Sioux City, (then at Storm Lake) was president for many years.

The railroad lands in the south half of Center township were included in the grant received by the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., and all of these south of section 15, including sections 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 were sold to Warrick Price, of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Rogers' Locomotive company, of New Jersey, in compensation for

supplies furnished the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. and their successors, became the owners of 4,800 acres of the lands granted this company in this county, located in Lizard, Bellville, Colfax, Sherman and Grant townships.

**DES MOINES VALLEY R. R. LANDS.**  
—The Des Moines Valley Railroad Co. was organized to build a railroad from Des Moines to the north line of this state along the Des Moines river, and this company received a grant of land along the line of its railway under the act of congress approved July 12, 1862. Their lands in this county were located in the north and eastern parts of it, as follows:

Clinton township—All of sections 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and part of Sec. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 21.

Des Moines—All of section 1 and part of section 3, 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33.

Powhatan—All of sections 13 and 22, and part of Sec. 1, 3, 11, 18, 19, 21, 26 and 27.

Swan Lake—All of section 1, 5 and 8, and part of sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 20.

The fact that so many parts of sections appear in this grant is due to the fact the government had issued scrip to many persons, especially soldiers, in compensation for services rendered the government, and those who held this scrip had purchased therewith parts of these sections before the grant was made to this railroad company.

In the year 1877, the Des Moines Valley R. R. Co., having completed its line only to Fort Dodge via Tara, went into liquidation and the Des Moines and Fort Dodge R. R. Co. became its successor. In 1881 it extended the railway through this county to Ruthven and secured possession of the lands previously granted.

**MCGREGOR AND MISSOURI RIVER R. R. LANDS.**—The McGregor and

Missouri River R. R. Co.\* was organized to build a railroad from McGregor, in Allamakee county, to a point on the Missouri river, and on July 19, 1867, this company received a grant that included the following lands in Pocahontas county: Part of sections 7 and 9 in Clinton township, part of section 3 in Des Moines, part of all the odd-numbered sections from 3 to 35 in Washington, part of sections 1 and 3 in Sherman and part of sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 in Center township. The patent for these lands was issued by the State of Iowa, Dec. 20, 1880.

It is not known that this company built any railroad, and its successor, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, R. R. Co., built none in this county nor within fifteen miles of it, but they acquired the lands, franchises, etc., of the former company. This company made sales directly to the settlers and favored all of them with a rebate on the purchasing price that broke a certain number of acres within a specified time.

The Toledo & Northwestern R. R. Co., which in 1881 built the railroad passing through Rolfe and Laurens, a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern system, received no grant of lands nor any public aid along its line in this county.

#### OTHER LAND GRANTS.

There have been approved to Iowa, under the several grants of congress, above 8,000,000 acres of land, or nearly one-fourth of the entire state. Of this amount about 400,000 acres were approved to the state to aid in the improvement of the Des Moines river; 1,500,000 acres for the support of the public schools; 204,000 acres for the support of the Agricultural College; 45,000 acres of saline lands, the unsold portion of which was transferred to the State University by an act of the General Assembly of Iowa approved

\*The successor of the McGregor & Sioux City R. R. Co.

March 25, 1864; 4,675,000 acres to aid in the construction of the first railways across the state; and 1,570,000 acres of swamp lands, including those for which cash and land indemnity had been allowed.

The grant in Pocahontas county for the support of the public schools, embraced section number 16 in each township, or 10,240 acres.

Of the Agricultural College lands, 4,730 acres were located in this county on Jan. 13th and April 15th, 1869, under the act approved Dec. 16, 1864. Of this amount 1,760 acres were located in Bellville township, (Sec. 14, 28, 31, 32 and 36) and the remainder in Colfax (Sec. 18, 20), Lizard (Sec. 20, 28), Marshall (Sec. 22, 26), and Swan Lake (Sec. 26, 34, 36), townships.

Ten other counties in the earlier settled portions of this state, located 14,086 acres in this county. The selection and location of these lands was as follows:

Tama county, Sept. 23, 1864, in Powhatan township (Sec. 2, 3, 6) 1031 acres.

Johnson county, Dec. 28, 1864, in Powhatan (Sec. 8, 18) 400 acres, and Washington (Sec. 4, 6, 10) 1081 acres; total 1481 acres.

Buchanan county, Feb. 28, 1865, in Powhatan (Sec. 20) 200 acres and in Washington (Sec. 2, 14) 600 acres; total 800 acres.

Butler county, June 20, 1865, in Lincoln (Sec. 18) 214; Grant (Sec. 2, 6, 14) 608; Center (Sec. 2, 6, 18, 30) 767; Sherman (Sec. 4, 6, 18) 771; total, 1684 acres.

Allamakee county, June 27, 1865, in Powhatan (Sec. 8, 10, 28, 30, 34) 1787 acres.

Bremer county, June 29, 1865, in Center (Sec. 4) 130; Lake (Sec. 6, 18, 30) 304; Powhatan (Sec. 32) 560; and Washington (Sec. 18, 20, 22) 880; total, 1870 acres.

Dubuque county, Nov. 18, 1865, in Lake township, lot No. 2 of Sec. 22, 31 acres.

Jasper county, Feb. 17, 1869, in Cen-

ter (Sec. 13) 240; Swan Lake (Sec. 30) 80; Marshall (Sec. 8, 18, 20) 1214; total, 1534 acres.

Clinton county, March 20, 1870, in Dover (Sec. 10) 40, and Swan Lake (Sec. 2, 22, 24, 34) 400; total, 440 acres.

Cedar county, in Washington township (Sec. 5, 7, 17, 18) 1064 acres.

THE DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT COURTS;  
FIRST SESSIONS.

The first record of a term of the district court and of a trial before it is of date, "Highland, Nov. 2, 1860." Hon. A. W. Hubbard, of Woodbury county, was the presiding judge, and the first case was entitled:

A. K. HILL

VS.

PERRY NOWLEN,

and W. H. Hait appeared as the attorney for the plaintiff.

Only one other case was tried at this term of the court and it was entitled "John M. Stockdale vs. John C. Straight."

Thomas McCormick, a native of Ireland, was declared a citizen of the United States.

These items represent the business done at this first session of the district court in this county, and both the record and attestation thereof are in the handwriting of Judge Hubbard.

The time for the next term of court was May 22, 1862, but the only case in hand was granted a change of venue to Kossuth county by reason of the fact it was impossible to secure a jury of twelve men in this county for the trial of it. This change of venue was granted by the judge without coming to this county, and all the other items of business were postponed until the next session of the court.

The next records of the district court are of date Oct. 31, 1863, and show the business done at the second session of the court. At this date Isaac Pendleton, of Woodbury county, had become the successor of Judge Hubbard and, not arriving until the

third day of the session, Philip Russell, the clerk of the court, maintained the session by opening the court each day at the appointed hour and then adjourning it from day to day until the time of his arrival.

There were twenty-two other counties in Northwest Iowa in this judicial district at this date and the district court held only one session each year in thirteen of them, Pocahontas being among this number. In the other nine counties two sessions were held annually.

In 1869; the "circuit court" was established for the purpose of holding two sessions each year in every county. The first session of this court in this county was held at (Old) Rolfe, May 4, 1869, by Judge Jared M. Snyder, of Humboldt county, and only two items of business were transacted that became matters of record. James N. Prouty made application and was admitted to the practice of law before this court. He then presented to the court Thomas Peters, a foreigner, and secured his naturalization. When the second session of the court was held in this county, Feb. 8, 1870, several state and probate cases were heard and disposed of.

On the records of the courts during this period the names of the following persons appear as applicants for naturalization, the date given being the one on which the final papers were issued and the country, their native place:

1860, Jan. 3, Robert Struthers, Scotland.

1861, Aug. 23, James Hood, Canada.

1863, Nov. 2, William Struthers, Canada.

1864, Feb. 2, Matthew Tilley, England.

1867, June 4, John Weise, Prussia.

1867, June 4, Michael Weise, Prussia.

1869, May 4, Thomas Peters ———

1871, Feb. 6, Bernard Stegge, Germany.

1871, May 1, John Kreul, Germany.

1871, May 1, Peter H. Niemand, Germany.

1871, May 1, Robert Lothian, Scotland.

#### HAIT'S SAWMILL.

The only sawmill ever erected in the county was the one located at Old Rolfe in 1860, by Wm. E. Clark and John M. Stockdale for the purpose of sawing the material for the first court house and bridge over the Des Moines river at that place. It consisted of a circular saw run by steam and was located near the residence of W. H. Hait on section 26, Des Moines township. After the completion of the court house and bridge, Mr. Hait bought it and retained possession of it until 1870, when it was sold to the owner of a grist-mill in Webster county.

The first one who died in this county was Patrick Calligan, in the Lizard settlement, in August 1856.

The first white children born within the limits of the county were Rose Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Donahoe, Feb. 23, 1857; Maggie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Calligan, Aug. 11, 1857; Annie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Collins, March 10, 1858; Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Walsh, April 10, 1858, and Charles Joseph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelley, May 6, 1858. All of these belonged to the Lizard settlement. The portraits of all but two of these persons may be seen in this volume.

The first birth in the Des Moines settlement occurred on January 1, 1859, when Ellen, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Struthers, was born. She is now Mrs. Richard Mathers, of Clinton township.

The first marriage in this county occurred in the Des Moines settlement December 30, 1859. The ceremony was performed by Samuel N. Harris, clerk of the district court, and the con-

tracting parties were Michael O'Boyle and Margaret Sheridan, both of Humboldt county. The first marriage of residents of this county occurred at the home of Samuel N. Harris, in Des Moines township, July 18, 1861. In this instance the contracting parties were William Seymour Fegles and

Miss Elizabeth Harris, the ceremony being performed by Robert Struthers, a justice of the peace.

On July 15, 1869, the Pocahontas Journal, the first newspaper published in the county was established at (Old) Rolfe by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce.

## X.

### Second Period, 1870 to 1882—Period of Railroad Construction and Township Organization.

"While I behold the rushing tide of life,  
Advancing westward, covering all the land,  
A land, the richest in the fertile world,  
The glorious garden of the peopled earth,  
Budding, blossoming like the lovely rose,  
I ask myself, what will this country be  
When for its development time is given?"—L. BROWN.

#### THE FIRST RAILROAD.



The beginning of this period, it may be said "The movers came by dozens, staked their claims and built their cabins."

The year 1870 marks a new era in the history of this county. It was during this year the first railroad was built through its borders, and this event gave a new impetus to the settlement of the county, that was felt in every township, but most in those situated in the southwestern part of it.

In 1866 the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co. had secured the extension of their line from Dubuque to Iowa Falls, a distance of 143 miles, but there it rested. In October, 1868, John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J., contractor and builder for the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co., began the extension of the road to Sioux City, a distance of 183 miles. This railroad was completed to Webster City Dec. 31st,

following; to Fort Dodge in May and to Pomeroy Dec. 25, 1869. This railroad reached Cedar creek on the bank of which Fonda now stands, about May 1, 1870, and was completed at Storm Lake July 4, following. The west half of this railroad was built from Sioux City to Storm Lake.

William Bott, who is still an honored resident of Fonda, superintended the laying of the track of this first railroad from Iowa Falls to Storm Lake and, as a foreman of track-hands continued in the employ of the railroad company for a number of years afterward. He and his family were the first occupants of the depot at Fonda, and they enjoyed this luxury until the arrival of the first ticket and freight agent, Geo. Fairburn, a young man from Dubuque, full of hope, pluck and energy, well equipped for all the duties of this new and responsible situation on the frontier, and who, from that date, Oct. 15, 1870, until the present time, has been prominently

identified with the public and business interests of the new city then founded, first called Marvin, now Fonda.

The completion of the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad was signalized by the construction company running an excursion train from Fort Dodge to Sioux City on July 4, 1870. This train consisted of an engine profusely decorated with flags, several open flat-cars and a caboose; and most of the passengers were workmen and those who were interested in the railroad.

Among those who came on this train to see the location of the new town on the east bank of Cedar creek, was Abram Weaver, of Deerfield, New York, the present owner of section 1, Cedar township. On this, his first visit to this section he made the purchase of the west half of that section and two other tracts of land in the vicinity of Twin Lakes.

In June, 1869, thirty days after the completion of the railroad to Fort Dodge, The Illinois Central R. R. Co. leased the road and established a train service to that city. When the railroad was completed to Sioux City the Construction Company established a daily train service about August 1, 1870. This service at first consisted of one train a day each way, and during the months of August and September their agent located at Newell, Captain E. W. Stetson, still a resident of the town of Newell, attended to all the business at the Marvin station by coming to this place on one train and returning to Newell on the next one. This train was a mixed one, consisting of several freight cars and one passenger coach. On October 15th, the Illinois Central R. R. Co. having leased the entire line of the road, established a through train service, which, during the first year, was similar to that established

by the Construction Co.\*

About ten miles of this railroad were built in Pocahontas county. It entered the county on the south side of Sec. 34, Colfax township, and passed through it in a straight line running about 15 degrees north of west to the west line of Sec. 19, Cedar township. It is so free from steep grades that a Mogul engine, the kind now used on it, having 18x24-inch steam cylinders and weighing 25 tons, can draw a load of 300 tons exclusive of the weight of cars, over its entire length in Iowa.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. handles the telegraph business along this road, under a contract given Sept. 20, 1863, to the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Co. The telegraph company furnishes the necessary material and the R. R. Co. the labor for the maintenance of the line, all messages of the R. R. Co., pertaining to their business, being transmitted free. The American Express Co. has charge of the express business, and on the main line the mails are weighed every four years from 1895 to determine the compensation for carrying them.

When this first railroad entered Pocahontas county in the spring of 1870, a settler resided upon a homestead in the vicinity of Storm Lake, but there were no visible indications of the thriving city that now bears that name; and when it reached Cedar creek, the section of country now occupied by the city of Fonda was a wild but beautiful prairie broken only by the trail of an occasional team to Fort Dodge.

\*The Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co. built the railroad from Dubuque to Independence, a distance of 69 miles, reaching that place June 3, 1860. The Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., their successor, extended it to Iowa Falls, a distance of 74 miles, on April 15, 1866. On Oct. 23, 1888, all the railroad built by the Iowa Falls & Sioux City R. R. Co. was conveyed to the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., and it still owns the road from Dubuque to Sioux City.

## FONDA FOUNDED IN 1870.

Peter G. Ibson, who is still a resident of the county, but then a blacksmith for the bridge builders along the line of the railroad, in February, 1870, erected a blacksmith shop about twelve feet square, on the present site of the Fonda water works, and this was the first building erected on section 27, Cedar township. He had entered the employ of the bridge builders of the railroad construction company near Webster City the previous year, and moving his shop westward with the progress of the road, chose this location as one convenient for the builders of the railroad bridge across Cedar creek. The superintendent of the bridge builders was George Sargent.

Previous to this date, (Feb., 1870) two small buildings had been erected about three-quarters of a mile west of Cedar creek on section 28. One of these was a little one-story frame building built in the fall of 1869 by Jacob Silbar, a Jewish peddler, who sold his goods from a wagon during the summer, and erected this building for a home during the winter. It stood south of the railroad grade, and as soon as Cedar creek became dry in 1870, Maurice Chase, a resident of the settlement at Sunk Grove and who the previous year had hauled the lumber for it from Fort Dodge, drew this building on a set of skids across the creek at the old fording place north of the Catholic church, and located it a few feet east of Ibson's shop. The sight of these two unpretentious looking buildings on the prairie just south of the railroad, is a matter of very distinct recollection on the part of many of the older residents of this community.

The other building west of Cedar creek, was built by John A. Hay on his homestead on the north half of section 28, and the place where it stood is still marked by a grove of

cottonwood trees that may be seen north of the railroad and about forty rods west of the east line of the section. In this building, which was erected also in the fall of 1869, John A. Hay and his brother, Harvey W. Hay, lived during that winter, and the former kept a small stock of groceries, receiving his supplies from Fort Dodge.

In the summer of 1870, John A. Hay built a store building that was first located on what for many years has been known as the Geo. Ellis property, south of Second and east of Main streets, where he sold goods under the firm name of Hay & Alford, the latter being a resident of Fort Dodge. Wm. Marshall, who arrived in May, 1870, built the first dwelling house, hauling the lumber from Pomeroy. This was a one and a half story building located north of Second street, first on lot 6 of block 8, and at present on the southwest corner of the next block east. Mr. Marshall had no desire to keep hotel but it became a matter of necessity that he should be willing to receive and entertain transients until a hotel was built. He established a lumber yard northwest of the depot, later owned by Geo. Fairburn and now by the Shull Bros.' Lumber Co. The depot was the next building completed, and Wm. Bott and family began to occupy it about the first of August. Two months later when he had to vacate it, the workmen under his care in one day erected a building north of the track, into which he moved and remained a considerable time.

In September, 1870, John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J., owner of the section, (27) had Frederick Hess, of Fort Dodge, make a survey and plat of the new town which he called Marvin, in honor of Marvin Hewitt, superintendent of the Illinois Central R. R. Co. at that time. The original plat embraced four streets running





GEORGE FAIRBURN

President, Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda.



Fonda and Vicinity.

northward from the railroad, on the east bank of Cedar creek, and named from it, Howard, Main, Franklin and King streets; and four streets running east and west, numbered from the railroad, First, Second, Third and Fourth streets, the last being south of the Presbyterian church. This plat was filed for record Sept. 13, 1870, and Fonda thus became the second town platted in the county. Mr. Blair set apart for public use as highways forever all the land included in the streets and alleys as shown in the original plot, the width of Main street being 100 feet and of the other streets 80 feet.

After the town was platted, John Hay moved his store building to the west side of Main street on the lot now occupied by the north half of the Fairburn bank building, Jacob Silbar erected a new building on the next lot north of it, and Peter Ibson built a new shop south of Second street near the former site of Hay's store, where it remained about two years or until it was moved to the corner on the west side of Main street now occupied by the brick block of Roberts & Kenning.

When Geo. Fairburn arrived he was accompanied by W. S. Wright, a young man also from Dubuque, and both of them made their home in the depot. The latter became the first express agent and postmaster. He established the first postoffice in the depot, under the name of Cedarville, and during the year he remained in charge of it the mail was kept in a little box that had only four pigeon-holes.

The first hotel was built by Albert Hay, an uncle of John A. Hay, on the corner north of the railroad, now occupied by the Washington hotel, for which it is still used as a kitchen.

The second good residence building was built by Wm. Snell, on the east side of Main street and on the second

block from the railroad. This building for many years was the home of Capt. Joseph Mallison, but in 1899, the large cottonwood trees that had been planted in front of it were cut down and it was removed to the lot of Frank Scott, near the cemetery, to make room for the two-story brick block of J. W. Rock. Wm. Snell established a real estate agency in partnership with Jacob Snyder, and a place for the sale of agricultural machinery in partnership with Wm. Marshall.

On the east side of Main street on the first block from the depot, several other buildings were built in 1870. One was erected as a restaurant by Horace and Charles Skinner, on the corner now occupied by the bank building of the Farmers' Loan and Trust company. Their first structure consisted of a board roof that rested on corners and pillars built by placing bunches of shingles on top of each other and the spaces between them were protected with canvas or tenting. Canute Tisdale, severing his connection with Jacob Silbar, built a shoemaker shop near the south corner of that block. North of it M. D. Skinner, of Webster City, built a long frame building that was intended to serve as a residence and printing office. A printers' outfit entirely new was put in the front room of this building and Mr. Skinner as editor and proprietor began to issue the Pochontas Times. Previous to the issue of the Times, W. S. Wright, the express agent, had had several weekly issues of the Cedarville Herald printed at Storm Lake and distributed through the postoffice at the depot. Dick Mills erected a temporary meat market near the alley a little north of the site of McKee's brick block and Charles Skinner a flour and feed store on the west side of Main street. About this time Samuel Hughes arrived and, purchasing the building

and stock of goods owned by Jacob Silbar, moved the building forward to the line of Main street, and its previous owner left the settlement.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP—FIRST RESIDENTS.

1868. The first residents of Cedar township seem to have been Elijah Chase and family, consisting of wife and five children, and Geo. Spragg and family. These two families were related to each other by marriage, and bringing their effects from Buchanan county on wagons drawn by oxen, they located at Sunk Grove on Sec. 6, Aug. 9, 1868. At this date there were no settlements west of those along the Lizard streams and not even a beaten wagon trail through this township.

For several months during the fall and winter preceding, Bartlett M. Morse, now a resident of Calliope, Sioux county, had engaged in trapping around the lake at Sunk Grove, and lived in a rude shanty in the grove; and another trapper by the name of King occupied it the ensuing winter, but neither of them became permanent residents of the township.

1869. On March 23, 1869, Ephraim Garlock, Abram O. Garlock, Geo. Hathaway and A. W. Creed entered and with their families began to occupy homesteads on section 24, and Geo. H. Wright and family on section 36 of Cedar township. Andrew J. Norem entered his homestead on section 22, on March 5th previous, but he did not immediately locate upon it.

In May following, Wm. Erastus Garlock and family and his brother George Garlock arrived in wagons, bringing their own and their father's stock from DeKalb county Ill., and located also on section 24; John Dunkerly and family on section 6; Sidney E. Wright, (a brother of Geo. H.) Geo. W. Wood and John R. Perry on section 36, and Julius F. Steyens on section 4.

In June the new settlers were Hor-

ace R. and Chas. Skinner on section 6; John A. Hay on section 28; Wm. Richards on section 32; Wm. Lawler, John Brown and Wm. Lynch and family of four children, all on section 2.

Other settlers that arrived later and entered their homesteads that year were Harvey W. Hay and J. S. Howell and family on section 28; John Diviny and Mrs. Rachel Hartwell on section 6; John Lemp on section 18; John M. Wood on section 36; and John Olson, wife and three children, who bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, and lived upon it until 1885.

1870. The first homesteaders to arrive in Cedar township in 1870, were Geo. Sanborn and family on section 34; Austin G. (brother of A. W.) Creed, on section 12; Matthew Byrne on section 4, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mallison on section 20. These were followed in the spring by Jeremiah Sullivan and Chas. Breslin who came together and located also on section 4, April 7th. Among those who followed later that year were Samuel H. McDeid, Geo. E. Thompson and family and Geo. H. Thompson his nephew, all of whom located on section 18; Geo. A. Woolworth and Albert Wolfe on section 11; Pelatiah F. Bennett and Albin C. Spearin on section 8; Joseph C. Stevens, Albert Hanke and his brother Frank Hanke, all on section 6; Adam Cleghorn on section 20; Thomas Slater and Edward Mellen on section 36; John N. Welsh, Carrie, sister of A. W. Creed, and David Spielman on section 24.

The following additional persons in 1869 visited and located homesteads in Cedar township, namely: John D. Nichols, Wm. H. Schooley, James C. Kromer, Alfred Rowe, Grimes I. Snow, Justus F. Heath, Eugene Criss, Wm. Curney and Charles M. Hunt; and in 1870, Henry Paltersels, James F. Capen, Wm. G. Winn and John Munro, but they remained only a short time and their claims were cancelled.

## WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP, 1868-1870.

With the tide of immigration that reached the western part of Pocahontas county, along the route of the proposed railroad, a settlement was formed in Williams township, Calhoun county, adjoining Cedar township on the south and tributary to Fonda as a center of trade, of which the following facts, pertinent to the history of this period, will be read with interest.

1868. The first families to locate in this settlement were those of Wm. H. Stott and of his wife's brother, Wm. P. Bush, both of whom located on section 14, in the early part of 1868. Soon afterward that same year they were joined by Samuel Poland, Jacob Stilts and family, George Fastle, Hugh Hocking, Jr., and his brother Wm. Hocking, all on section 10; Hugh Hocking, Sr., and his family, and his son John Hocking, on section 2.

1869. In 1869, John Stott and family located on section 18, on which his two sons, John Jr., and George also took homesteads that so cornered with their father's that when they built their house, which had three rooms, one room of it was on each of the three homesteads.

William Kennedy and family in April located on section 4, on the farm now owned by Charles Zeigler, and on June 5th, 1869, they were joined by Geo. Sanborn and family, his brother-in-law, with whom the latter remained until February, 1870, when he moved to his own homestead on section 34, Cedar township, one-half mile south of Fonda.

Sarah J. Clemens and family of four children, purchasing the homestead right of Alfred Hay, located on section 12, and in December, 1870, she was joined by her eldest daughter, Harriet A., then a school teacher, but now the wife of Baxter S. Chapman. This homestead is now the farm of

## D. C. Morey.

Lemuel Milnor, Isaac Warner and family and Silas Flint and family located on section 12, the latter and his son George taking homesteads on that section, and Charles Flint on section 14. Charles H. Poland, Sr., Roderick J. Abbott and his brother Wm. Abbott, located on section 10; Nicholas Strauss and family and Henry Baker and family on section 6. Orlando O. Brown and family and his two sons, Nathan L. and Lyman W. Brown, located three homesteads on section 8, and James Rigby on the fraction of section 4. The latter was an earnest Seventh-day Adventist and in 1876 organized an Adventist church of thirty-six members in the Kennedy (now Mayo) school house.

Mrs. Mary Jane Jenkins (daughter of John Hocking, Sr.) and family, Jacob E. Kephart and David Thayer and family located on section 2.

In 1870, Obed Slater and family located on section 2, James Whitbeck on section 12, and a number of others, too numerous to mention, in various parts of the township.

At this date the settlement had already come to be known as the "Williams settlement," by reason of the fact that three of the first men to locate in it—Wm. Stott, Wm. Bush and Wm. Kennedy were often referred to as the three "Williams."

In 1871 when the township was organized, it was very naturally named "Williams" in honor of these three men whose public spirit made them as prominent as the fact they were early pioneers.

The first death in this settlement is believed to have been Amanda Stilts, the daughter of Jacob Stilts, who died about December 28, 1870, and was buried on a spot of high ground on her father's homestead which was on the E½ SW¼ Sec. 10. The location of this grave is still indicated by a clump of cottonwood trees that were planted

around it after her burial.

Miss Harriet A. Clemens taught the first school in this settlement, a term of two-months, in January and February 1871. This was before the organization of the township, and among the pupils that she enrolled there were two that were over age, namely, John Stott and Wm. P. Bush. The latter was thirty-two years of age and gave as the reason for his attendance the fact that his enlistment in the army prevented him from going to school in his younger days. He is now a resident of Gilmore City.

In the spring of 1871 this settlement was divided into two school districts. In district No. 1, the first teacher was Miss Harriet A. Clemens, (now Mrs. B. S. Chapman) who taught the summer and winter terms of 1871, the former term in the summer kitchen of Wm. H. Stott, on section 14, where she taught the previous term, and the latter one in a small temporary school building that was located near the center of section 11 on the north part of the farm now owned and occupied by Isaac P. Longnecker. Roderick J. Abbott taught the summer and winter terms of 1872 and Mrs. Rachel Hartwell, of the Sunk Grove settlement, the summer and winter terms of 1873 in the same temporary building. In 1874, when the school house was built in this, the Warner district, James Clemens was the first teacher to occupy it.

In the other district the first teacher was Edgar E. Mack, who taught the summer and winter terms of 1871 and also of 1872, in the home of Nathan L. Brown, on section 8. Mrs. Alice B. Ellis, wife of Capt. Ellis, of Ft. Dodge, taught the summer and winter terms of 1873 in the same place. In 1874, the Kennedy (now Mayo) school house was built and the first two terms in it were taught by Miss Sarah J. Darling, now the wife of Judge S. M. Elwood, of Sac City.

The first board of directors consisted of O. O. Brown, president; Wm. P. Bush, secretary; John Stott, treasurer; Wm. Kennedy and Roderick Abbott.

The first permanent school buildings in Williams township were built in the Warner, Kennedy (now Mayo) and Jackson districts, in the season of 1874 and by Abram O. Garlock, a resident of Cedar township, as contractor and builder.

The Jackson district received this name from Joseph Jackson, who located in that district about the year 1871. He was a carpenter as well as a farmer, and in 1875 was the contractor and builder of the school house in district No. 3, the Strauss neighborhood. The first teacher to occupy this building was George Sanborn, the present editor of The Fonda Times.

#### THE TOWNSHIPS ORGANIZED.

“American youth behold where you stand!  
To you must be given the care of this land;  
Prepare for your calling; be worthy the trust.”

As a natural result of the immigration to this section, induced by the construction of the first railroad through it, four new townships were organized in Pocahontas county in the year 1870, namely, Cedar, Bellville and Grant on June 6th, and Dover (including Marshall) on September 6th, following. One year thereafter Colfax and Swan Lake townships were established; and in 1872 Lincoln (under the name of Carter) and Center townships.

About this date the ravages of the grasshoppers and other causes of hard times checked immigration very seriously and a period of four years elapsed before Washington township was established (Sept. 5, 1876.) and Lake, the year following. Another period of three years, suggestive also of hard times, elapsed before Sherman

township was established. Finally on June 5, 1882, Marshall township, the last one remaining, was established under the name of Laurens.

The last date given marks an important epoch in the history of this county. It not only denotes the time when the organization of the townships of the county was completed, but the period when this county was traversed in the north and east by two more important railroads, the Toledo & Northwestern and the Des Moines Valley (now the C. R. I. & P.). This date also marks the end of a period of repeated disappointments, hard times and unexpected disasters on the one hand, and the beginning of an era of uninterrupted growth and prosperity that has continued until the present time.

The following exhibit of the population of the county during this period, 1870-1882, shows when its growth was retarded by unfavorable circumstances and when manifest impulses were received.

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1869	637	1875	2249
1870	1446	1880	3713
1873	2175	1885	6154

It will be perceived that there were two short periods of manifest growth that in general may be said to have embraced the first two and the last two years of the period under consideration; and that almost the entire decade included in the seventies—1872 to 1879—was an era of slow growth in the development of the county, a circumstance that was no doubt due to the trials and hardships experienced by those who were residents of the county during that time.

If we seek for the principal causes that checked the forward impulse of 1870, it will be found that they were three in number, namely; the grasshoppers, the financial panic of 1873 and the strikes or hard times of 1877. The first of these retarding causes was in some measure local, but the

two last were felt more or less seriously throughout the whole country.

#### THE GRASSHOPPERS.

As early as 1856 and 1857, and again in 1864 and 1866, the grasshoppers of the Rocky mountain region visited the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas, but owing to the limited number of the settlements at that early date, their ravages were not seriously felt or emphasized.

In Pocahontas county there were three distinct visitations of grasshoppers that are well remembered. These occurred in 1867 and '68, in 1873 and '74 and, in diminished numbers, in 1875 and '76, when they departed, unwept and unmourned.

These visitations were the cause of a vast amount of suffering throughout the entire northwestern part of this country and added greatly to the ordinary hardships of pioneer life. When they came sweeping through the land on the wing they darkened the face of the sun, and when they lighted on the farmers' gardens and growing crops they darkened the face of the husbandman, who saw before them his hope of subsistence but after them only a desolate wilderness. Whilst they would satisfy the cravings of their hunger, when necessary, by feeding on the tough native grasses of the prairie, they always manifested a keener relish for the tenderer vegetation that grew in the cultivated fields of the settler, and when they found them they "cleaned them out."

The region known as the permanent home of the Rocky mountain locusts or grasshoppers, where they breed every year and are always found in greater or less numbers, embraces the greater part of Montana, a narrow strip of western Dakota, most of Wyoming and Colorado, the eastern portions of Utah, Idaho and Oregon, and a very large area in the British possessions north of Montana that equals more than one-third of the whole re-

gion. The region over which they have temporarily migrated in years of excessive abundance, but from which they have disappeared the following year, includes on the eastern side of the mountains all of Texas, Indian Territory, Kansas, Nebraska, western Missouri, the greater half of Iowa, nearly all of Minnesota, Manitoba and the country north to Lake Winnipeg.

"The locusts," says the wise man, "have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." This is true of the grasshopper, which is a species of locust. They form in compact ranks like the battalions of a disciplined army and they march at the command of a divine and mysterious will. One spirit rules the mighty hosts, and they move in numbers without number—countless as the snowflakes and dark as the clouds. When they travel on the earth they cover everything as completely as the river its bed. When they fly they not only darken the sun, but the sound of their wings is as the sound of many waters. They enter windows, doors and chimneys, cover beds, tables and furniture and fill all wells and open fountains of water. They are omnipresent like the pestilence and, defying sword, spear and cannon, are resistless like the tornado. Famine and pestilence follow their march.

The Arabs say "they have the face of a horse, the eyes of an elephant, the neck of a bull, the horns of a deer, the chest of a lion, the belly of a scorpion, the wings of an eagle, the thighs of a camel, the feet of an ostrich and the tail of a serpent."

One who had the opportunity of observing them and their habits in 1876, wrote as follows:

The grasshopper as a champion multiplier has no equal. He lays an egg which is about the size and shape of a long primer "O;" in fact he lays several of them. From the first of Au-

gust until winter he is actuated by a reckless ambition to bore holes in the ground about the size of a pipstern and then to fill these holes with cream-colored eggs. Although he is small he attends to business and is a triumphant success. In stature he is a match for a six-penny stub nail and in form he is like unto a linchpin. He wears a green sealing-wax head and a pair of large glass eyes, so that with his long-tailed duster he looks like an unsophisticated school-master.

He is not, however, unsophisticated; he thoroughly understands numeration and multiplication. He will stand himself bolt upright like a peg in one of those holes aforesaid, and viewing the heavens with sublime serenity and wooden-headed unconsciousness knows just what he is about. He prefixes himself like a figure "1" in the business and adopting the decimal system of notation calmly places a "0" where it will do the most good. That stands for 10, and before you know it he has added another cipher to that and he now reads 100. About this time you begin to find out what kind of a multiplier he is and you entertain a degree of awe for him not inspired by a front view of his green goggles; you discover that he is a dangerous neighbor. In one hour he has given you a problem that with all your powers of multiplication cannot be solved. He compounds his interest at 100 per cent every month and puts a snap judgment on your cornfield before you can say "grasshopper."\*

A practical use of the innate energy of the grasshopper is suggested by the following incident. A man riding along the border line of the county about the time of their last visitation, was passed by a runaway mule and soon after met fragments of a wagon and the owner of the outfit. The owner, after making inquiries, remarked quite cheerfully that he was pretty sure he had cured his mule of "balkin'." "You see, I heerd that a grasshopper put in the ear of a hoss or mule would cure 'im from balkin'." So I tied a rag over the critter's ear so it couldn't get out, cotched a grasshopper, put it in, an' stranger,

\*Fergus Falls Journal.



it's the best remedy I ever seed. The mule didn't give me time to get in the wagon. I never seed a mule so sprightly. I reckon the hopper 's out now an' I'll go an' cotch the mule."

The eggs of the grasshopper are laid in almost any kind of soil, but principally in one that is tolerably compact rather than loose. When about to lay her eggs the female forces a hole in the ground by means of the two pairs of horny valves that open and shut at the tip of her abdomen and which, from their peculiar structure are admirably fitted for the purpose. The eggs in each nest are carefully placed side by side in four rows and each row generally contains seven. The laying season, commencing about the first of August, lasts six to eight weeks, and each female lays 100 to 150 eggs during that time. The young hatch out about the first of May following and as soon as the supply of food in their locality is exhausted, they commence to migrate, frequently in a body a mile wide, devouring as they advance all the grass, grain and garden truck in their track. In migrating they move, as a rule, during the warmer hours of the day only, and always in search of food. If it is perfectly calm a traveler may meet different bodies of them moving in different directions, but if there is a breeze they rise facing it and then move with it. Only those that are hatched in their *permanent* region near the Rocky Mountains are capable of reproducing their species; that those hatched in this section and throughout the region of their temporary migrations lack this power is attributed to the effect of the change of climate. If the latter lay eggs they hatch the same season and are killed by the frosts of autumn. Their rate of movement when half grown is seldom greater than three yards a minute and then they walk three-fourths of the distance and hop the rest; later

when they take wing they average about 20 miles a day.

In 1867, the date of their first serious visit to Pocahontas county, they came to Powhatan township from the southwest, and when alighting their appearance was like the "falling snowflakes of a December storm." They moved in vast swarms, sometimes several miles in extent, and in looking toward the sun they appeared a mile in depth. After doing considerable damage and depositing their eggs they rose from every part of the country like smoke from a forest and departed for Minnesota. Their reappearance in 1868 consisted of the young brood that came from the eggs deposited the previous year in this section of the country. During this year their ravages were seriously felt in Lizard township.

In 1867 they came from the Rocky Mountain region and, depositing their eggs, a second crop appeared in the young brood that hatched in this vicinity in the spring of 1868. Their ravages during both of these years was felt most in the gardens, where they devoured most of the vegetables. They flavored their tobacco and cabbage with onions, peppers, carrots, peas and tomatoes. Pumpkins and squashes were partially destroyed but they were not favorite articles of diet.

On Friday, June 13, 1873, the first year of their second visitation to this county, a swarm arrived in Cedar township. In two days they had devoured the corn and garden truck, but they remained in this section until they had deposited their eggs. These hatched the following spring about May 15th and by July 1st were ready for migration. Their injury this year was chiefly confined to the small grain and this was so nearly destroyed that in Cedar township in threshing time 15 acres of wheat yielded 6 bushels, and 10 acres of oats 30 bushels. Six farmers who were neighbors stacked

all their crops together to get a setting for the thresher, and it still cost them about ten cents a bushel, the crop consisting almost entirely of straw.

J. C. Strong, a resident of Washington township, on June 13, 1873, had occasion to go to Sioux Rapids, and when a short distance east of that place he encountered them on their first recorded arrival in that township. They were coming from the west and in a cloud so dense and thick that it was with difficulty he kept his team in the road or urged them forward. They were in the act of alighting and when he emerged from the swarm the ground was covered with them. When they encountered on the wing a building or other obstruction, they fell to the ground and laid in heaps and rows like drifts of snow that could be scooped with the shovel.

This swarm arrived in the northwest parts of the county, in Swan Lake and Marshall townships, on June 14th, and other townships south and east on the day following. In crossing Pickerel lake they did not commence to alight until they had passed about a mile beyond it, and by reason of this circumstance, the fine crop of Milton Newell on the east side of the lake escaped uninjured. Some time after harvest this crop was bought by J. C. Strong and it yielded about 400 bushels of wheat and 600 bushels of oats.

The grasshoppers on this occasion did not incline to alight on the open prairie, no doubt because the grass was well advanced in its growth and it did not afford them so delicious a repast as the tender, cultivated crops of the early settlers. The settlers then were few in number, widely separated and their cultivated areas became the special object of their ravages. When they passed to another district the scene left behind them was as sterile as if had been swept by the dreaded prairie fire.

The second crop of this visitation,

the one that hatched in this section in the spring of 1874, was not quite so destructive as the first one, during the previous year, and various means were employed both to destroy them as soon as they were hatched and to protect the growing crops from their ravages.

Constant and unceasing cultivation was found to be of great value in saving the corn crop. On cool nights and windy days the young grasshoppers would cluster in bunches of old hay, grass or stubble as a protection from the cold. By taking advantage of this instinct of their nature, dry hay and straw were sometimes scattered in small bunches and many were thus burned in the cool of the following morning before they began to move about. Sometimes a deep ditch was sunk on one side of a field and some dry straw or hay being placed in the bottom of it, several persons moving abreast with brush in their hands would then drive them into the ditch and there burn them.

Another device for destroying them, called a "hopper catcher," consisted of a tin pan which in some respects resembled an eaves-trough. It had a high back and was divided into sections each one foot in length. It was usually eight, twelve or sixteen feet long, six inches wide, two inches high in front and ten at the back. The short ones were carried by hand either level or at an inclination of forty-five degrees, but the long ones were usually supported by a pair of light wheels, one at each end, and they were then drawn or pushed along either by hand or a horse. This machine was intended to catch the young grasshoppers when they attacked the heads of the wheat and oats crops, and when ready for use the sections were filled with kerosene, or water and kerosene. When it was passed back and forth over the field scaling the heads of the growing crops, the hoppers naturally and fortunately hopped against the

high back-board and falling into the kerosene, very soon expired. Wm. Bott and Wm. Snell, of Cedar township, and others in this vicinity, used these hopper catchers with good results.

Hon. L. S. Coffin, of Webster county, using hot water in the sections instead of kerosene, saved the grasshoppers and feeding them to his hogs found that for that purpose one bushel of them was worth about three of corn. When the chickens, however, fed upon them too freely, their eggs, of which the yolks became red like blood, had a peculiar taste and emitted an unpleasant odor that unfitted them for use.

Prof. J. H. Fowler found that one barrel of grasshoppers contained from three to four gallons of a fine grade of machine oil, suited for sewing machines and the like, and that a manufacturer of the oil could afford to pay from 75 cents to \$1.00 a barrel for the hoppers for that purpose.

At their meeting held January 5, 1875, the board of supervisors of Pocahontas county, finding that many of the settlers were unable to pay their taxes by reason of the loss of their crops by the grasshoppers in 1873 and 1874, adopted a resolution to the effect "that no interest should accrue on taxes delinquent until March 1, 1875."

In 1876 the grasshoppers came again from the Rocky Mountain region and in as great numbers as in 1873, but they arrived too late in this county to injure the crops of small grain for they had already been harvested. In Cedar township, coming from the northwest, they began to alight about noon on Sabbath, the 6th day of August. The air was full of them and they began their depredations by devouring the choicest morsels of the husbandman's store, the garden vegetables. The next day at noon most of them "took wing," and though they left their mark behind them, very little damage was done, the corn crop

being well advanced. In Dover township and other parts of the county they arrived two weeks earlier, did more damage especially to the late corn, and deposited their eggs.

On Saturday evening, September 23, 1876, a meeting of the citizens of Grant township was held in school house No. 1, and an organization was effected for the mutual protection of that settlement, then embracing eleven sections, against prairie fires and the ravages of the young grasshoppers the ensuing season. A. W. Rake was elected chairman and C. H. Tollefsrud secretary of this meeting.

In the spring of 1877 the young brood, forming the second crop of this visitation, commenced to hatch about the first of April and in numbers so great as to endanger all the crops of that year. Fortunately for the farmers, a storm of three days' duration commenced on Thursday, April 26th, that destroyed most of them. This storm was a regular old-fashioned blizzard, somewhat out of season but bringing relief so immediate and complete from the grasshopper pest that every old settler remembers it with a feeling of gratitude. A gentle rain commenced on Thursday that on the next day about noon changed to snow accompanied with a high wind, and the snowing and the blowing continued until nearly Sabbath morning following, when the ground was covered with a deep snow. The frosts and the dampness that ensued had the good effect of destroying the unhatched eggs and most of the young brood. The few that survived, at the time of their maturity, "took wing" and departed. A little later the same season another lot came from the northwest and settled in the gardens and fields of oats, then nearly ripe, but they remained only one or two days.

These repeated ravages of the grasshoppers deprived the farmers of Northwestern Iowa not only of their ex-

pected incomes, but of profitable employment. Their lands were rendered valueless, many were compelled to seek lucrative employment in other sections and the outlook was dark indeed.

#### NO MORE GRASSHOPPERS.

In the spring of 1877, Prof. Aughey, the celebrated western naturalist, who had made a special study of the grasshopper, predicted that that season would be the last of the grasshopper visitation for many years. The U. S. commission entertained the same opinion. The basis of this opinion was the following report made to the governor of Nebraska, June 10, 1877, by Prof. Aughey and Prof. C. Thomas:

We consider the danger from the young which have hatched out this season in Nebraska, over, and that this part of the problem is already solved. We also believe the long series of their visitations has come to a close. There may be and doubtless will be at irregular periods, visitations by migrating swarms, but it is not at all likely that the present generation will ever witness another such a series as that which has just passed.

These predictions were singularly verified for that and every year since that time. Their conclusions were based on facts that they had learned from the natural history of this insect. The cultivated areas are now so large that in the future, even if they should come, they will not be able to make much if any impression on the growing crops; and the people have learned how to meet and contend successfully with them when they appear in the spring, so that as a destroyer they have lost their terror.

#### FINANCIAL PANIC OF 1873.

In 1870 and 1871 occurred the brilliant victories of Germany over France that resulted in an accession of territory and the payment of an indemnity of more than a thousand millions of dollars to the former. Two short years thereafter a series of financial

disasters occurred, commencing with the crash on Wall street, New York city, that caused among others on that same day, the failure of Jay Cooke & Co., September 19, 1873, the panic of that year and a period of hard times, that culminated in this country in the bloody railroad strikes of 1877. The day on which this crash came on Wall street was Friday, and so far-reaching were its ominous results that it has since been known as "Black Friday."

The panic of 1837 inaugurated a period of hard times that old men still remember as disastrous, but it was preceded by bountiful harvests and food was plenty. The panic of 1857 was one that ruined the material prosperity of thousands, but it was soon relieved by the discovery of gold the same year in California and Australia, and the use of steam in industry had marvelously increased the productive power of human labor, but in 1873, no adequate immediate relief was found; even the planting of new homes on the frontier was completely checked by the remarkable visitations of the grasshoppers that occurred at this time and for several years devoured the new settlers' means of subsistence.

#### RAILROAD STRIKES OF 1877.

The great railroad strikes of 1877 had their beginning in the east, on July 16th, when the locomotive engineers and firemen on the Baltimore & Ohio, at Martinsburg, W. Va., left their posts, and in less than twenty-four hours the entire B. & O. system of railroads was idle. The men on other railway systems joined the strike, so that on August 1st, following, they numbered 15,000 who, resisting the constituted authorities of the government, burned a vast amount of railroad property in Pittsburg and caused the shedding of blood in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michi-

gan, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. Trade and commerce were paralyzed and the scenes of devastation and murder were unparalleled in the previous history of this country during an era of peace. The immediate cause of this strike was a reduction of ten per cent in the wages of engineers and firemen. It was the first violent demonstration of that anarchistic movement, which was imported to this country by Johann Most and Justus Schwab, and that continued to grow until it received its quietus by the execution of Spies, Parsons, Engel and Schwab, ten years later at Chicago.

#### HARD TIMES—SECOND PERIOD, 1873-1877.

The period from 1873 to 1877 was one of hard times throughout the commercial world. The hard times experienced by the residents of Pocahontas county during this period were not incident to a peculiar condition of things in this section of the country, nor even in our own land, for the people in the various countries of Europe experienced the same unfavorable conditions that affected us. The laws of trade and the ways of commerce seem to have been obstructed or disturbed, and the whole world was struggling under the same wet blanket that covered us as a nation. It may be truthfully said, however, that on the frontier the trials of this period were more severely felt than in other sections of the country, by reason of the repeated ravages of the grasshoppers and the greater distance of the settlers from all sources of supplies.

To those who suffered the loss of their crops the preceding year, even the prospect of commencing the ensuing summer's work on the farm was gloomy, for they had no money in hand and nothing that might be exchanged for the necessaries of life. Only those who are in this position,

and have the loving and innocent eyes of a family looking to them for support and such comforts as others enjoy, can appreciate this situation.

In this school of experience on the frontier many learned that the real necessities of life are few; that for health, strength and comfort, but few things are absolutely needed, and these are within the reach of every honest and industrious tiller of the soil, no matter how low his stock of provisions might be reduced. They learned to be content with such things as they had or to which the necessities of the situation confined them. They realized that fine clothing was not necessary for the comfort and respectability of the family, and that we live in an age and country where the texture of the wearing apparel does not establish the standard of intelligence, morals or refinement. They learned to live economically and contract as few debts as possible, by making the products of the cows and chickens supply their table and even meet other demands.

It has been said, "A German will live on what an American throws away; a Jew on what a German throws away, and a Chinaman on what a Jew throws away;" and yet all these classes enjoy just as good health, are able to perform as much hard labor and enter as fully into the pleasure and zest of life as the American.

The lessons and experiences of this trying period are now recalled by the early settlers with a good deal of pleasure and delight, a fact that is very neatly expressed and illustrated by the following incident:

A poor old Scotch woman having nothing to eat, knelt on the floor of her little cabin, built close against the rocks of a hillside, and prayed for bread. A roguish boy of the neighborhood chancing to pass that way, heard her voice and listened at the door. He hurried home and, quickly returning with a loaf of bread, stepped

from the rocks to the roof of the cabin and then dropped the loaf down the chimney. It rolled from the empty fireplace to the chair beside which the old lady still knelt earnestly praying. There was a moment's pause and then her supplications were changed to thanksgiving. "You need not be thankin' the Lord for that loaf, I brought it," shouted the youngster down the chimney. "Ah, my laddie," she answered from below, "it was the Lord that sent it, even if the devil brought it."

#### OTHER CAUSES OF HARD TIMES.

No account of the hard times experienced by the sturdy pioneers of this county would be complete that did not include some reference to the numerous destructive prairie fires that occurred during the period now under consideration, and of the depredations committed by the gophers and black-birds.

#### PRAIRIE FIRES DURING THE '70'S.

Prairie fires occurred before, and occasionally afterward, but it was during the 70's that the aggregate amount of losses from this cause was the greatest to the early settlers of Pocahontas county. The first settlers, locating their homes along the streams and timber belts in the eastern part of the county, found in them a natural protection from the devouring flame of the prairie fire, but when the prairies became dotted with scattered homes without any natural protection, they were exposed to this danger, and the losses sustained from this cause were very severely felt.

About October 1, 1870, a fire was started one afternoon on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, Cedar township, (now Hawley farm) by the hired man employed by T. J. Curtis and, the wind from the northwest becoming strong, it was soon beyond his control. In a very short time it had reached the premises of Jacob Snyder, on Sec. 31, now the Stafford farm. Mr. Snyder had gone to Sac City and when he returned he found the stable, which contained one horse and two cows, in ashes, and

just outside the door of it lay the charred and lifeless bodies of his wife and little child, the latter amid the ashes of the buggy. The circumstances indicated that when Mrs. Snyder saw the fire approach the stable, she hastened thither carrying her babe in her arms, and placing it in the buggy, undertook to remove the stock from the stable, and while thus engaged both became enveloped in the flames and perished. Their bodies were first buried on the farm, and afterward sent to Wisconsin. Their house was not burned and Cedar creek prevented the fire from spreading farther east. This sad loss of life and property led the new settlers in the southwest part of the county to adopt the practice of surrounding all their buildings with fire-guards made by plowing two sets of furrows a rod or two apart around them and either mowing or burning off the intervening space.

The summer of 1871 was unusually dry throughout the Upper Mississippi Valley, and the autumn of that year has become historic for the great fires that occurred at that time. On Oct. 8-9th, the great fire in Chicago occurred that burned 18,000 buildings, covering 2,124 acres and valued at \$200,000,000. Terrible forest fires that same year caused great destruction of property and some loss of life in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

On Sabbath evening, October 8th, 1871, which was the very time of the Chicago fire, there passed over Pocahontas county a prairie fire that is said to have been the most destructive one in its history. It came from the southeast, the vicinity of Twin Lakes, Calhoun county, and with a broad front that in the shades of evening resembled an ocean of fire. Sweeping over Bellville, Colfax and Cedar townships on the south it sped northward across the county, consuming everything that was not carefully protected,

Where the prairie sod had been broken or the ground newly cultivated during that and the two preceding years, there had grown a great lot of tumble weeds that were then dry as tinder and loose at the root. These miniature haystacks (see frontispiece) rolled over the prairie, before the wind that drove the fire, like flocks of sheep, carrying the flames over the barriers that were supposed to be proof against the progress of any fire.

When the farmers the next day looked for their stacks of hay on the prairie and of straw or grain in the field, they saw only the place where they had served as fuel for the flame. Where the fire passed through the groves and orchards, most of the young trees were killed. Numerous bins, stables and other buildings, together with their contents or stock enclosed therein, were burned. Some of the hogs that escaped sustained the loss of their bristles, and others the loss of their ears or other extremities. There was no place for miles around where this fire did not spread, and in many instances the home was the only building saved.

Some indeed were not even so fortunate as to save their homes. One of those who lost everything by this fire was Andrew Jackson, of Grant township, who at this time was occupying the dug-out of his neighbor, Stephen W. Norton. Mr. Jackson and family at the time of the fire were in Sac City. When he returned and found his stacks, stable, own cabin and furniture, representing his year's crop and improvements, all destroyed he was completely discouraged and left the county.

In September, 1873, another destructive fire swept northward through the central part of the county, that burned all the buildings of John B. Joliffe and his neighbor, Mr. Rowley, residing in the northeast part of Powhatan township. Messrs. Clemons,

Achor and others of their neighbors living north of them in Palo Alto county sustained similar losses on this occasion. This was one of the hard years to the settlers of this county when the fire consumed what the grasshoppers had left.

On Tuesday, October 13, 1874, a fire was started near the Fonda creamery that ran first northward to Dover township, and then westward, destroying a considerable amount of property. A farmer of Dover township lost his hay by this fire, and many of his cattle starved to death the ensuing winter.

On October 6, 1875, another fire from the south burned over the western portion of the county, destroying a large amount of the hay and unthreshed crops of that year, which were the least injured by the grasshoppers during the period of their visitations.

About this time the cattle raisers in other counties south of this one began to send here, in the spring of the year, great numbers of cattle that were herded on the unoccupied prairies in this section during the summer. The close pasturage of the prairies proved a public benefit, for by this means the areas that had previously been sources of danger every recurring fall and spring, were now transformed into real barriers to the spread of the prairie fire, and to this extent lessened the danger of losses from this cause.

On Monday, October 6, 1879, another general and destructive prairie fire occurred that is worthy of special mention. It began in the vicinity of Lake City, where it burned slowly for several days, the weather being calm. During the afternoon of the third day a strong wind from the south arose that drove it northward at a rapid rate through Williams township and that portion of Pocahontas county that is west of Cedar creek. When the fire came sweeping over their

farms in Williams township, Martin Welsh, Wm. Wykoff, O. O. Brown and others were attending a meeting of the school directors, one mile east of Cedar creek. Martin Welsh and family were living on the east side of section 8, and their stable was located on the east or opposite side of the road on section 9. When Mrs. Welsh became aware of the near approach of the fire, the wind was so strong it lifted and carried burning brands in mid-air, so that the thatch roof of the stable was already ablaze although the fire on the ground had not yet reached it. Hastening, with only stockings on her feet, to rescue the stock at the stable, consisting of two horses and two cows, she succeeded in saving the horses but her feet were so badly burned she fainted and fell helpless on the road. At the home of Wm. Wykoff the fire leaped over a strip of plowed land three rods in width, and consumed his stable, wagon, hay and granary, including the crop threshed three days previous, consisting of wheat 100, barley 90, flax 60, rye 100 and oats 225 bushels.

On the approach of this fire to Fonda, the people turned out en masse to fight it but they were powerless in front of the head-fire. It crossed the railroad west of the Cedar bridge, and its movement, northward, as John Lemp found while chased across the open section south of the farm of R. P. Thompson, was nearly as fast as his team could travel. This fire destroyed not only a great deal of hay in the stack and grain in the bin, but numerous groves and orchards. Among the losers on this occasion were John Lemp, six stacks of grain; Frank Hanke, barn and stacks; Eugene Evans, barn and cribs; Samuel McDeid, thirty tons of hay, and Geo. O. Pinneo among other things, his nursery. The latter had planted 20,000 fruit trees, 2,000 shade trees and 200 evergreens. The grasshoppers, by devouring their

foliage, killed many of them, but after this fire only a remnant of about 100 trees remained.

Since 1880, prairie fires have not been so extensive or frequent in their occurrence. Cultivated fields, herded pastures and graded roads have taken the place of the open prairie with its treacherous covering of dry grasses, and the danger from this source has been no greater than is incident to any other agricultural section. But during the '70's when it was an annually recurring event, the prairie fire, in dry seasons, was dreaded more by the settlers than blizzards and cyclones; in fighting it men exhausted themselves, women fainted and some even lost their lives.

#### GOPHERS.

The gopher is well remembered by every old settler, both for his friendly manner and troublesome depredations. An occasional one (of the little striped gophers) may yet be seen on the virgin prairies but during the '70's, before the boys began the work of their destruction, the prairies were full of them.

The gopher is a burrowing rodent having a stout, rat-like form and strong fore legs, that are adapted for digging in the ground. Three varieties of them were found in this county, namely, the pocket, gray and striped. The pocket gopher has two cheek pouches that open outside of the mouth and are used for carrying the ground to the surface while digging its hole. This and the gray gopher are about the size of a gray or fox squirrel. The striped one resembles a ground squirrel but is much longer, and when alarmed stands upright to see the cause of danger.

These occupants of the prairie were ever on the alert to share with the pioneer farmer not merely the fruits of his labor in the time of harvest but also the precious seed at seed-time. When the corn was planted, the ker-



nel was an appetizing morsel to be diligently sought after by the industrious gopher and, if perchance, he did not succeed in scenting it beforehand in the furrow, he was sure to go for (gopher) it as soon as it came peeping through the soil. The loss of the seed of course meant the loss of the crop, and so serious were their depredations that at last the farmers felt the necessity of doing something for their utter extermination.

On January 5, 1877, a petition was presented to the board of supervisors of this county asking that a bounty be offered for killing pocket gophers, and in response thereto the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the board of supervisors offer a bounty of five cents each for killing pocket gophers and gray gophers, and two and a half cents each for killing striped gophers, when presented in sufficient amounts to be entitled to \$1.00 bounty; and the county auditor is hereby authorized to draw warrants on the county fund, when presented in accordance with this resolution.

The effect of this premium on the heads of the little gophers made their capture very interesting. The boys not otherwise employed went forth with a string, provided with a slip-noose at one end, and made general havoc of them. They then realized how numerous they were and how rapidly they multiplied.

On June 7th, five months after the payment of a bounty was proposed, A. O. Garlock, the auditor, reported to the board of supervisors that from April 1st to that date, warrants for gopher bounty had been issued to 72 persons and the amount of them was \$234.68.

It will be perceived that the first action of the board required that the captured gophers be brought to the auditor, and after the payment of the bounty on them they were naturally left in his hands. This was a new and

unexpected experience, and when the above report was made, the board for his relief ordered that all parties claiming bounty on gophers should "take their tails to the nearest justice of the peace and by him be sworn to the fact of having destroyed the gophers in Pocahontas county." The justice of the peace was to destroy the tails and certify the fact and number of each kind destroyed. Upon the presentation of his certificate at the regular session of the board, the bounty previously provided was then to be allowed.

Thirty days later, or on July 2, 1877, the auditor reported certificates and the board issued warrants ranging from \$1.00 to \$13.66, in favor of 63 persons, William Brownlee, of Bellville, receiving the largest one.

It will be perceived that gopher hunting had suddenly become immensely popular. The times were hard, employment scarce and the bounty offered made the capture of the gopher not merely an interesting sport but a lucrative employment alike to men and boys. The board of supervisors was surprised at the interest awakened and became a little alarmed at the results, for the warrants issued amounted to several hundreds of dollars, and no tax had been levied to meet this demand. On that day, therefore, the board ordered that after July 20, 1877, no more bounty should be paid until the people should have an opportunity of approving its payment and vote a tax for that purpose. At the general election that fall a tax of one mill for gopher bounty was approved, there being 206 votes in favor and only 31 against it.

At their next meeting, January 11, 1878, the board renewed the bounty on gophers. That fall there were 382 votes for, and 35 against; and in the fall of 1879, which was the last time it was submitted, there were 280 votes for, and 204 against, a gopher bounty

tax. The payment of the bounty was continued until June 1, 1881, and several hundreds of persons were gladdened by it. Among those whose industry was rewarded by the largest warrants, we note in 1878, Warren Smith, \$10.35; C. C. Herrington, \$10.95; K. H. Mathers, \$14.63; George and Albert Gilson, \$15.00; in 1879, H. Young, \$12.27; and in 1881, Dennis Ragan, \$11.80; Geo. Gilson, \$13.85; Wallace, Noah and Ralph Hallock, \$13.90; Wm. Whitteley, \$14.10; T. L. Dean, \$19.57 and James Quinn, \$38.37.

"It matters not what may have been  
fortune's dole,  
The dream of youth is clear, and when  
again  
He sees the prairie he looks for the  
gopher's hole."

Experience proved that the bounty was a wise means of getting rid of these pests. In winter they gnawed the roots of grape vines and young trees; the amount of grain destroyed by one of them in a year is not likely to be overestimated, and by avoiding these losses the welfare of the farmer was promoted. The bounty had the good effect of unifying the efforts of all the farmers at the same time for their extirmination, and this is the only way such a result could be accomplished.

#### THE BLACKBIRDS.

Another friendly visitor and robber of the pioneer was the blackbird, and he was sure to call twice a year. Blackbirds are neither lonely travelers nor solo singers, but choral songsters that make their trip to the sunny south in the fall of the year in flocks of such countless numbers, that they thrill the air with the movement of their wings and cover an acre of ground when they alight.

In the spring they were accustomed to alight upon the freshly broken prairie where they naturally picked up the seed that had been only half covered. In the fall they were delighted in finding the oats in the

shock, the buckwheat in the patch and the corn ripening on the stock. Farmers that lived in the vicinity of Sunk Grove in the early '70's state, that their loss from the depredations of the blackbirds would sometimes amount to nearly one third of the crop. After their departure many a stock of corn would have only a red cob instead of an ear of golden grain.

Blackbirds are not thieves, they disdain to act like a thief. They are rather roguish and entertaining visitors that entertain the husbandman with a delightful open air concert while they help themselves to the fruits of his toil. In the fall of the year as they move southward they sing merrily together, and when they settle upon a field where food is plenty, they give manifest expression to their hearty enjoyment, by blending their myriad voices in one grand chorus of delight that is always charming to the human ear. Although the losses sustained from the depredations of the blackbirds were deeply felt, nevertheless their autumnal chautauquas were so friendly and interesting to the lonely pioneer, that he usually enjoyed rather than begrudged them their free entertainment.

#### THE BLIZZARDS.

The snow lies thick around us

In the dark and gloomy night,  
The cold blizzard wails above us,

And the stars withhold their light.

Another cause of hardship to the pioneer of the '70's is found in the severe snow storms that then occurred and caused a great deal of privation and suffering. The word "Blizzard" was coined by O. C. Bates, founder of the Vindicator at Estherville, to designate the storms of wind and snow that were once peculiar to this treeless and desolate region. The blizzard usually found the pioneer unprepared for its coming, and always left him "snowed in."

The old settlers affirm that the climate of this section has changed considerably since its settlement. The winters generally are not so severe and the summers are drier. The drainage of the soil has left it not only drier but warmer, and it is possible that these changes occurring over a large section of country affect the atmosphere in the same way.

The blizzards usually lasted three days, and during this period the snow would fall so rapidly and in flakes so fine as to suggest that the cloud had descended to unload its burden. It would sometimes be ushered in by a cloud in the western sky that promised only a gentle fall of snow. On the first day the snow would commence to fall gently, with a slight movement from the southwest; but about noon or evening the temperature would commence to fall rapidly and the wind, changing its course, would come from the north or northwest in whirls, blasts and sweeping gales, with constantly increasing force, until about the morning of the third day.

Where the fire had swept over the prairie the previous fall there was nothing left to hold the light, feathery snow drifting before the driving wind, and this mingling in the air with that which was constantly coming from above, formed a white cloud so dense that at a distance from the belts of timber one could not see ordinarily more than a few rods, and sometimes only a few feet. "We could scarcely see the road just ahead of us," was a common remark. Trails on the prairie were soon covered and but few grades existed; the sharp, frozen particles of snow hurled fiercely in the face and eyes caused a blinding and suffocating sensation and the extreme whiteness of the snow made the ground and sky one color thus producing a kind of color blindness that resulted in bewilderment. In a few hours

large drifts were formed in the hollows, sheltered nooks and along bluffs so that the roads in these places were soon buried several feet deep. To pilot one's way in the day time was bad enough, but after the darkness of night set in the benighted traveler was usually forced to stop and make the best possible provision for the night.

It must be remembered that these were days of long distances to the mill, store and post office and the farmer could not always anticipate where or when he might be overtaken in the storm. Sometimes a pioneer would be overtaken at the home of his neighbor and not be able to return to his own without getting lost on the way. Some even got lost on the way from the house to the barn. It was impossible to see the buildings and if one happened to wander a little from the right direction it was difficult to find their location. The constant and loud roar of the wind made it impossible to hear the cry of a lost one and, when a row of young trees had not been planted for that purpose, a guide-line of rope or wire from the house to the barn was sometimes used to insure a safe return while passing to and fro. Familiar instances of bewilderment in going short distances in this section are those of John Lemp and George Fairburn; the former while going from his cabin to the stable, the latter while going from the depot to his home in Fonda. Children were liable to become bewildered and perish on the way from school. The stables or stock pens that were not wholly enclosed would sometimes be filled to the roof with snow and unsheltered stock would be driven for miles before the chilling blasts and then perish.

About the third day the storm would abate and the sun show signs of reappearance, but the cold wave would

hold sway until the morning of the day following when it would register 25 to 35 degrees below zero. A few days of calm weather usually followed the blizzard and then the sun shone from an exceedingly clear sky with unstinted brightness, as if the eye of heaven would look in cheering sympathy upon a bleak, dreary scene where the elements had held high carnival, upon a world enshrouded beneath a glistening robe of snow.

One who occupied a loghouse in the eastern part of this county, and sat by a warm stove while one of these old-time blizzards was raging, states that he remembers how he listened with a feeling of awful security to the clatter of the shingles and the howling of the night wind. Every little while the winter hurricane would swell with accelerated rage and shake the solid structure over him to its very foundation.\*

One who was detained at Pocahontas by a blizzard left behind him the following suggestive lines:

"Oh, thou howling, screeching blizzard!

You fairly freeze our gizzard.  
You come from the north pole,  
And really make our soul  
Long for the balmy summer shades,  
And wish you were in far off hades.

You pile up the snow in cold disdain,  
And from blowing you scarce refrain;  
Business quails in your path,  
And at railroads you only laugh.  
We dread thy fierce blast and song,  
That maketh a board bill one mile long.

We long to see thee no more."

On March 14-16, 1870, there occurred a snow storm that is remembered as the "big blizzard." The weather for some time previous had been mild and pleasant and the forenoon of the 14th was so warm that the snow at first fell in large flakes. Toward evening a strong northwest wind arose that

\*John M. Russell, Lizard.

continued to grow strong and as the cold increased the snow became fine as dust, so that at nightfall the air was completely filled with it. On the morning of the 15th the temperature was 20 degrees below zero and the snow, tossed and driven by the wind, was falling more rapidly than ever. During that day the wind was so furious and the air so densely filled with snow that one could not see more than a few feet distant. The storm did not subside until the close of the day following. Subsequent storms have been as cold and long but none so blinding as this one during the second day of its continuance. On beds and cabin floors the snow lay from one to three inches deep and many stables were filled. Families that lacked fuel went to bed to keep warm, and live stock were uncared for until the fury of the storm had passed. At this time there were but few settlers and very little stock in the western part of this county. The snow lay in drifts fifteen feet deep in the low places along the streams and eighteen persons perished from exposure in northwest Iowa.

On March 25-27, 1875, a severe blizzard occurred that detained the school board and a number of others from Center township, three days in the courthouse at Old Rolfe. They got their meals at the home of A. O. Garlock, a few rods distant, but they could not obtain bed clothing sufficient for all and the nights were so cold that, in order to keep warm, they had to appoint one of their number to stay awake and put wood in the stove about once every hour. The wind was so strong that a furious blast of it wrecked the building badly and caused a considerable part of the plastering to fall from the ceiling. It fell with a loud crash at night while the men were sleeping and it thoroughly aroused them very suddenly. Among the num-

ber of those who were in the court house at this time were Wenzel Hubel, Joseph Stverak, Joseph Stoullil, directors, and Wm. A. Hubel, interpreter.

The winter of 1880 and 1881 is remembered for the large amount of snow that fell and the uniformly low temperature that prevailed. On Oct. 15, 1880, the snow fell to such a depth as to fill the cornfields and prevent the husking of that crop that fall. Other snow storms followed this one from time to time during that winter until the depth of the snow was very unusual. The ground was completely and constantly covered with snow from the time the first storm came until the 15th of April following, when a heavy rain melted it and caused floods that washed away many of the bridges.

The storm of Oct. 15-17th, 1880, was general throughout the Mississippi Valley and in many places was attended with serious results. It rained on the 15th and at night, the temperature falling, the rain changed to snow and the wind became fierce. Chimney tops were thrown down, trees were uprooted and considerable stock was killed by the overturning or destruction of outbuildings, Col. Elandon of Bellville losing several of his best steers and J. E. Metcalf seventeen. The corn crop was left flat on the ground, every line of telegraph wire in the entire northwest was thrown down and the western railroads were blockaded generally, the Illinois Central from Saturday noon until Monday night.

On Jan. 20-22, 1881, another snow storm occurred and the weather was colder than for twelve years previous. The Cedar was frozen to the bottom and considerable stock perished.

On Feb. 4-6, 1881, there occurred another three days fall of snow from the southeast that drifted greatly and blockaded the Ill. Central R. R. from Saturday, Feb. 5 to the 11th—six full

days. Drifts were fifteen feet deep and in some instances cattle sheds were completely covered. S. E. Heathman and Geo. Henderson of Powhatan, each lost stock to the amount of \$100 and many others less amounts. The first train from Sioux City on the 11th was overtaken by another blinding snow storm from the northwest before it arrived at Fonda, and at Pomeroy it was compelled to remain from Friday night until the following Tuesday morning. The road west of Fonda was not opened until a couple of days later. On Saturday morning, the 19th, just when the road had been fairly opened, a violent wind from the north began to blow that immediately filled the cuts and again blockaded the trains. On Monday night the first train from Sioux City passed and Tuesday morning the wind again filled the cuts and stopped all trains until Thursday. This was the third time in succession, that within a few hours after the first Sioux City train passed Fonda, the railroad was again completely blockaded with snow.

The Pocahontas Times, as a result of this last blockade, was unable to receive the usual supply of paper for its weekly issue, and on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1881, in order to maintain the regular publication of its legal advertisements, there was issued a small four page paper of which most of the copies were printed on brown wrapping paper. It is remembered as the blizzard issue of the Pocahontas Times. It was issued on the last day of the blockade and in it the editor expressed his sympathy for the railroad men by observing that "If the railroad men get through this winter, without the use of exclamations not taught in the Sabbath schools their hereafter will be assured."

During the fall of 1880 and the winter following, the demand for coal in northwestern Iowa was greater than the supply, so that at Fonda and other

stations along the Ill. Central R. R. cars that were temporarily sidetracked were unloaded and sometimes the railway company was compelled to confiscate the contents of private cars to supply their engines. In Fonda the schools were kept open by means of fuel furnished by private citizens, but in Swan Lake township and other places the schools were closed during the entire winter because they had no coal. On Dec. 8th Geo. Fairburn went to Fort Dodge and succeeded in making arrangements for the shipment of one car of coal a day to Fonda, which was then the only railroad station in this county. During the blockades in February a coal famine at Fonda was averted by securing possession at one time of four cars and at another three cars of coal that, while on the way to stations further west, were providentially sidetracked at this place.

This coal famine in the fall of 1880 was not due to snow blockades but rather to a greatly increased demand as a result of the large immigration that year and the fact the Fort Dodge Coal Co. could not obtain a sufficient number of men to mine the coal. In response to numerous appeals for relief the Iowa state railway commissioners, on Feb. 12, 1881, sent the following response: "All communities in those portions of the state where coal is the principal article of fuel ought to procure their winter supply before the earliest date of winter's opening. The unexampled demand suddenly precipitated upon the state by the early and continued cold weather of November and December could not be wholly and promptly met."

On Monday, Jan. 30, 1883, another great snow storm occurred, lasting three days, that blockaded all the railways for many days so that supplies of coal and flour were exhausted in the towns as well as in the rural districts. The removal of the blockade on the

C. R. I. & P. railroad was so long delayed that the citizens of Gilmore City, on account of their immediate need of supplies of fuel and bread, sent a petition to Gov. Sherman, requesting him to take steps to have that railroad opened for their relief.

During the winter of 1885 two great snow storms occurred that blockaded the railroads for several days, namely on Jan. 15-18 and Feb. 9-13, the blockades in the south part of the county lasting three and four days respectively.

The year 1886 was not only ushered in, in this county, with an ever memorable blizzard, but was rounded out with another of the same proportions in November.

On Saturday afternoon, Jan. 2d, the snow began to fall, accompanied with a high wind and the storm continued with unabated fury until Monday night. The drifting snow was left in great artistic piles upon the streets, in the front yards, and every railroad cut was filled. On Wednesday night following, the railroads south and east of Fonda had been opened but before the first trains had passed over them another three days blizzard from the northwest commenced that night that made the blockade worse than ever. On the two roads at Fonda the blockade continued longer than on any previous occasion. On the Ill. Cent. it lasted ten days, from noon Jan. 3 to the 13th. Fortunately the dealers at Fonda had a full supply of coal and breadstuffs.

It was on this occasion that the board of supervisors and the editors of the local county papers held their merry winter chatauqua at Pocahontas and published their sayings and doings in *The Daily Blizzard*, the first daily paper issued in Pocahontas county. The board this time was not able to get together until late on Tuesday and the second storm commenced after the arrival of the editors the

next day.

On Friday the visiting editors and printers, organizing under P. C. Barron, editor-in-chief, took possession of the office of the *Pocahontas Record*, and on Saturday morning, Jan. 9, 1886, issued the first copy of the famous little daily. The other members of the editorial staff consisted of George Sanborn, assistant editor; Will Chiquet, boss reporter; Supt. J. P. Robinson, farm editor; Ed. Donohue, city editor; Will Hodges, society reporter; and Rufus Thornton, foreman. Its motto was,

Laugh and the world laughs with you.

Weep and you weep alone.

Laugh till you shake like ague,

And your wife will stay at home.

This paper was the occasion of considerable merriment, especially to those whose "sayings and doings" were not reported. The following statements are gleaned from its introductory editorial: "This is a great newspaper. We make this solemn statement for fear you would take this great paper for a patent medicine advertisement or a soap box label. Every great paper should have an object and the object of this one is to benefit mankind and elevate them from the slough of despond. What grander, nobler object could any man ask for? As we unfurl our banner to the breeze we desire to inform our unsuspecting victims how this great aggregation of brains, and stupendous constellation of intellect associated together to throw forth this sheet to the world. It was a blizzard!"

On Nov. 15-17, 1886, a blizzard occurred that blockaded the trains on the Illinois Central railroad eight days. The train west on Tuesday, the 16th, struck the snow at Storm Lake and remained there till the road was opened. The severity of this storm was felt most seriously in northwestern Iowa, but all railroad business and traffic was suspended throughout the

state on the 17th. The temperature fell to 20 degrees below zero.

On Jan. 12-13, 1888, another severe blizzard occurred that caused a blockade of several days. It was 27 degrees below zero and John, a son of Richard Olney, aged 16 years, froze to death about two miles west of Laurens. This storm extended to the Gulf of Mexico and more than 100 persons perished in Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. This large loss of life was due to the fact that the storm in Dakota caught many of the teachers and their pupils either in school or on the way home, and many farmers and their wives trading in town, and they perished in the effort to return to their homes. Two little girls of A. H. Strouse of Swan Lake township were so badly frozen that one of them lost a hand. Samuel Tibbits, his daughter and child, encountered the storm near Laurens and the team refusing to face it, he unhitched them, overturned the sleigh and all sought refuge under it. They remained on the open prairie with no other protection, while the storm was raging, for fourteen hours and were very much frostbitten.

These accounts of the snow storms during the 70's and 80's have been given with considerable fullness, for they were events that affected the welfare of every resident of the county in those days. It remains to be said, that these great snow storms were not peculiar to this section but prevailed over a large part of this country. Their severity, however, was felt far more keenly by the early pioneers in their humble and unprotected cabins than by those living in older communities, and the railroads suffered more then than now for they were also almost wholly unprotected. The situation is now so greatly changed, both with respect to the railroads and the homes of the people, that, although similar storms may occur in the future, nevertheless their

severity will never again be so seriously felt by the people, and the railroads may never be so badly blockaded.

The reasons for these observations are obvious. An era of better times has been ushered in, the settlement of the country has been completed, the people now live in comfortable homes that are protected by artificial groves and the dealers have ample facilities for carrying abundant supplies. Besides the snow no longer drifts for miles over an open prairie but is held by numerous fields and fences; and the railroads, profiting by their experience and observation, have perfected the means for their complete protection against a blockade.

TREE EXEMPTIONS.

In order to encourage the planting of artificial groves for the natural protection of the homes of the lonely pioneer on the prairies, and to alleviate the burden of taxation to all who were actual residents of the county during the period of hard times, the board of supervisors on Jan. 2, 1872, authorized an exemption, except for state purposes, on the real or personal property of each and every taxpayer who should within the county plant and suitably cultivate one or more acres of forest trees. The amount of this exemption was \$250 for each acre of forest trees planted not more than eight feet apart each way and properly cultivated.

On April 1 following, the board increased the amount of this exemption to \$350 an acre and the treasurer was authorized to deduct this exemption from the assessor's returns for the year 1871. This measure had the effect of ascertaining in an official way the names of those who were pioneer tree planters in this county. A few of these names are as follows:

May 6, 1872, A. M. Thornton of Thornton, Greene & Co., Marshall township, 2½ acres, consisting of one acre of timber, one acre of orchard and one half mile of hedge.

June 3, Wm. Lynch, Cedar, 2 acres of timber.

Nov. 12 W. J. Curtis, 3 acres, John A. Hay, Harvey W. Hay and John Brown each 2 acres; Henry Shields, A. Brown, D. W. Brown, Eliza Forey and Geo. E. Thompson each one acre.

On Jan. 6, 1873, the following persons were added to the list: Wm. Bott and H. C. Tollefsrude each 3 acres; Theodore Dunn, Wm. Stenson; W. Richards, J. C. Strong and Marcus Lind, each 2 acres; Geo. Wallace, H. H. Wallace, John Dooley, P. Shea, H. B. Vaughan, B. McCartan, R. C. Brownell and M. E. Owens each one acre.

April 7 and later in 1873, J. W. Brown, Wm. Snell and Michael Wiese each 3 acres; A. O. Garlock, W. E. Garlock, John Wiese, Edward Tilly, and Samuel Booth each 2 acres; E. D. Seeley, R. L. Sherman, John Proctor, G. G. Wheeler, C. M. Saylor and A. Hoover each one acre.

In 1874 the following additional persons: C. H. Tollefsrude, A. F. Hubbell, Fred Gintz, J. D. Adams, N. Keefer each three or more acres; John Soder, Wm. Orcutt, David Slosson and Nancy A. Hancher (for 1871) each two acres; David Wallace, B. F. Osburn, Ephraim Garlock, W. B. Harris, Robert Dixon, Hans Leib, Geo. O. Pinneo and O. I. Strong each one acre.

The exemption on forest trees was discontinued on trees planted after Sept. 1, 1874 and on Feb. 2, 1875 the exemption on fruit trees was reduced to \$250 an acre. Those who received this exemption for fruit trees in 1875 were Mrs M. E. Wagner, Peter Peterson and Henry Elsen each on one acre for the years 1871, 1872, and 1873; Peter Wendell two acres and J. B. Thomas one, both for the years 1872 and 1873; M. Byrne, A. C. Blakeslee, E. Mullen and H. Falconer on one acre each for 1873; C. H. Booth, J. H. Johnson and J. F. Clark on one acre each for 1874; John Lampe, J. D. Hilton,



Wm. Gilson, S. E. Heathman and H. Heathman one acre each for 1875; and J. T. Cary for 1872 and 1873. In the fall of 1876 the exemption on forest trees was renewed and in 1877 W. J. Busby, N. C. Synsteliën and a host of others received it.

Encouraged by these exemptions the settlers on the prairies planted groves and orchards, some on a scale so liberal that they soon became not only objects of beauty and convenience but of great value for the shelter they afforded. Those that protected their young trees from live stock and prairie fires, and gave them proper cultivation began to have a beautiful grove in a half dozen years. The soft maple makes a very rapid growth but the black walnut, after the lapse of ten years, grows nearly as fast and its timber is more valuable. The elm, oak, white ash, honey locust, cottonwood and willow have been planted with good success for their timber, and the white pine, cedar, fir, spruce and box elder for ornamentation and windbreak. The broad prairies have been relieved of their wild magnificence by intelligent industry and made more beautiful by these serviceable ornamentations—the handiwork of industrious settlers.

#### PRAIRIE WOLVES.

Another means of cooperating with the pioneer and at the same time promoting the public welfare was the payment of a bounty on prairie wolves. The state which now pays a bounty of \$5 for the scalp of an adult wolf, during the '70's and '80's paid only \$1, but during the year 1871 this county offered an additional bounty of \$2 and the lucky recipients that year were A. O. Garlock and Joseph Clason, who reported the capture of one and two wolves respectively. Others who were fortunate enough during the '70's to win the state bounty by the capture of one or more wolves were Edward Calligan, Nelson Palmatier, Philander

Strong, Oscar Brown, John Freeman, A. Baker, E. P. Gorton, Charles Nemick, Frank Payer, Wm. Lynch, C. H. Tollefsrude, T. Shimon, C. L. Van Alstine, G. J. Gibson, J. Kregci and F. Hronek. In 1879 a boy of John Soders caught eight little wolves in one day, and in 1881 Harold and John Shull captured 23 wolves and a number of otter and mink in Swan Lake township. During the years 1884 and 1885 the county bounty on wolves was renewed but not to exceed \$2.50 including the state bounty.

The prairie wolf was about the size of a large cat and the timber wolf considerably larger. Both were of a gray color and they carried their ears erect. Their movement was similar to that of a dog and their howl was usually preceded by two barks similar to those of a pug dog. They lived in the banks along the streams and sauntered forth after nightfall in packs of a half dozen or more in search of their food. They were very fond of chickens, and if a pioneer located his cabin near their haunts, they would sometimes surround his premises during the night and favor him with a howling serenade. Early one morning when Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Woodin of Dover were bringing a lot of live chickens to Fonda, two timber wolves followed them a distance of two miles from the creek south of the Hubbell farm. In November 1876, W. S. Fegles shot a timber wolf along the north branch of Lizard creek that had followed Charles Keeler about two miles.

They were very timid, never hurt anybody and nobody was afraid of them; nevertheless their peculiarly doleful howl around a settler's cabin, especially on a rainy or stormy night, tended to produce a feeling of uncomfortable loneliness.

#### MUSKRATS.

The surface drainage of this section of country did not begin until after 1880, and during the '70's it continued

to be covered with numerous ponds and sloughs where the muskrats multiplied rapidly from year to year until about the close of this period. The sloughs were so dotted with their houses that they presented the appearance of a hayfield thickly set with piles of hay partially submerged with water.

The muskrat, as a providential helper to the pioneers of this section during the '70's, performed a more important part than is ordinarily accorded to him. If the negro was slighted and few persons appreciated his claim to recognition until Harriet Beecher Stowe espoused his cause and wrote that familiar volume, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," something like this is true of the muskrat. Like the native grasses on which he lived he was a natural product of this section, and, all unconscious to himself was as helpful and profitable to the early pioneer during this period as the ravens to Elijah, yet, comparatively few care to acknowledge his worth to them in the time of their greatest need.

The muskrat lived where he destroyed nothing valuable and his fur was always in demand. In 1857 when the banks suspended specie payment and issued their own notes for money, the people called it "wild cat" and "red dog" money, because the farmer found that much of it became worthless in his pocket the next day after he got it. Every old settler, however, remembers that when there was no other money in circulation on the frontier the "muskrat hide" was always to be relied on: and during the grasshopper period it was about the only money, or reliable source of income, that some of them had.

In those days the trapper was as jealous of his trapping claim as of his homestead, and this right was enforced, when necessary by an appeal to arms if the trespasser did not leave within two or three hours after a proper notice had been given. Several

instances of this sort occurred in Swan Lake township and the number of persons involved made the danger of a pitched battle quite imminent.

A half dozen persons from a distance located at the northwest part of Swan Lake and by their trapping trespassed on the territory claimed by John B. Strouse and David Hays, settlers in that vicinity. These two men notified the trespassers that if they did not leave within two and one half hours they would return with others, divide their furs and throw their traps in the lake. In this instance the notice was promptly obeyed.

About the first of December, 1878, four trappers from Sioux Rapids took possession of the vacant house of Rev. Wm. McCreedy in Washington township and began to trap in the sloughs in that vicinity, that had already been flagged by the settlers, who discovered what was going on and politely requested the intruders to go to some other locality. The trappers defiantly boasted that they would not leave and if it became necessary they would throw lead. The next day eight men headed by J. C. Strong as captain made their way to the trappers' cabin and found them supplied with spars, knives and firearms. Capt. Strong now ordered them to gather their traps and leave immediately. This brought matters to a dangerous crisis, but fortunately a conflict was avoided by the trappers beating a hasty retreat.

The trapper usually placed his steel traps in or near their houses, and this was the principal method of catching them. In the fall of the year when the ice was clear, it was great sport to spear them through the ice, and one man in this way has caught as many as 75 in a day. Their pelts or hides seldom brought less than fifteen cents each, and sometimes they were worth two or three times that amount.

Two trappers from Omaha two seas-

ons in succession, 1868 and 1869, occupied a dugout on Devil's Island on section 9, Grant township. They brought their supplies with them and when they returned in the spring they took with them wagon loads of furs. After a terrible snowstorm in January, 1870, they found a man frozen to death two miles north of that place. He was driving an ox team from Sioux Rapids to Fort Dodge and, becoming bewildered, had lost the road.

Herkimer L. Norton, a resident of Fonda but then of Grant township, realized \$105 from furs obtained by trapping at Devil's Lake in one month, February, 1870, and about \$500 from his catch during that winter, which included a few otter and mink. John W. Wallace and I. E. Parrish by trapping six weeks in Grant township the same winter obtained 1,835 muskrat hides that brought them about \$300. The trapping that year was splendid. Later Wm. F. Bridges received \$93 for one lot and some pioneers built their houses from funds thus obtained.

In the fall of 1878 the price of their fur was high and the drought of that season made it easier to catch them. Theodore Dunn at Fonda in one day from one set of trappers received 2,000 muskrat hides, and on March 1, 1879, it was found that the number of hides received and shipped from Pomeroy the previous fall and winter was 57,000. The fact that this section of country was once very full of them is commemorated by the name given to "Muskrat Slough" in the northwest part of Colfax township.

During the winter of 1870 and 1871, John W. Wallace, L. M. Schoonmaker, A. R. Vansickle and two others spent six weeks in hunting and trapping in Osceola county. They built a hunter's shanty on Ocheydan river, which consisted of an underground room so dug out that the frozen ground overhead was left undisturbed except in one corner where a hole was made for the

chimney. They lined the inner wall of this hunter's parlor with willow poles laid one on top of another and covered the floor with dry prairie grass. The fire was always made on the ground in one corner of the room and their fuel consisted of dry prairie grass and green willows. During their stay in that section they saw the large drove of elk in that vicinity and following them until dark two men got close enough to shoot at them but killed none. This pursuit took them fifteen miles from their underground parlor, and they were compelled to erect a tent they had with them for the night. They did this upon the ice in a slough of tall grass, making a fire of slough grass at the door of the tent. The next morning they found they were only a half mile from the cabin of a Polander, who gave them their breakfast, the first meal they had after taking their previous noon lunch, and it consisted of coffee and brown bread spread with lard. They caught two beavers and a large quantity of muskrats but their hunt was not so successful as they anticipated.

While the otter lives on fish and snapping turtles the beaver and muskrat live on a vegetable diet. When other game was scarce it was not an unusual thing for an early settler to make use of the hind quarters of the latter for food, and sometimes jokes were perpetrated on those who could not bear the idea of "eating a rat." Such an instance has been related as having occurred as follows: A certain new settler had occasion to call upon a neighbor before breakfast. He partook freely of the family meal and supposed at the time he was eating chicken, but as he rose from the table his astonishment and horror can be better imagined than described when the neighbor said to his wife: "Wife you got an extra good fry on the muskrats this morning."

This incident reminds one of the

first experience with the, oyster concerning which it has been said, he must have had a palate covered over with brass or steel, who on the rocky shore,

“First broke the oozy oyster’s pearly coat,  
And risked the living morsel down his throat.”

#### BEES AND RABBITS.

In the early days there was current a tradition to the effect that the Indians have said “when bees and rabbits appear in the timber it is time for them to depart.” In the timber along the Des Moines river in the northeast part of this county, there were no wild bees until Perry Nowlen, the pioneer bee keeper of Des Moines township, brought bees to that section. No rabbits were seen in that township, or even the sign of any, until the season of 1860 and quail did not make their appearance there until 1867, although prairie chickens were very abundant. The large jack rabbit or hare did not make his appearance in this county until 1885, when two of them were caught, one west of Fonda and the other west of Pocahontas. In 1888 Thomas Reamer of Grant township caught a rabbit weighing eight and one-half pounds that was perfectly white in color and differed materially from the jack rabbit. It was of a species not seen in this section until that year and its flesh had the rich flavor of the English hare. Others of the same species were caught that year.

#### BEAVERS.

The beaver is the most industrious and sagacious of all fur bearing animals. A colony of them still exists on the south branch of Lizard Creek. The residents of the neighborhood, where for years they have made their abode, guard them from trappers with jealous care. Every fall they build anew their dam across the creek. The dam built in 1895, the season of

greatest drought in this section of country, was larger and higher than any of its predecessors, being about four feet high and ten feet wide at the base. It tapered to a narrow width at the top. Trees, eight inches in diameter, were gnawed off by their sharp teeth and formed into a foundation for the dam. This was overlaid with the branches of the trees and the slender willows in the vicinity, so as to form a firm and suitable base for their mortar which consisted of mud. The dam thus built from these crude materials by means of their paws, noses and powerful jaws awakened the surprise of all who saw it, and it backed the water in the creek for a considerable distance.\*

#### ELK.

This section was once the home of the highest types of wild animal life known to the American continent—the buffalo, elk and deer. The buffalo, wildest by nature, finding that the hunter was after his hide and horns, fled first; the elk and the deer lingered a few years longer.

A considerable drove of elk, numbering 200 or more, found feeding grounds and comparative security for rearing their young, in the unsettled region of northwestern Iowa around the head waters of the Little Sioux and Rock rivers, in Osceola and neighboring counties. The new settlements of 1869 and 1870, in southern Minnesota and Iowa, forced this herd to take refuge in the valley of Ochedan river, a tributary of the little Sioux. There they remained in comparative security until July, 1871, when the entire herd was driven southward from its place of seclusion, and scattered into fragments that were overtaken and killed before they reached the Missouri river.

One of the fragments of this herd containing about eighteen elk passed southward through Pocahontas county following in general the course of

\*Manson Democrat.

Cedar creek. They were seen on sec. 19, Marshall township, and on sections 1 and 10, Cedar township, by L. C. Thornton, Wm. Lynch, David Wallace, sr., and his son Samuel, respectively; and by several persons at intervening points.

A few years previous a drove of a half dozen elk sauntered near the home of Ora Harvey in Clinton township and his wife who was alone, mistaking them for Indians, hastily ran into the house and locked the door. Mrs. C. M. Saylor and others, while riding to old Rolfe in a sleigh, saw about the same number and in all probability the same lot. Seeing at first only their antlered horns above the snow beyond the brow of a little hill, they also thought they were Indians by reason of the resemblance of their horns to the tops of tepee poles.

In the fall of 1868, John W. Wallace and Garret Schoonmaker killed an elk on the west branch of Lizard creek near the center of Lincoln township. It weighed 400 pounds and, as it had been seen a day or two previous, it was the special object of their hunt.

#### DEER.

During the early '70's, deer were quite plenty in the central part of this county and during the summer when they were undisturbed they would even linger in the vicinity of the home of the settler, mingle with his cattle and feed in the unprotected corn fields. During the first two seasons that D. M. Woodin was a resident of section 24 Dover township, five deer frequently mingled with his cattle in the open pastures and three of them were killed by Garrett Gibson, who, in the fall of 1873 and winter following shot eighteen deer in this county. Nearly all of the deer then killed were captured in Grant township, and the other most successful hunters were Herkimer L. Norton and Geo. E. Hughes.

When Nelson Palmatier was building the schoolhouse in the Tollefsrude district, Grant township, he expressed a desire to see some deer. Mr. Norton took him to Devil's Island and they killed three deer that day, and on a subsequent afternoon Mr. Norton and Robert Russell shot three more. As late as the fall of 1877 Messrs. Norton and Hughes killed four deer in five days, and the next season five deer in six days, in Grant township. These instances show that a number of deer lived here, and that these men met with as good success, as those who make deer hunting a specialty. While Mr. Hughes was recognized as the best shot in all this section, he was free to attribute their success in killing deer to his friend Norton, who, he said, "was a scientific hunter and experienced in killing deer; rather slow on the trail but sure to overtake them." They killed one after the severe snow storm in October, 1880 and another one in 1882; and these seem to have been the last ones killed in this county. C. H. Tollefsrude and his brother Elisha, by concealing themselves in an old well, partly filled and located between a great stretch of tall slough grass and a patch of buckwheat, had the pleasure of capturing a deer in the winter of 1874-75.

#### WILD DUCK AND GEESE.

In 1869 and 70 this section of the country, twice a year, was not only full of wild ducks, brandts and geese, but their tameness was the subject of frequent remark. At that time one could shoot at them in the sloughs and, missing them, could reload and shoot a second time before they would fly away. This statement is made by the men who laid the track on the Illinois Central railroad and by Rufus Greene, a resident of Marshall township.

#### THE CRANES.

"Of homely form and solemn mien,  
With dagger beak and legs so slim,  
One thinks of him as visions seen

In olden dreams, now vague and dim." In the early day as many as one hundred cranes would occasionally be seen in a flock. On one occasion about twenty alighted near the home of Rufus Greene, and his little daughter about six years old went out and played among them a considerable time, many of their heads being higher than hers.

The cranes, when dancing on the prairie, presented a very ludicrous appearance. Some, who saw them and were familiar with the figure, said their movements resembled a "French Four." They danced at other times but the finding of a little snake was sure to be the occasion for a lively dance. One crane would catch the snake and fling it into the air, sometimes as high as ten feet. Another one would then give it a fling, and while they continued to repeat this snake performance, it was perfectly comical to see them stepping around fantastically on tiptoe.

"A weird shape winging hurriedly,  
A fleeting shadow—nothing more."

#### OTHER NATIVE BIRDS.

The mellow goose and mallard duck, the swan and the crow, used to come from southern lands to watch the cornfields grow; the hungry hawk and "thunder pump" came along, to join the cheerful racket with the frog's tuneful song. Numerous hunters

"Had watched the beaver build like  
men,  
Killed the wild duck and marsh hen;  
Caught wolves and badgers, lynx and  
raccoon,  
And shot on Lizard lake the lofty  
loon."

It remained, however, for Charles E. Whitehead of New York City, president of the Des Moines and Fort Dodge, now Rock Island, railway company, to place the names of some of the most numerous and favorite birds of this locality in an historic setting. When this line of road was built through this county, he was assigned

the privilege of giving names to the towns on it north of Rolfe. He was fond of hunting and named them Plover, Mallard, Curlew and Widgeon, in honor of favorite native birds of this section. When other members of the railway company proposed to call the new town in Clinton "Whitehead" to commemorate his own name, he politely declined the honor and, transferring the name of the first county seat, called it Rolfe.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The increase in the population of this county in 1870 resulted not merely in the organization of new townships and an increase in the membership of the board of supervisors, but quickened interest in the public improvement of the county, which consisted chiefly in the establishment of new highways and the erection of bridges across the streams and sloughs. In 1871, on the petition of David Slosson and others, the board of supervisors established highways on all the section lines of the county except a few that were named, but many of them were not opened until they were needed ten or fifteen years later. That same year arrangements were made for the erection of bridges across the Cedar at Fonda by B. B. Moore, across the same stream four miles north on the Bell and Hanson road by J. H. Vosburgh, across Fast creek, near Garlock's by John A. Hay and across the north and south Lizard streams by B. B. Moore. In May following the last one was washed out and it was then replaced by J. J. Bruce.

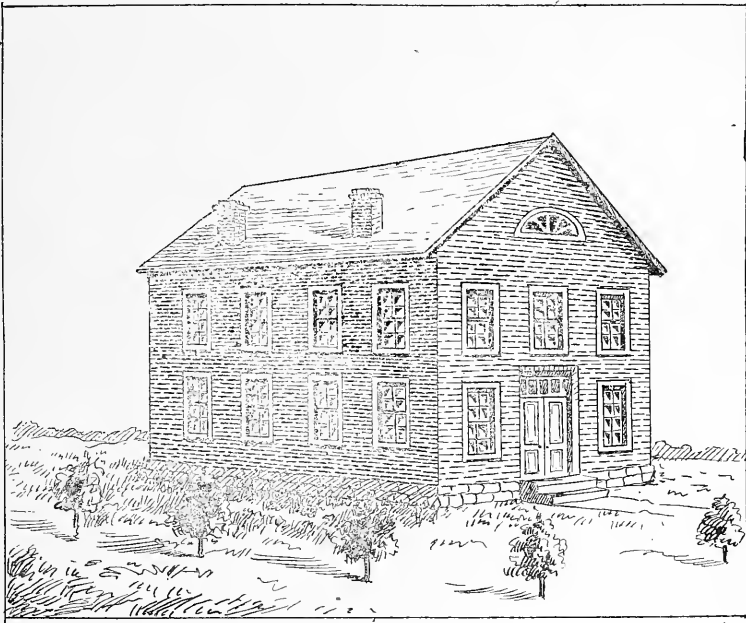
On January 2, 1872, it was decided to change the method of contracts for the erection of bridges by arranging that the county furnish all the materials used during that year, and Thos. L. MacVey was appointed a commissioner to locate all bridges that might be deemed necessary, to furnish the plans for them and inspect them when completed, to purchase the lumber and

employ all workmen needed in their construction. He held this position until April first following when he resigned so far as related to the purchase of material and the employment of labor.

In 1874 the first pile driver was purchased by the board of supervisors for the use of the county in building bridges. In 1881 the board directed that all bridges across the several streams in the county be bridged by piling, and in January, 1882 that all

a great improvement, and, at the rate of \$4 95 per lineal foot, erected bridges in 1882 over the Des Moines river, Cedar (Woodin's) and Pilot (Rolfe) creeks, two on Beaver creek (Hancher's and sec. 9, Des Moines township) and three on the north branch of Lizard creek, in Lake, Center and Washington townships. He was also accorded all the repair work on the old bridges.

In 1889, two wrought iron bridges were built, one over Cedar creek at Fonda and the other over the Des



THE FIRST COURT HOUSE 1860—1876, OLD ROLFE.

contracts for their construction be upon the basis of the number of feet in length, the county to furnish all the material and the contractor to furnish all the labor and erect all the bridges needed that year.

The first contractor under this new arrangement, and for a number of years afterward, was N. B. Post of Fonda. He introduced the use of cedar piling instead of pine, which was

Moines river in the northeast part of the county.

#### CHANGE OF COUNTY SEAT.

As early as June 3, 1873, petitions were presented to the board of supervisors asking that a vote be taken for the removal of the county seat to the northwest corner of the sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 18 of Lincoln township. These petitions were rejected because of certain defects in the signatures, and the lack

of affidavits to establish their genuineness.

On June 8, 1875, in response to a petition signed by a number of the legal voters of the county asking that the county seat be changed to the village of Pocahontas Center, situated on section 31 Center township, it was ordered that the question be submitted to the people at the next general election, and it was approved.

The contract for the new court house at Pocahontas was let by the board of supervisors in January, 1876, to J. L. Gould for \$2,600.

The board of supervisors held its last session at old Rolfe on September 6, 1876, and the circuit court its last session on September 14, 1876, Judge J. R. Zouver presiding. The attorneys in attendance were J. D. Springer and Capt. J. A. O. Yeomans of Fort Dodge, J. McDaid of Sac City, A. E. Clarke of Humboldt, and members of the bar residing in this county. The most important case tried at this session of the court was that of E. E. Roosa vs. John H. Johnson for slander. It occupied two days, developed some peculiar phases of human life and the jury rendered a verdict of \$150 in favor of the plaintiff.

On Oct. 6, 1876 the board of supervisors held their first meeting at Pocahontas, first as a committee of the whole to inspect the new building and then to let the contracts for the erection of certain bridges.

On Dec. 3, 1876, the first session of the district court was held in the new court house at Pocahontas, Judge C. H. Lewis presiding, J. W. Wallace serving as clerk of the court and Joseph Breitenbach as sheriff.

The board of supervisors consisted of J. C. Strong, Bernard McCartan, Wm. Brownlee and Wm. Stenson. The other public officers were A. O. Garlock, auditor; W. D. McEwen, treasurer; Andrew Jackson, recorder; J. F. Clark, superintendent and Wm.

Marshall, surveyor.

On Jan. 2, 1877 the court house at old Rolfe was sold to Rev. Wm. McCready for the use of the M. E. church for \$150. This sale was not approved, and on the next day the court house and grounds, known as the Stockdale reservation, were sold at public auction to James J. Bruce for \$200. It remained until July, 1882, when the purchaser used the material in it for the erection of the Tremain house in the new town of Rolfe.

Pocahontas, the new county seat, is located at the geographical center of Pocahontas county on the south half of section 31, Center township. The land was owned by Warrick and Buelah Price of Cleveland, Ohio. On November 4, 1870, they had it surveyed and platted, and arranged the lots, blocks, avenues, streets and alleys as they appear in the original survey. The plat, which included one hundred acres, and was called the village of Pocahontas Center, was surveyed by Fred Hess and approved by Judge J. M. Snyder of the circuit court at Humboldt, November 9, 1870. They set apart for public use, as a court house site and public park, a rectangular plat 600x800 feet in the center of the plat, provided the people of Pocahontas county should accept it for that purpose within five years from that date.

The court house site is 400x600 feet, surrounded on each side by a court or park place 100 feet in width; all enclosed within a larger rectangle 1200x1400 feet. The latter has two large avenues 100 feet in width, one of which, called "Buelah Avenue" after the name of his wife, runs north and south from the center of the court house site, and the other called "Warrick Avenue," to commemorate his own name, runs east and west from the same point. From each of the four corners of the court house park, extending diagonally through the first tier of blocks, are four streets 71 feet



in width that were named in memory of their four daughters as follows: The one at the northeast corner, "Otterlia;" northwest, "Theo;" southwest "Elizabeth" and southeast, "Laura." The two avenues north and east of the court house park are called "Park Place" and those west and south "Court Place." The street running east and west one block south of the court house was called "William" and the corresponding street one block north of the court house "John" in memory of their two sons. The corresponding streets one block distant from the east and west sides of the court house site are called "East" and "West" streets respectively.

In the spring of 1879 the board of supervisors had the park around the court house planted with trees. The trees, which consisted of 50 evergreens, 50 basswoods, 100 elms, 100 cottonwoods, 200 box-elders, 400 ash and 700 soft maples, were furnished by W. D. McEwen and they were planted under his direction by John W. Wallace.

#### FAREWELL TO OLD ROLFE.

The Pocahontas Times, in its issue of October 10, 1876, because of the removal of the county records and offices to Pocahontas, thereby compelling it to follow suite, very affectingly bade adieu to (old) Rolfe. "We leave (old) Rolfe with many regrets. For over twelve years we have been actively engaged in business in that town and formed many friendly relations with the people which it is hard to sever. We look back on these years of toil with feelings of pleasure because we remember that there were always kind friends to advise and willing hands to aid whenever assistance was wanted."

"In July, 1869, in partnership with J. J. Bruce, we commenced the publication of the Pocahontas Journal, the first newspaper published in the county, but after the lapse of two and

one half years it expired in January 1872, without a groan. In April last (1876) we purchased the Pocahontas Times of M. D. Skinner, Fonda, and have published it at Rolfe since that date. We have now built a new office at Pocahontas Center and shall gather up our household traps and remove thither this week. Farewell to old Rolfe."\*

#### SCHOOL LANDS AND BOOKS.

The school lands of the county, which embraces all of section 16 in each township, by direction of the board of supervisors were appraised and put upon the market for sale during the latter part of this period. As early as June 8, 1869, the auditor was directed to notify the trustees of the townships then organized to divide section 16 into suitable tracts and appraise them according to law on or before the 28th day of that month. On that day the trustees of Lizard township, A. H. Van Valkenburgh, Henry Steckleburgh and Joseph Breitenbach, reported an appraisement of their lands at \$3, \$4, \$5 and \$6 an acre; D. W. Hunt, Joseph Clason and A. H. Malcolm, trustees of Clinton, those of that township at \$1.25, to \$2.50 an acre; Wm. Jarvis, Oscar Slosson and Robert Struthers, those of Des Moines township at \$1.25 to \$1.50 an acre; and Samuel Booth, Henry Tilley and Geo. Van Natta, those of Powhatan township at \$1.25, \$2.00 and \$2.50 an acre.

The auditor was then directed to sell these lands to the highest bidder, but in no instance for a less amount than their appraised value. The conditions of payment were one third of the whole amount in cash and the balance in ten years with interest at ten per cent.

Notwithstanding the apparently low valuation put upon them and the long time allowed for payment these lands sold very slowly. As the sale of these lands was of no special interest to any

\*W. D. McEwen, editor and proprietor.

one except the county auditor, those from a distance who came to buy land did not ordinarily have their attention called to them unless they met that officer, to whom alone their sale was entrusted.

The school lands of Dover township were not appraised and exposed for sale until May 15, 1878. As late as June 6, 1882, some of the school land in nearly every one of the townships in the county remained unsold, and by request of the board of supervisors, another report of an appraisement of their unsold school lands was made by the trustees of Cedar, Center, Des Moines, Grant, Lake, Lincoln, Washington and Powhatan townships.

On Jan. 8, 1879, the permanent school fund of the county was \$5,466.67, the number of school children enrolled was 1187 and the amount of school funds received from the state, at the rate of twenty-five cents each, was \$296.75.

During that year an effort was made to secure uniformity of text books in all the schools of the county. This movement was inaugurated by R. M. Wilbur of Pomeroy, agent for the publications of A. S. Barnes & Co. He first visited the county institute and secured from the teachers a report commending the movement to the directors of the several townships in the county. The plan was adopted by Bellville, Center, Clinton, Des Moines, Grant, Lincoln and Lizard townships. The books were introduced at a greatly reduced price and, what seemed a very commendable feature at that time, many of them "at an extra cost of 5 or 10 cents each, were bound with an iron binding that made them so strong no two boys could tear one apart."

#### OUT OF DEBT CENTENNIAL YEAR.

A comparison of the conditions existing in 1879 with those of 1874 shows that some progress was made even though the times were extremely dull. In 1874 the amount of taxes levied in

the county was \$42,000 and 40 schools were in session; in 1879 the taxes levied were only \$35,000 and over 60 schools were in session. On Jan. 1, 1874, the outstanding warrants awaiting payment amounted to \$5,000 and there was no money in the treasury; but on June 1, 1879, there were no outstanding warrants and there were funds on hand as follows: County, \$1,900; poor, \$1,000; gopher, \$1,000; bridge, \$3 200; total, \$7,100. During the six years included in this period an unusual amount of money was spent in permanent improvements, such as the erection of the new court house at Pocahontas, the purchase of a burglar proof safe and the construction of fire proof vaults for the preservation of the public records.

The statement that showed the removal of the last vestige of this county's indebtedness was the one rendered by W. D. McEwen, county treasurer, on June 1, 1876. This statement not only showed for the first time a clean balance sheet for the county but also that all except two of the townships, Cedar and Lizard—whose indebtedness was but a trifle—were also free from debt. The fact that many of the counties of northwestern Iowa had been involved under heavy debts that generally represented no value received but only the work of a set of public swindlers, caused many land buyers to avoid for awhile this section of country, but happily for this county the centennial year found it free from debt. All the taxes collected, after the payment of current expenses, had been honestly and legitimately used in making public improvements so that each township, as it was settled, was supplied with good substantial school houses that were paid for as they were erected.

As late as Jan. 1, 1882, of the nineteen counties in northwestern Iowa only two, Pocahontas and Calhoun, were free from debt, the indebtedness

of the others ranging from \$16,000 in Kossuth to \$200,000 in O'Brien county. Foremost among the men who labored to get this county out of debt and keep it so were Messrs. W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and J. J. Bruce.

W. D. McEwen, from the time of his first identification with the public interests of this county as a deputy in the recorder's office in 1865, exerted a strong and positive influence in favor of a rigid economy in the administration of all public matters. His excellent business qualifications and keen foresight, utilized through many successive years of continuous public service, were of great advantage to this county. He took so much pride in the county's welfare that, when serving as treasurer collections were slow and outstanding warrants could not be paid, possessing ample means, he did not hesitate to make use of his own private funds to bridge over the occasion and thus maintain the credit of the county.

A. O. Garlock has already received well merited recognition for his efficient services as a public officer and constant aim to promote the interests of this county. The board of supervisors acknowledged its indebtedness to him while serving as county auditor, for his wise and prudent counsel, always modestly given. He never faltered when it became necessary for him to protect the rights and interests of the county, and his careful management of the school fund made it a source of profit to the county. He was uniformly courteous, a good judge of character and probably no other man during this period induced so many families to settle in this county.

J. J. Bruce, who as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors in 1868 began a long continued official career in this county, was another who rendered faithful cooperation in the effort to secure an honest and economical administration

of its affairs. His education and legal training enabled him to prepare the copy for the printed forms of this county twenty five years—1870 to 1895—and were of great advantage to him and the public he served as a member of the board of supervisors. He was an indefatigable worker for the best interests of the county and no respecter of persons in resisting or exposing plans for personal aggrandizement at the public expense. On March 13, 1873, while serving as treasurer, the county safe was burglarized by some experts. On this occasion there was offered him the opportunity to have left the county suffer a considerable loss by affirming the loss of public funds, since the treasurer and his bondsmen were not liable for money stolen from the county safe by burglary. He reported there were no public funds in the safe at the time of the burglary and the county did not lose a dollar. Another instance of his honest and honorable method of procedure occurred on Oct. 10th following, when M. E. Owens, who two years later was a fugitive from justice, during a meeting of the board of supervisors made known the discovery that the official bonds of the county treasurer and sheriff had been abstracted from the auditor's office and bond record book. This was near the end of the first year of his second term as treasurer of the county and as soon as his attention was called to this discrepancy he came forward promptly and, placing his property real and personal at the disposal of the board of supervisors by the execution of a trust deed, gave assurance he would prepare and file a new bond with the same bondsmen within a reasonable time.

The editor of the Newell Mirror in 1876 having occasion to make a personal investigation of some matters in this county wrote as follows; "We do not believe there is a county in

northwestern Iowa that has been conducted on more economical principles than Pocahontas under its present management; and the taxpayers have stood by their public officials, because they have always managed so as to lessen the taxes, as much as possible, and maintain their outstanding warrants at par value until the last one of them has been paid."

#### DELEGATE TO THE CENTENNIAL.

After the announcement that Pocahontas county was free from all indebtedness, W. D. McEwen was appointed a delegate to represent it at the Centennial in Philadelphia. On this trip he was accompanied by W. S. Fegles and from his own graphic account of what they saw we glean the following paragraph.

"By many the main building, which was 70 feet in height, sides and ends of glass set in an iron frame work, covering 21½ acres of ground and costing \$2,000,000, would not be regarded as a beautiful building, but I must say it looked to me grand and caused a thrill of admiration. Standing in one of its galleries W. S. Fegles and I gazed upon such a sight as the world never before furnished. Spread before us was a wide expanse dotted with structures, strange in shape and color, and extending so far that all distinctness is finally lost. It is a brilliant and inspiring scene, one that must satisfy all save the most captious. I cannot conceive that any one could look upon it and not be deeply impressed. It is a scene to fascinate the imagination and stir the soul to its depths. You look in wonder and ask yourself whence this grand display, this conglomeration of widely differing shapes and glowing colors, destitute of all harmony and deriving a considerable portion of its charm from its very strangeness. Almost oblivious of every thing else you draw on your imagination pictures of the Arabian

Nights or dream of fairyland until you arouse to the agreeable reality that you are viewing the Centennial Exhibition."

The Centennial was the greatest exposition the world had ever seen until that date, and it was opened May 10, 1876, in the presence of 200,000 persons. Its object was very neatly expressed by President Grant in the opening of his address on that occasion. "It has been thought appropriate to bring together for popular inspection specimens of our attainments in the industrial and fine arts, literature, science and philosophy, as well as the great businesses of agriculture and commerce, that we may more thoroughly appreciate the excellences and deficiencies of our achievements, and also give an emphatic expression to our desire to cultivate the friendship of the great family of nations. The enlightened agricultural, commercial and manufacturing people of the world have been invited to send hither corresponding specimens of their skill, to exhibit on equal terms in friendly competition with our own. One hundred years ago our country was new and but partially settled; our necessities have compelled us to expend every means in felling trees, subduing prairies and building dwellings, factories, ships, docks, warehouses, roads, canals, machinery, etc. Most of our schools, churches, libraries and asylums have been established within a hundred years. Our achievements have been great enough to make it easy for our people to acknowledge superior merit wherever found; and now we hope a careful examination of what is about to be exhibited to you will not only inspire you with a profound respect for the skill and taste of our friends from other nations, but also call forth your highest admiration as you note the attainments and progress of our own people during the last one hundred years."

## MAIL ROUTES AND POSTOFFICES.

After the removal of the county seat to Pocahontas, several new mail routes and postoffices along them were established in this county. On Nov. 1, 1877, A. O. Garlock was the postmaster at Pocahontas and the people of that vicinity called at the auditor's office for their mail. The new routes are indicated by the following schedule prepared by him for that point on the above date.

The mail arrives at Pocahontas from Fonda and the south on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 12 o'clock m., and departs for Fonda and the south at 1 o'clock p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The mail arrives from (old) Rolfe and the north on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week at 12 o'clock m., and departs for (old) Rolfe and the north on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 1 o'clock p. m.

The mail arrives from Sioux Rapids and the northwest every Thursday at 5 o'clock p. m. and departs for Sioux Rapids and the northwest every Friday at 7 a. m.

In March, 1878, another mail route was maintained between old Rolfe and Humboldt, and a postoffice was located at the home of Sewell Van Alstine in Clinton township. Mr. Van Alstine was appointed postmaster, the name of the office was called "Blooming Prairie" and the mail was carried by Ira Scranton once a week from old Rolfe until February, 1879, and then from Pocahontas until Gilmore City was founded, when this route and postoffice were discontinued.

On Nov. 1, 1877, a new postoffice by the name of "Swan Lake" was established in Swan Lake township on the route from Pocahontas to Sioux Rapids and Charles L. Strong was appointed postmaster. On Nov. 22d following, the name of this postoffice was changed to "Garlock" in honor of A. O. Garlock, the popular county auditor at

that time. Mr. Strong resigned June 20, 1879.

On Dec. 30, 1877, a new postoffice by the name of "Luella" was established on the same route at the residence of J. C. Strong in Washington township, and he served as the postmaster. The name of this office was derived from that of Myrta Luella, the youngest daughter and only member of Mr. Strong's family that was born in this county.

On Jan. 26, 1879 another postoffice was established near this route at the home of D. P. Frost in Powhatan township and he was duly appointed postmaster, but owing to the fact that he lived about two miles from the mail route and no provision had been made for the extra distance on the part of the mail carrier no mail was received or distributed at this office, which was called "Mayview."

In the spring of 1882, when the towns of Havelock and Laurens were founded along the line of the Toledo & Northwestern railway, the "Garlock" and "Luella" postoffices were discontinued.

In the spring of 1876, when the Pocahontas and Fonda mail route was established, a postoffice was located at the home of C. H. Tollefsrude on section 28, Grant township, and called Shirley in honor of Maria G. Shirley, his wife, he being appointed postmaster. In 1879 another postoffice was established in Grant township at the home of H. H. Felch on section 36, (Crummer farm) on the Pocahontas and Pomeroy mail route. This office was called "Learned," in commemoration of the place in Colorado where he previously resided, and Mr. Felch remained in charge of it until the spring of 1881 when he removed from the county. When this last postoffice was established there were only 130 residents in Grant township, and while both were maintained there was not another township in the state having

so small a population, that enjoyed the luxury of two postoffices.

After the removal of Mr. Felch "Learned" postoffice was discontinued. Mr. Tollefsrude continued to serve as postmaster at Shirley until Dec. 1, 1881, when Herkimer L. Norton became his successor, receiving and distributing the mail at his home from that date until the spring of 1890, when this office was also discontinued. There was no postoffice in this township from that date until Feb. 7, 1894, when E. O. Christeson became postmaster at Rusk.

On July 12, 1877, M. F. Seeley, who had charge of the mail route from Fonda to old Rolfe via Pocahontas, relinquished his contract to Samuel Post of Palo Alto county and Frank Thompson served as driver.

At old Rolfe in 1876 before the removal of the county seat, W. D. McEwen was postmaster and the mail was carried north on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, and south on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

In 1865, twelve years previous, according to Colton's map of Iowa, the mail routes in this vicinity radiated from Fort Dodge and were as follows: (1) Fort Dodge to Sioux City via Twin Lakes, Sac City, Ida Grove and Correctionville; (2) Fort Dodge to Council Bluffs via Lake City, Grant City, Denison and Shelbyville; (3) Fort Dodge to Cherokee, a direct line between these two points, entering this county near the southeast corner of Bellville township and leaving it about the center of section 7, Cedar township. This route passed about four miles north of Stormy (now Storm) Lake, and there was not a village along it between the two points named. West of Cherokee it passed through Plymouth, now Merrill, and Melbourne, now Hinton. Lake City was then the only village in Calhoun county, Sioux Rapids in Buena Vista county; and West Bend,

Fern Valley and Emmetsburg the only ones in Palo Alto county, and they were on the mail route from Fort Dodge to Estherville and Spirit Lake via (old) Rolfe.

#### THE POCAHONTAS TIMES ESTABLISHED.

The period now under consideration was the one in which, after three unsuccessful ventures, the Pocahontas Times was established as the first permanent newspaper in the county. Its predecessors were the Pocahontas Journal, the Cedarville Herald and the Pocahontas Times during the period of its publication by M. D. Skinner.

The Pocahontas Journal was established by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce in the year 1869, when the former was serving as auditor, clerk of the court and county judge, and the latter as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors, both of whom, after December 1st, that year, were residents of old Rolfe. The first issue of this paper was printed on Tuesday, June 15, 1869, and the second one on Friday, July 25th following, on the press of B. F. Gue at Fort Dodge. After the lapse of two years, or in July, 1871, W. D. McEwen relinquished his editorial interest in this paper to Thomas L. MacVey and its weekly publication was continued by Messrs. Bruce and MacVey until February 1st, 1872. About this date the legislature repealed the law providing for the publication of the general laws in each county and this left them under the necessity of publishing the paper at a pecuniary loss or of abandoning the enterprise. The paper was therefore discontinued. After its establishment in 1869 it was made the official paper of the county and for advertising the sale of the school lands and printing the proceedings of the board of supervisors and delinquent tax list that year received \$237.00. In 1870 and also in 1871 it was the official paper of the county and, in addition to the other public printing, published

the general laws of the 13th (1870) General Assembly of Iowa.

The Cedarville Herald was a small weekly published at Fonda by W. S. Wright, express agent and postmaster at Fonda, during the spring of 1871. It was printed at Storm Lake and was discontinued after the lapse of a few months.

The Pocahontas Times, about the fall of 1872, was established in Fonda by M. D. Skinner, and its publication as a weekly newspaper was continued until about the fall of 1875, when it was also discontinued as an unprofitable enterprise. It was made the official paper of the county for the years 1873 and 1874 and received for the public printing done during those years \$171 and \$420 respectively. In the year 1873, by direction of the board of supervisors, it published certain statements of the finances for the years 1866, '67, '68, '69, and '70, and a copy of the paper was sent to every taxpayer in the county.

On Dec. 8, 1874, the board of supervisors decided to print semi-annually, in pamphlet form for distribution among the voters of the county, the proceedings of the board and the reports of the auditor and treasurer of the county. This contract for the year 1875, at the rate of 30 cents per square, was given to Messrs. White & Son of Fonda, publishers of the Northwestern Hawkeye, and they received \$132.50 for the public printing in this county during that year.

It is a matter for regret that no files of the Pocahontas Journal, Cedarville Herald and of the Pocahontas Times during the period of its first venture, have been preserved for the historian, the last ones being destroyed by the fire in Fonda Oct. 15, 1883. The little pioneer county paper was the one that contained the record of the local happenings, the marriages and divorces, the births and deaths, the arrival and removal of families, the account of

those events that denote social and material progress and it was read with more interest than any other paper.

The Pocahontas Times, established at old Rolfe by W. D. McEwen as editor and proprietor, and of which volume 1, number 1, was issued Thursday, April 6, 1876, is the oldest newspaper in Pocahontas county that has been preserved and its publication continued until the present time. This paper was first issued as a five column weekly, containing four pages 12½ by 19½ inches, and its unpretentious motto was,

“He who by his biz’ would rise,  
Must either bust or advertise.”

In his introduction the editor very modestly made his bow to his readers in the following words: “In taking charge of a newspaper, we fear the many difficulties that beset our way, especially after having engaged actively for five years in other business. We commence again the publication of a newspaper, feeling that Pocahontas county has been too long neglected by reason of the lack of a live one. As there is no one disposed to embark in this enterprise we have established the Pocahontas Times and propose to make it a success, if possible. Our little sheet is not what we would like our first number to have been, but if our friends will have patience we will soon enlarge it to twice its present size. With our long acquaintance with the people of the county, we feel satisfied that we shall receive a full share of support and the Times will be devoted to developing the resources of Pocahontas county. Since there can be no reform without discussion, we invite farmers to send us their observations in the matter of improvements, that your neighbors may be benefited by your experience, your light burning none the less brightly while lighting another. We propose to chronicle faithfully and impartially the events of the day, domestic and

foreign, in addition to the local item that may come under our observation. We shall uphold and advocate the principles of the republican party and aim to promote truth, justice and good will to all."

The first issue contained the proceedings of the board of supervisors at their April meeting, (1876) and the professional cards of the following persons in Pocahontas county: Rev. Walter L. Lyons, Presbyterian, services in the brick school house at old Rolfe every other Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. Rev. Wm. McCready, M. E., alternate Sundays same place at 10:30 a. m. Rev. A. R. Whitfield, M. E., in school house at Fonda, alternate Sabbaths at 11 a. m. W. D. McEwen, attorney at law, Rolfe; Alexander Younke, attorney, Rolfe; W. D. McEwen & Co., dry goods and groceries, Rolfe; A. O. Garlock, real estate and tax paying agency, Rolfe; J. D. Minkler, physician and surgeon, Fonda; Wm. Marshall, real estate and tax paying agent, Fonda; Joseph Mallison, notary public and collector, Fonda; E. C. Brown, notary public and real estate agent, Fonda; John W. Gray, dry goods and groceries, Fonda; Joseph Mallison, machinery, Fonda; Fred Swingle, lumber, coal and grain, Fonda; Peter G. Ibson, blacksmith and wagon maker, Fonda; William Snell, cheese factory, Fonda; Joseph Nimick, proprietor Center House, Pocahontas Center.

On May 11, 1876, the editor and proprietor of the Times announced an improvement that marks a new era in its publication. The first three issues, owing to defective presswork, looked as if they had been printed in a foreign language, so that but few readers were able to decipher the wonderful hieroglyphics produced by the ingenuity of the printer. The office was replenished with new type, a new roller and other improvements, the paper was increased from four to eight

pages, and, as it was decided to issue it thereafter in the English language, the hope was expressed that attention to business and fair dealing would merit a liberal support. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again," was the new motto adopted at this time and the printing was very creditable. The Fort Dodge Times now observed "that it was the most sprightly paper ever sent out of the county, an high honor to its editor and owner;" and the Spirit Lake Beacon, "W. D. McEwen, editor of the Pocahontas Times, is a very versatile gentleman, being an attorney, a merchant and postmaster, which, in addition to the laborious duties of a journalist, is business enough for one man; he is also at this time serving his county, to the satisfaction of all concerned, as county treasurer and Centennial commissioner."

On June 15, 1876, when the editor went to the Centennial, the office was left to the "tender mercies" of A. O. Garlock and Fred J. Ervin." After the issue of Oct. 10, 1876, the place of publication was changed from old Rolfe to Pocahontas Center.

On Jan. 1, 1877, Ed. B. Tabor became an associate editor of the Pocahontas Times. As the successor of Geo. M. Dorton, he had previously assisted M. D. Skinner in the Times office at Fonda from March 1st until August 1st, 1875. On Nov. 1, 1877, W. D. McEwen, finding that his official duties required all of his time and attention, relinquished his editorial interest and leased the Times outfit to Mr. Tabor, who continued to be its sole editor during the next two years.

"Stick to your aim and you are bound to win" was the new motto adopted, and two important changes were effected during this period. After the issue of May 9, 1878, the office of publication was moved from Pocahontas to Fonda and, commencing with the issue of May 30th following, which

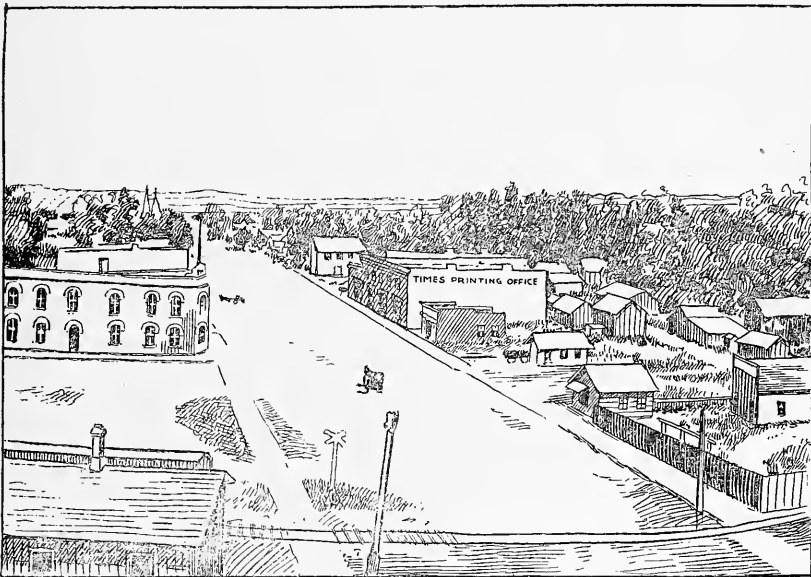


contained a full page description of Pocahontas county entitled, "Come West," the amount of local printing in the home office was increased from two to four pages.

The constant aim of the new editor was to furnish his readers a first-class local paper and through its columns give encouragement to every worthy local enterprise. He so identified himself to the interests of this com-

old Rolfe is considering a proposition to go into the bee business. He has been talking about it with a man who lives a little further north and who is almost persuaded. A few more Sundays will fetch him. He believes in starting with queen bees. The name of his bee is Phoebe."

Nov. 1. 1879, Geo. Sanborn, one of the pioneer homesteaders of Cedar township, purchasing the outfit from



VIEW OF THE TIMES OFFICE AND POCAHONTAS COUNTY BANK ON MAIN STREET, FONDA, IN 1896.

munity, both personally and through the paper, that he found it a real trial when, at the end of two years, the sale of the Times outfit to another involved the relinquishment of his editorial relation to it. He won for himself the reputation of being a "young man who was bound to make his mark in the editorial profession," a "spicy writer," and a "good newspaper man." As an illustration of his humor the following incident is gleaned from the column of locals. "Geo. W. Horton at

W. D. McEwen, became the editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas Times and continuing these relations until the present time, completes with this issue—Oct. 26, 1899—a period of twenty years of editorial management and ownership of this paper, changing its name to Fonda Times Nov. 1, 1897.

In taking charge of the editorial department the new proprietor acknowledged his "consciousness of the task that we have laid upon ourself," and expressed the hope that, with the good

will and assistance of his many friends, he would be able to make it a financial success, and at the same time a paper of which they might well feel proud. "Had we been playing farmer all our life we could look for nothing but a partial success, if not a total failure in our venture; as it is, we hope to bring to our assistance such practical experience as will materially aid us in the discharge of the onerous duties in which our present position finds us." "A journal devoted to the interests of Pocahontas county," was the new motto adopted, and it was continued until June, 1892, when the further use of a motto was regarded as unnecessary. The Times office, located at first in the second story of the Fairburn bank building at the corner of First and Main streets, in 1879 was permanently located on the east side of Main street in a small frame building on the lot where the Times office now stands. This building, together with others in the vicinity, was entirely consumed by the fire of Oct. 15, 1883. It was impossible to save either of the presses and with the exception of the roll of subscribers, a few books and some type, the entire outfit of the Times was destroyed. The value of the building and contents of the office was \$2,300 and this was a total loss.

The first issue after the fire, of date Oct. 18, 1883, was printed on the press of the Manson Journal, Geo. I. and Tom D. Long, editors. This fire edition marks a change in the size of the Times to adapt it to the size of the new press then obtained. The pages were increased to seven columns, 17x23 inches and their number reduced to four. On March 6, 1884, the paper was enlarged to an eight column folio, an enlargement that gave its readers about one third more reading matter. On June 15, 1893, its size and appearance was again completely changed to its present form. The eight column folio was replaced by a seven column

quarto. As the latter has eight pages the quantity of matter and the cost of conducting the paper were nearly doubled by this change. One object of this increase was to make it specially beneficial to the farmers by adding an agricultural page edited by Hon. James Wilson, a practical and successful farmer, who was then superintendent of the experiment station at the State Agricultural College at Ames. In 1889 the old printing press was replaced by a new Campbell power press.

These enlargements and improvements of the Times from time to time indicate the constantly increasing support that has been given this paper by the business men of Fonda and the people of this county. They indicate also the constant endeavor of the editor and proprietor to keep it abreast of these rapidly progressing times and make it worthy the reputation of being not merely the oldest but the best newspaper in Pocahontas county. As a journal devoted to the interests of this county it has been true to its aim. Every issue has contained some good word for Fonda and vicinity. Believing that the town would respond promptly to any forward movement made by the rural districts, it has very wisely refrained from booming the town beyond its possibilities by a strict adherence to truth and, with an untiring zeal, has encouraged the settlement of the country around it with the best class of people. About every fifth year it has contained a full page account of the material progress and growth of Fonda or of the county in general. Whoever reads these frequent descriptions of this section of country in the files of the Times cannot fail to perceive that they have prepared the way and naturally developed the desire to have this last one the best, worthy to be designated the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County.

Although republican in sentiment

it has never been under the control of any clique or faction. Under no obligation to others, it has been free to adopt its own principles and fearlessly to advocate or defend them. That a love for fair play is inherent in the American people has been recognized as a fundamental principle in all matters of a public or political nature. As an angel of intelligence in the community it has been the ally of virtue

zer, who enrolled 103 persons in Des Moines and Lizard townships, which then embraced the entire county.

The census of 1870 was taken by J. J. Bruce. He traveled on horseback and had three months from the first day of June to complete the canvass. The county was then included in four townships, Des Moines, Clinton, Lizard and Powhatan. In Lizard township, which included all the residents

POPULATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, 1859-1895.

TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS	1859	1860	1862	1867	1869	1870	1873	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895
Bellville.....							237	282	373	456	576	628
Cedar.....							322	290	453	443	444	543
“ Fonda.....						with	Cedar	168	433	625	942	
Center.....							100	166	178	506	463	
“ Pocahontas....									153		201	
Clinton.....			23	60	38	55	100	116	154	309	548	631
“ Rolfe.....									256	529	779	
Colfax.....							234	240	380	492	621	638
Des Moines.....	40	35	31	126	176	256	257	265	327	422	474	558
Dover.....							107	139	239	352	552	587
Grant.....							93	114	151	272	455	581
Lake.....									121	304	490	508
“ Gilmore City..												164
Lincoln.....							58	85	125	155	396	575
Lizard.....	68	68	68	208	334	955	469	496	537	567	624	672
Marshall.....									30	168	420	557
Powhatan.....				59	89	180	257	186	258	414	648	768
Sherman.....									54	134	341	479
Swan Lake.....							41	36	93	362	581	633
“ Laurens.....											318	587
Washington.....									84	284	405	493
“ Havelock.....												365
Total.....	108	103	122	453	637	1,446	2,175	2,249	3,713	6,152	9,553	12,442

and a foe to crime. It has exerted a dominant influence in favor of morality and religion during all these years, by always advocating the education of the child, the sobriety of the individual, the purity of the home and the welfare of the church.

“Like the water we so freely drink,  
And the pure life-giving air,  
Is the home paper, with its precious gifts,  
And almost magic charm,  
As it comes to break the monotony  
Of life upon the farm.”

THE CENSUS TAKEN.

The first census of this county was taken in the year 1860 by Chas. Smelt-

in the south tier of townships, the south tier of sections in Lake and Lincoln, and the south half of Grant and Dover, there were 955 residents, in Clinton 55, Powhatan 180, and in Des Moines, which included the remainder of the county, 256, total 1446, of whom 785 were males and 661 females. At the time this census was taken there was no one residing in what are now Center and Sherman townships, J. C. Strong, Jason M. Russell, Jonathan L. Clark, wife and three children, all living together on sec. 30 were the only residents in Washing-

ton, Alonzo M. Thornton and family, on sec. 18, the only ones in Marshall, and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Woodin, Alexander F. Hubbell and his brother, Charles F. Hubbell, all on sec. 24, the only ones in Dover township.

In 1880 there were five census enumerators and the county was divided among them as follows: Geo. M. Dorton, Cedar township; C. G. Perkins, Colfax and Bellville; O. I. Strong, Des Moines and Powhatan; Henry Kelly, Lizard, Lake, Lincoln and Clinton; and C. H. Tollefsrude, Grant, Dover, Sherman, Marshall, Swan Lake and Washington townships.

In 1873, 1875 and 1885 the assessors of the several townships made an enumeration which in tabulated form with other similar enumerations shows that the progress of the settlement of the county has been as appears in the above exhibit of population.

#### CHURCHES ESTABLISHED.

The only churches that had been organized during the previous period were the Unity Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal at old Rolfe and the Lizard Catholic. During the period now under consideration several other churches were organized and additional preaching stations were established.

In March, 1870, Rev. T. P. Lenahen of Fort Dodge, established Catholic services at the home of Wm. Lynch on sec. 2, Cedar township, and maintained this station until Oct. 20, 1882, when the Dover Catholic church being nearly completed, he was succeeded by P. J. Carroll who in the fall of 1883 secured the erection of the Catholic church in Fonda and established services in it.

In 1871 Rev. L. C. Woodward, pastor and postmaster at Newell, established M. E. services in the school house at Fonda where they were maintained by others until the fall of 1879 when the Fonda M. E. church was erected.

On March 13, 1873, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Colfax township was organized that succeeded in erecting a house of worship in 1884. About the same time and near the same place the Swedish Evangelical Mission was established that has also erected a house of worship.

In the spring of 1875 Rev. T. M. Lenahen established a Catholic station in the school house at Pocahontas and a church was built there in 1883.

On Feb. 4, 1878, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Grant township was organized and in 1894 a church building was erected at Rusk.

In 1878, when Rev. C. W. Clifton was pastor of the M. E. church at old Rolfe, services were regularly held at the school houses in the vicinity of the residences of J. C. Strong and Philip Hamble in Washington township, at the (Ira) Strong school house, Powhatan township, and occasionally at Coopertown and the Heathman school house near where Plover is now located.

In 1879 Rev. Mr. Johnson, a Lutheran minister, held services at old Rolfe once a month.

On Oct. 31, 1880, the Unity Presbyterian church of old Rolfe was reorganized as the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe, in the new town then founded, and the present church building was erected in 1888.

#### HOMESTEADERS.

By an act of Congress approved March 3, 1877, in making final proof of homestead entries the party instead of being required to go to a distant land office as had been previously necessary, might appear with his witnesses before the judge of a court of record of the county in which the land was situated and there make the final proof.

On August 8, 1877, the following list of names was sent to J. W. Wallace, clerk of the court by H. H. Griffiths,

recorder of the U. S. land office, Des Moines, as those of persons who had occupied claims for more than five years and were ready for final proof:

Aaron Himan	C. J. Johnson
Wm. E. Gadaw	Charles Johnson
Thos. L. Dean	August Johnson
S. M. Pettit	Christopher Hoppy
Eliza Borjenson	John McAuliff
Gust Peterson	Martin McAuliff
Peter Peterson	John P. Anderson
John Larson	Mary Springstuble
Gustave Olsson	C. P. Lenngren
George Guy	James B. Lothian
William Lothian	Peter Scherf
Asa Harris	Betsy Nelson
M. Lahey	L. P. Davidson
Samuel Gill	A. Anderson
Matthias J. Synsteline	Louisa Lieb

ERA OF BETTER TIMES.

It was in 1877, the year of the great railroad strikes, that there came the first indications of the commencement of an era of better times. These were found in the prospects for a fine crop and a foreign demand for breadstuffs that created a good and profitable market for all the products of the farm. More corn was planted that year in this county than ever before, and, though in planting time the farmers were not in the best of spirits, yet in the time of harvest their hearts were gladdened by a fine crop of small grain, the first for several years, and a large one of corn. The feeling immediately began to prevail that about three good crops would bring complete relief to all who had become embarrassed during the previous era of hard times and that this section would prove to be as productive as any in the country. As there was no debt on the county the taxes were low and it was pleasing to see the smiles that illuminated the countenances of our "rural princes" in anticipation of better times.

This was the seventh year after the settlement of the western part of this county, that which had previously

been an unoccupied region was now dotted with many happy homes surrounded by luxuriant fields of oats, barley, wheat and corn, and, in enclosed pastures on every side, there were as beautiful cattle fattening upon the rich grasses of the prairie as ever gladdened the eyes of man.

The general joy and gladness of the new era now ushered in, found opportunity for expression in connection with the county nominating convention that was held at Pocahontas on the first day of September that year. The attendance at this convention was much larger than ever before on such occasions in this county. Every township was represented by a full delegation and many others from all parts of the county were also present. The Cedar delegation made the trip across the country in a wagon drawn by four horses, all profusely decorated with streamers, and followed by several loads of citizens. The crowd from Des Moines township was led by a wagon that bore aloft a large banner and with that delegation were Messrs. Fish and Vaughn, who made things lively with their drums.

1878.

In the spring of 1878 northwest Iowa received a large immigration and many new families located in this county, among whom were those of A. B. P. Wood, W. J. Curkeet and H. H. Fitch, all from Darlington, Wis., C. G. Guyett from Montpelier, Vt., who erected a double store building two stories in height on the lots occupied by the McKee brick block, Fonda; N. B. Post, J. F. Pattee and Geo. F. Porter, who located on farms, and Dr. G. W. Bothwell, who located in Fonda in November previous. Many new buildings were erected, every acre of improved land was farmed and the demand for lands to rent was greater than the supply. Another good crop was harvested that included a large acreage of flax and wheat and the business out-

look of the county was better than ever. The farmers began to perceive that cattle and hogs brought more money into their pockets than anything else and their best efforts were put forth to raise fine stock for the market.

Col. Blanden adds section 26 and part of section 24 to his large farm in the southeast corner of Bellville township, thereby increasing it to 2,760 acres, and has on hand 50,000 bushels of corn, 2,000 tons of hay, 350 fat steers, 600 hogs and 250 shorthorns, of which one-half are registered thoroughbreds and the others are of a high grade. He made this the best stock farm in northwest Iowa and better stock could not be found anywhere in the state. He received for one heifer calf this year \$350.

During that fall a number of the farmers in the eastern part of this county lost some of their young cattle from blackleg, an acute fever or disease of the blood that caused nervous prostration, hemorrhages, boils and carbuncles. The animals were usually seized with it at night and died the next day. This disease prevails principally in undrained, marshy districts and ordinarily affects only calves and those under one year. It originates spontaneously and in most cases proves fatal. The best preventive is the proper drainage of the land and, when it prevails, the feeding once a week to each animal of half an ounce of nitre in its food.

#### CORN USED FOR FUEL.

During the winter of 1878-9 a great deal of corn was used for fuel by the farmers in the north part of this county. The corn was abundant, the price was low, and it made good fuel. There was no timber and coal had to be hauled long distances. To many persons, it seemed wrong to use an article of food for fuel, but to others, under the circumstances then existing

this was merely a sentiment that overlooked the fact that to warm one's self by the fire and to do the same by the consumption of food are in the end precisely similar effects, and if more warmth can be procured by consuming in a stove a dollar's worth of corn than a dollar's worth of coal it is a legitimate use of the corn.

The farmers of this county have now learned that if they do not have wood and want it, they can grow it. A crop of trees can be raised with the same certainty and about the same labor that it takes to grow a crop of corn. On the homestead of A. O. Garlock, section 24, Cedar township, the growth attained by the different varieties of trees in fifteen years was as follows: Cottonwood, 40 feet in height and 49 inches in circumference two feet from the ground; maple, 45 inches; elm, 32 inches; Scotch pine, 28 inches; butternut from the seed in ten years, 26 inches; and oak from the acorn in ten years, 10 inches.

It was in the year 1870 that the planting of trees in this county began as a fixed plan of farming and many of the first groves were intended chiefly as a means of protection from the hot sun in summer and the storms in winter. The production of timber for its use as fuel has been a secondary matter, but the results of that first pioneer work now show what may be done upon an intelligent plan and the comparative value of different varieties of trees. This problem of fuel has been solved by the increase in railway facilities whereby abundant supplies of both hard and soft coal are now within easy reach of everyone.

1879.

In 1879 J. H. Brower of Michigan returned to his farm on section 32, Dover township, W. S. Fegles and others of Des Moines township went to Nebraska, Wm. Bell of Bellville to the Black Hills, Barney Hancher to Kan-

sas and David Slosson to Washington territory. The farmers are in better circumstances, having paid many debts during the previous winter months. The resumption of specie payments having been effected in January, prices of produce gradually increased after that date very much to the satisfaction of all. Although this season was one of drought the crops in Pocahontas county were good and an unusual degree of activity prevailed in all lines of business.

On September 26th Smith Bros., (Thomas and James) of Clinton township, delivered to Henry Jarvis of old Rolfe sixty-two steers for \$1,900. They were sold June 20th previous when they were weighed and it was found that the average gain of each steer from that date until the day of delivery was 275 pounds. They had not been fed any grain or hay but made this increase entirely by grazing on the native grasses of Pocahontas county. On Nov. 23d, W. J. Boyd of Colfax received \$3.46 per cwt. for a load of hogs and in December following Millard Seeley of old Rolfe brought three loads of hogs to Fonda and returned with as many loads of lumber.

#### FARM MACHINERY AND MORTGAGES.

In the spring of 1879 sulky plows came into general use in Grant township. This incident is suggestive of the great improvement in farm machinery that was made at this period. Two years previous, (1877) the self binder was first used in this country, the mower and reaper having preceded it a few years. The disk harrow, the grain drill, two-wheeled cultivator, corn planter, hay fork, improved thresher and portable farm engine were all introduced about this same period and there was a great demand for them in this new section of country. The same is true of the melodeon, organ and sewing machine in the home.

At the time of their introduction and for some years thereafter all of

these implements were sold at a very high price, and the payment for them at a future date was usually secured by a mortgage bearing a high rate of interest. Comparatively few had sheds for the protection of their machinery when not in use and, by reason of the decay and breakage due to the effects of exposure to the sun and weather, many farmers were unable to derive more than half their value before they were worn out and also found themselves embarrassed by their unpaid mortgages. A farmer who was a close observer expressed the belief that about two thirds of the farm mortgages at this period were due to the causes just named. But if carelessness kept some hampered with debt and their homes unimproved a wise economy proved as profitable as a good crop. The dealers became more cautious about giving credit, the farmers more careful of their implements and conservative in their purchases, and very soon the condition of both was greatly improved.

1880.

In 1880 the settlement of the entire county had become so general it was divided into the full number of supervisor districts and the board of supervisors was increased to five members.

Among the new and comfortable houses built this year were those of Geo. Fairburn, Fonda; Torkel Larson, Grant; Thomas Nolan, Lake; David Wallace and N. L. Schoonmaker, Lizard; and John Pettit, Swan Lake. Good barns were erected by Peter Wendell, Bellville, and Perry Nowlen, Des Moines.

The crops of all kinds of grain were increasingly large, those of wheat and flax averaging in some instances twenty-three bushels to the acre. R. B. Fish, Des Moines, had 309 bushels of Fife wheat from thirteen acres, Samuel N. Strong, Powhatan, had 100 bushels flax from five acres and Henry Jarvis, Des Moines, 1,047 bushels flax

from sixty-seven acres. Corn was abundant and a great deal of it was again used for fuel during the coal famine that prevailed that fall and winter.

The year 1880 was a good one for fruit, especially plums and apples. Plums had never before been so plentiful and wherever there were apple trees large enough they were loaded with beautiful apples that made the farmer smile. C. M. Saylor, Lincoln, picked two bushels from one of his young trees, planted only a few years previous. The first barrel of apples raised and sold in this county is believed to have been the one gathered by David Slosson, Des Moines, from his young trees and sold to W. D. McEwen at old Rolfe in the fall of 1876.

1881.

The year 1881 brought with it many important changes. D. W. Edgar, M. D., located at Fonda and J. N. McKee & Co. became the successors of C. G. Guyett in the mercantile business. Geo. Fairburn erected the Pocahontas County Bank building and furniture store, the first brick building in Fonda. The Fonda Creamery was built by Messrs. Shellito and Froelich for Sampson and French, Storm Lake. Geo. Brower, merchant at Fonda, leased the creamery when completed and started a branch store at Pocahontas in care of W. Hodges. G. W. Hunt and family located at Fonda and on May 12th began the publication of the Fonda Gazette. C. H. Hinckley and son, of Walnut, purchased section 17, Cedar township, and stocked it with 500 head of cattle, many of which were thoroughbreds.

W. W. Beam, M. D., of Tama county, located at the hotel de Tedford in old Rolfe in advance of the new railways, in order that he might move as a pioneer to the new railroad town in the northeast part of the county as soon as it should be platted. Barney Han-

cher and Henry Thomas, who had left the county, returned with their families to Powhatan township, W. C. Kennedy located on his farm in Clinton and H. W. Bissell became proprietor of the Center House at Pocahontas.

The citizens of Fonda, desirous of having a good flouring mill, at a meeting held on the 15th of January, appointed a special committee, consisting of Geo. L. Brower, Geo. Fairburn, A. B. P. Wood, J. W. Gray, Wm. Bout, W. J. Busby, O. A. Langworthy and Theodore Dunn, and empowered them to offer Pfeiffer Bros. and Weikal of Newton, Iowa, \$500 as an inducement to erect a mill four stories in height and supply it with machinery for doing first-class work. This mill 36x48 feet and 50 feet high was completed and began running Oct. 20, 1881.

It was provided with an improved engine of forty horse power and four run of stone, one for feed, two for wheat in connection with another for making roller process or half patent flour, the only grade manufactured at first. It had a bin that held 8,000 bushels and a capacity for grinding 150 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of corn every twelve hours. This mill and its machinery was burned Oct. 30, 1893, at which time it was owned by Peter Morrison and leased by Kinney Bros. It had changed hands several times and proved an unprofitable enterprise to all who invested in it.

In Des Moines township the Brookside creamery was erected on the south side of Beaver creek by Edward Hammond and A. H. Lorimer. This was the second creamery established in Pocahontas county, and when it is remembered that the first creamery in northwest Iowa was built at Fort Dodge in February 1880, only one year previous, the interest in this new industry becomes apparent.

On Feb. 17, 1881, the Iowa State Farmers' Alliance was organized at



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On Feb. 17, 1881, the Iowa State Farmers' Alliance was organized at the close of the annual meeting of the Iowa State Agricultural society at Des Moines and L. S. Coffin of Webster county and C. F. Clarkson of Polk county were chosen president and secretary respectively. The objects of this Alliance were the organization of the farmers into local alliances for the discussion of their privileges, rights and duties, and to unite them in efforts to promote their mutual interests. One of the good things accomplished by this organization was the fact that it directed the attention of the farmers to the profits arising from the dairy industry and led them to cooperate in the support of creameries in every well settled neighborhood.

The crops of 1881 were not so large as those of 1880, although the acreage was larger. The previous good crop

of flax led many farmers to sow it again on the same ground, as they had planted corn successively in the same fields from the time they raised the first crop of it. They now learned that this was an unprofitable experiment.

The deep snows and long continued winter of 1880-81 was followed by a season of unusually bad roads. The snow did not disappear until the rain and floods of April 15th, that washed away many of the bridges, and the frequent rains that followed prevented the repair of the roads. Their impassable condition was proverbial in the spring and, during the months of September and October, their condition again was such that an empty wagon was about as much as a team could draw back and forth to town. The frequent heavy rains affected unfavorably some of the growing crops and bad roads affected the business interests of the county quite considerably. The season of 1881 in some measure verified the remark of an old Iowa farmer who said "that a dry season always frightens people but it is a wet one that starves them."

Other arrivals in 1881 were Wm. G. Bradley and E. M. Hastings, attorneys, who located at Pocahontas, David Smeaton who started a lumber yard at Fonda, and Henry Goodchild who returned to Powhatan. On Feb. 16 Messrs. Joseph and Louis Fuchs of Cedar township made a shipment of fat cattle, consisting of 86 head, for which they received at Fonda \$4,988, or \$58 a head. On Sept. 15th the second telegraph wire was put upon the poles of the Illinois Central railway at Fonda.

#### FIRST DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

On Aug. 20, 1881, the first democratic county convention was held at Pocahontas under the name of People's Party. It was called to order by T. L. MacVey, who served as chairman,

and J. M. Brown served as secretary. The nominations made were as follows: G. H. Tyler, superintendent of the Blanden farm, for treasurer; Theodore Dunn for auditor; Anthony Huddek for sheriff; Henry Kelly for superintendent of schools; T. L. MacVey for surveyor and John Brown for coroner. A central committee was appointed for the ensuing year.

At their county convention held this year the republicans adopted the following resolution: "Whereas the republicans of the county have for the past four years or longer, nominated candidates without drawing party lines, and the democrats have now organized an opposition party, erroneously styling it the "People's Party," be it resolved by this convention that the call for all future county conventions be based on the republican vote and that we cordially invite to our ranks those of all parties who sincerely desire the welfare of the county and discountenance personal politics."

At the ensuing general election held Oct. 11, 1881, Horatio Pitcher, the republican candidate for the legislature, received only 250 votes while his opponent, S. A. Clemens, a democrat, received 561 votes in this county. This exceptional vote was due to the fact that Pitcher's nomination was the result of a trade whereby Sac and Pocahontas counties were in some measure disfranchised or prevented from having a voice in the representative convention. The qualifications of the candidates did not enter into this contest and it was not affected by the organization of a new party in this county, for there were cast for the state officers that year 561 republican and 242 democratic votes, and all the republican nominees for the county offices were elected.

#### NEW RAILROADS.

The large immigration to northwest Iowa and neighboring territory at this

period gave a new impetus to railroad construction and during 1881, Pocahontas county became a paradise for railroad surveyors. The surveys for five new railways were made across the county and twelve special elections were held in the various townships crossed by them for the purpose of voting a five per cent tax to aid in paying the right of way through them. Each surveying party usually consisted of eight men, two of whom were surveyors. One of these, running the line set the center stakes and the other, measuring the depth of the cuts and height of the grades, set the others.

#### TOLEDO & NORTH WESTERN R. R.

In December 1880, the surveyors of the Toledo & Northwestern R. R., a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern system, passed through this county, entering it on section 1, Clinton township, and leaving it on section 19, Swan Lake. On April 12-13, 1881, E. C. Ebersole, their attorney, secured an appraisal and condemnation of the right-of-way across Clinton, Center, Powhatan, Washington and Swan Lake townships, Sheriff Joseph Mallison having summoned as the jury of appraisers Harvey Knight, O. A. Langworthy, W. E. Garlock, H. L. Norton, J. F. Pattee, and O. A. Pease. Much of the deep snow of the previous winter still remained, and these men made this two-days' trip across the county in a sled drawn by four horses. This road during that year was completed from Toledo to Webster City. On Jan. 5, 1882, the grading was completed to Rolfe Junction and five days later the track was laid to that place. On Jan. 16th the track was laid to Havelock and the first construction train arrived there that day. During the month of March it was extended through Swan Lake township and during that year, to Sioux Rapids.

Louis Carmichael of Tama City had the contract for a considerable portion

of the grading of this road and did all that work in this county. All the track was laid, the bridges built and depots erected by the railway company, the two last under the direction of A. L. Galy of Chicago, superintendent of bridges and buildings. At all the stations fine buildings two stories in height were erected for depots, the upper story being intended as a home for the agent and his family. The plastering of all these upper stories in the depots from Toledo to Hawarden, which includes all of them in this state, was done by Knight Dexter of Toledo, who boarded at the home of John Fraser, a pioneer of Powhatan, while plastering the depot at Rubens, but now at Rolfe. The towns of Rubens, Havelock and Laurens were established along the line of this railroad in this county, and the depots at these places were completed in the month of March, 1882, when freight began to be handled. The trains began to carry mail about the first of May following. H. G. Burt was the first superintendent of the northern Iowa division of this road, and the first ticket agents in this county were as follows: J. B. Miller at Havelock, S. R. Overton at Laurens and T. C. Morbeck at Rubens. At Rubens on section 1, Center township, the railway company erected a depot, section house, stock yards and side track; but after two years, at the request of the citizens of the place, the depot was moved three miles east to its present location in Rolfe. The section house was moved at the same time but the side track and stock yards were left for the convenience of the farmers in that vicinity.

It is worthy of notice that for this railroad, the second one to enter this county, the company received no public aid whatever, either in the form of a land grant from the state or of taxes paid by the townships through which it passed. In 1881 the state of Iowa

received a patent from the General Land Office for lands granted by an Act of Congress approved May 12, 1874, to aid in the construction of a railroad from a junction with the Sioux City and St. Paul railway. This grant included 9,202 acres located in the northern part of Pocahontas county, 3,086 in Humboldt, 1,860 in Palo Alto, 7,902 in Buena Vista, 11,747 in Clay and several thousands of acres in other adjoining counties; but all of these lands were given by the state to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company which did not build a road through this county at that time.

#### DES MOINES & FORT DODGE R. R.

In January, 1881, the Des Moines and Fort Dodge R. R. Co. expressed an intention to extend their line from Tara northward along the valley of the Des Moines river, or that of the west branch of Lizard creek and Pocahontas to some prominent point to be designated later, provided seven townships of this county would vote a special five-per-cent tax as an aid to its construction. This extension would put this county in direct communication with the coal fields of the Des Moines district and, as an inducement to cross it, special elections were held and a tax voted by Center township on Feb. 28, 1881, Swan Lake March 14th, Clinton May 21st and Des Moines May 23d. At the time of the survey in May it was decided the route should extend from Tara to Ruthven, and at their meeting on September 5, 1881, when the board of supervisors levied this tax on Clinton and Des Moines townships, they did not do so on Center and Swan Lake for this railroad. The appraisalment of the right of way in Clinton on Aug. 23d and in Des Moines and Powhatan townships on Oct. 28th was made by a jury summoned by Sheriff Mallison, consisting of Robert Struthers, J. P. Robinson, Geo. H. Ellis, Wm. Jarvis,

C. M. Sayler and O. C. Christopherson. The greater part of the grading in this county was done by Edward London and Messrs. Strong (C. L.) and Mead. The track was laid in this county about June 1, 1882, and the road was completed to Ruthven about July 1st following. The officers of the company were Charles E. Whitehead, president; C. N. Gilmore, superintendent, and Geo. W. Ogilvie, treasurer. J. J. Bruce was their agent to secure the right of way through this county. This company located stations at Gilmore City, Rolfe and Plover and provided them with good depots.

#### DES MOINES & NORTHWESTERN R. R.

The survey of the Des Moines & Northwestern R. R. was completed to Fonda on Aug. 12, 1881, and three days later was continued through Cedar and Dover townships toward Spencer. The grading of this road was done by Edward Agnew who employed C. Wolcot as his office clerk in Fonda. When the graders on Oct. 2, 1881, reached the limits of the Illinois Central track at Fonda they were ordered to stop by that company. On Jan. 5, 1882, when the track was laid to the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. at Lohrville the latter company stopped the workmen and so wearied their patience by keeping an engine and two cars on the track in approved railroad style that they became discouraged and disbanded. The right of way north of Fonda was appraised on Feb. 7, 1882, by a jury summoned by Sheriff Mallison consisting of Louis Fuchs, G. H. Gottfriedt, Wm. Fitzgerald, D. M. Woodin, John Lemp and G. W. Cox. The grading north of Fonda was continued for several miles by J. H. Ryan, a brother-in-law of the contractor, in the spring of 1882.

On Nov. 28, 1882, when the laying of the track was completed to Fonda, the event was celebrated by a public reception and supper to the workmen in the town hall by the citizens of

Fonda. Wm. Marshall, chairman of the assembly, in his words of welcome expressed the joy and gladness of the people of Fonda at the result achieved by the completion of this new line of railway, connecting the town with the principal coal districts of the state. After supper Thomas Barrett on behalf of the railroad boys among other things said, "Citizens of Fonda: We have reached your town after a long, hard struggle and this is a happy day for us as well as for you. The sun shone upon us and may it continue to shine on you and your fair young city. We are here under the lead of our noble captain, Mr. Sullivan, who has had a hard and a strong pull to pull us all together. You have received us with open arms and open hearts to a most bountiful and enjoyable supper. The citizens of Fonda and their grateful reception will long be remembered by the boys of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific R. R., and on their behalf we thank you for your kind regards on us bestowed." On Dec. 20, 1882 the management of this road provided a special excursion to Des Moines and over forty citizens of Fonda enjoyed the trip.

Previous to the time this road was completed, the price of a car to Chicago from Sioux City was \$40, but from Fonda, which was 100 miles nearer but had no railway competition, the price was \$70. It is now \$45.

On Aug. 29, 1881, at a special election held in Cedar township by a vote of 71 to 19 the citizens voted a five per cent tax in aid of this road and it was levied on Sept. 7th following, but the road not having been completed to Fonda at the specified time, July 4, 1882, the board of county supervisors on April 6, 1885, declared this tax had thereby been forfeited. At the special election held in Dover township Aug. 30, 1881, the proposition to aid this road by a tax was lost by a vote of 18 to 41.

This road was built by citizens of Des Moines, known as the Des Moines & Northwestern R. R. Co., but when completed it was leased and continued a part of the Wabash system until Oct. 5, 1887, when it was purchased by Gen. G. M. Dodge, owner of the narrow guage line, Des Moines to Boone, and Messrs. J. S. Polk and F. M. Hubbell, under whose management it was called the Des Moines, Northern & Western R. R. In 1891 the track was made a standard guage. On Jan. 1, 1899, the road became a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system and later that year it was extended from Fonda to Spencer; a new depot was built at Fonda north of the Illinois Central railroad and a station was established at Varina.

A track laying machine began to lay this track north of Fonda, at the rate of two miles a day, on Nov. 13th. This machine consisted of a train of nine cars suited for hauling and delivering the cross ties, rails and spikes for a half day's work, accompanied by a gang of sixty workmen, part of whom going before it, quickly put the ties and rails in place for the advance of the train and the others following after it rearranged the ties and securely fastened the rails. This train consisted of an engine, three flats for ties, two for rails, one for spikes, two box cars for the workmen and their tools, and a flat car in front provided with two long horizontal beams, from which eighteen ties were dumped from a small truck on the grading for two lengths of rails at each movement of the machine. This front flat and the five following ones containing the rails and ties were connected on top by a railroad on which moved the little truck that conveyed and dumped the ties. The rails, two at a time, were drawn on rollers located in the center of the flat cars and delivered on trestles provided with similar rollers

on top. It was an interesting sight to witness the quiet, orderly and rapid movement of the men and materials as the work progressed.

#### ST. LOUIS, NEWTON & NORTHWESTERN R. R.

In August, 1881, the engineers of the St. Louis, Newton and Northwestern R. R. Co. surveyed a line from Newton via Tara northwest along the west branch of Lizard creek to Pocahontas, thence five miles due west along the south line of Sherman township, thence southwest across the northwest corner of Grant township, where it was proposed to locate a station, and thence further westward. During that same month five special elections were held to vote aid in the construction of this road. In Lake, Lincoln and Sherman townships the citizens were not in favor of the tax, and a majority of them voted against it, but in Center on Aug. 19th it carried 19 to 5, and in Grant on Aug. 29th it carried 17 to 1. On Sept. 7th following the board of county supervisors levied this tax on these townships, but as the road was not built the tax was forfeited.

#### DUBUQUE & DAKOTA R. R.

In February, 1882, the engineering corps of the Dubuque & Dakota R. R. Co., surveyed a line due west from Hampton to Cherokee and thence to Sioux City. This line crossed Clinton, Center, Sherman and Marshall townships, but the road was not built.

#### BOOM IN LAND.

The effect of these numerous surveys, the building of three new railroads into the county and the establishment along them of five new and promising towns—Rolfe, Havelock, Laurens, Gilmore City and Ployer—had the effect of attracting not merely public attention to this county but a greatly increased immigration and the value of land advanced thirty per cent. During 1881 and 1882 hundreds of thrifty Iowa and Illinois farmers came

and bought lands within this county. To them this county presented many special inducements. Its railroad facilities were excellent, no bonds had ever been issued to embarrass it with debt, it had a new court house and the crops had been abundant. The great crops of 1882 not only brought a liberal reward to the farmers of the entire county, but marked an era in the agricultural products of the county that had not been exceeded in its previous history. The crop of wheat was prolific and of a superior quality; and this was true also of the rye, flax and barley.

In the spring of 1882 the first cheese factory in the county was erected by Geo. Heald on Pilot creek, Clinton township. He kept forty cows, made two cheeses a day, and each was stamped with the day and year on which it was made.

PROHIBITION.

On June 27, 1882, occurred the special election known as the "Amendment Campaign," when there were cast in favor of the constitutional amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, in this county 407 votes, and against it 246; majority in favor of it 161. This was the second time the people of Pocahontas county had declared themselves in favor of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors.

At their meeting held June 6, 1870, the following petition was presented to the board of supervisors:

"To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas county: We, the undersigned citizens, being legal voters in said county, would respectfully ask your honorable body to submit chapter 82 of the Acts of the 13th General Assembly of Iowa (1870), entitled, "An act to provide for the prohibition of the sale of all wine or beer in the counties by a vote of the people."—W. D. McEwen, Owen Bromley and others."

In response to this petition the board of supervisors submitted this question to the decision of the legal voters of the county at the general election held Oct. 11, 1870, with the result that 123 votes were cast in favor of prohibition and only 25 against it. The vote by townships on these two occasions may be seen in the following table:

TOWNSHIP.	FOR.		AGAINST.	
	1870.	1882.	1870.	1882.
Bellville.....	11	19		23
Cedar.....	25	83	22	54
Center.....		27		19
Clinton.....	8	28	2	4
Colfax.....		43		21
Des Moines.....	35	33	1	1
Dover.....	6	26		23
Grant.....	6	23		1
Lake.....		10		12
Lincoln.....		5		17
Lizard.....		7		49
Powhatan.....	32	32		7
Sherman.....		8		3
Swan Lake.....		26		8
Washington.....		37		4
	123 407		25 246	

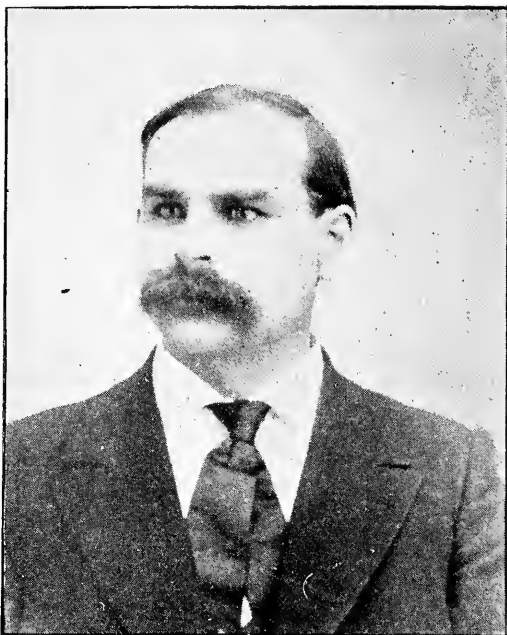
It will be perceived that in 1870 many of the townships were not organized, but Lizard either did not vote upon this measure or the vote was not reported; and in five of the townships, Bellville, Des Moines, Dover, Grant and Powhatan, there was only one opposing vote. In 1882 all of the townships cast a majority in favor of the amendment except four, and the majority in these was as follows: Bellville, 4; Lake, 2; Lincoln, 12; Lizard 42; total, 60. In Marshall no election was held. The majority for prohibition in 1870 was 98 and in 1882, 161.

The county records show 449 votes for and 204 against the amendment. This is due to an erroneous return of the vote in Lizard township as 49 for and 7 against, instead of 7 for and 49 against; as it appeared on the tally sheet.

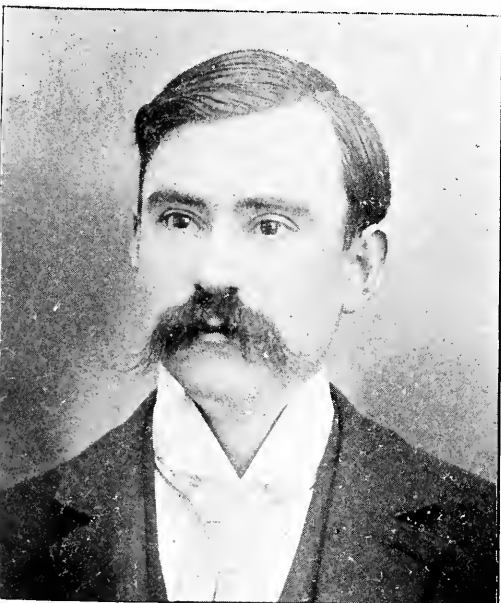
On Jan. 19, 1883, the supreme court of Iowa ruled that the prohibitory amendment was invalid by reason of a clerical omission or error while it was passing through the legislature.



**A. L. SCHULTZ.**  
ROLFE ARGUS, 1894 TO DATE.



**L. E. LANGE.**  
LAURENS SUN, 1885 TO DATE.



**MARION BRUCE.**  
ROLFE REVEILLE, 1895 TO 1898.

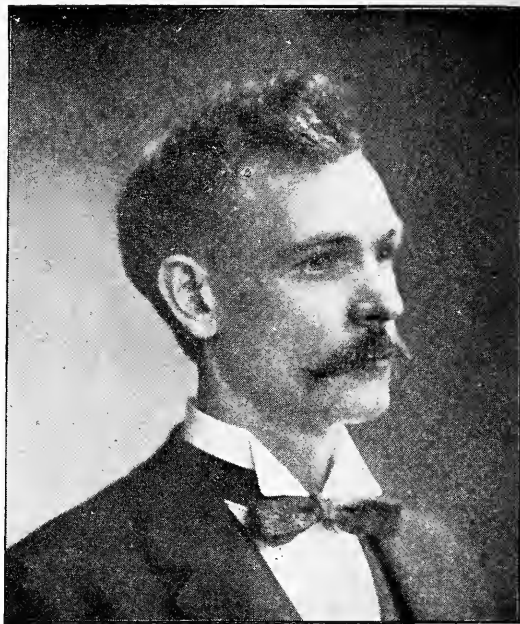


**A. R. THORNTON.**  
ROLFE REVEILLE, 1885 TO DATE.

**EDITORS OF COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.**



W. W. BEAM, M. D.  
ROLFE.



M. F. PATTERSON, M. D.  
DES MOINES.



D. W. EDGAR, M. D.  
FONDA.



C. R. WHITNEY, M. D.  
FONDA.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.



## XI.

**Third Period 1833 to 1899—Period of Growth and Development.**

Pocahontas county indeed is fair;  
 Of streams of water has her share;  
 Is rich in limestone, and her soil  
 Will bless for aye the plowman's toil.

What a lovely prospect everywhere lies  
 Outspread before the farmer's eyes;  
 Truly he has found the beautiful one,  
 The fairest land beneath the sun.



**P**OCAHONTAS county in the year 1883 entered upon an era of growth and development that was followed in 1899 by another year of railroad construction. The year preceding (1882) was an eventful one because in it Marshall, the last of the townships to be organized, sought recognition and was christened "Laurens." The roll of the townships, sixteen in number, was then complete and they were dotted with a galaxy of six thriving railroad towns that clustered around Pocahontas Center, the new county seat. Four railroads had crossed the borders of

the county on the south, north and east, and they afforded splendid railroad facilities in every direction. The laying of these permanent foundations for future development was followed by an era of constant and uninterrupted growth in population, agricultural productions and general, material prosperity, each succeeding year being very much like the one preceding. In 1899 this era was followed by another year in which two more railroads were constructed across the country and two new towns, Varina and Hanson, were established.

In 1883 the public officers were C. H. Tollefsrud, auditor; J. W. Wallace,

clerk of the court; W. D. McEwen, treasurer; A. L. Thornton, recorder; Joseph Mallison, sheriff; J. P. Robinson, superintendent and Wm. Marshall, surveyor. The board of supervisors consisted of J. C. Strong, J. J. Bruce, James Mercer, Wm. Brownlee and Carl Steinbrink.

The Pocahontas Times and Rolfe Reporter, the only newspapers published in the county, were both appointed official papers to do the public printing for the county, the latter having been established at Rolfe during the preceding year.

In 1881 the assessed valuation of Pocahontas county was \$1,700,971; in 1883 it was \$2,104,443, which shows a gain in two years of \$403,472. Eighty schools were in session and the average wages of the teachers was \$27 a month.

The year 1883, by reason of its disasters, passed into history as one of the most calamitous on record. Over 140,000 people, of whom 110,000 were residents of Java, were killed by volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and accidents. On Oct. 15, a fire at Fonda destroyed the Ellis hotel, Times building and others in that vicinity; and that spring one-half the business houses in Newell and Pomeroy were also destroyed by the same element.

During 1883 this section of country flourished splendidly and land advanced rapidly. Its value in Pocahontas and Humboldt counties had doubled during the five years, and throughout the state during the eight years previous. Every town and village was happy in the possession of some enterprising men who led their fellow citizens in laudable efforts to promote the public welfare, and the work of improvement progressed rapidly in the rural districts.

#### STANDARD TIME ADOPTED.

On Nov. 18, 1883, Standard Time, suggested first by Prof. Abbe of the signal service in 1878, was adopted. By this system the American conti-

nent was divided into five time districts, ranging from east to west, each district running north and south across the continent and named respectively, Inter Colonial, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific. Pocahontas county is in the Central district, which includes the territory between the 83d and 102d degrees of west longitude, or from Columbus, Ohio, to the east boundary line of Colorado. The date line is in the vicinity of the 180 meridian, which passes southward through the Pacific Ocean.

1884.

In May, 1884, Gilmore City was platted and in November following the name of Laurens township was changed to Marshall. The M. E. church was built at Rolfe, and at Fonda the McKee brick block, the new Times building and the brick school building.

On April 24, 1884, the Pocahontas Record was established at Pocahontas by Port C. Barron, its present editor. On Dec. 13, 1884, the Fonda Herald was established by E. R. Carroll and edited by T. J. Hagerty, but it was discontinued in February following.

At the general election held this year it was decided to amend the state constitution, and the following changes were effected: (1) The time of holding the general election, which had previously been in October except in presidential elections, was now changed to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (2) The number of grand jurors was reduced from twelve to five, and provision was made for the prosecution of cases without the intervention of the grand jury. (3) The office of district attorney was abolished and that of county attorney established.

A new road law also went into effect that provided for the consolidation of the several districts of a township into one road district, and for the levy of a one-mill tax as a county

road fund.

1885.

The population of the county that on Jan. 1, 1880, numbered 3,713, on Jan. 1, 1885, was 6,154, which showed a gain of 66 per cent in four and one-half years. The immigration to this county in 1885 was above the average.

On June 15, 1885, the Pocahontas County Sun was established at Laurens by L. E. Lange, its present editor.

On May 13, 1885, Alonzo L. Thornton, county recorder, died during his second term in office and his daughter, Miss May E. Thornton, completed it, first by appointment and later by election. She held the office eighteen months and was the first woman, and to this date the only one, to hold a public office in this county.

#### DRAINAGE OF THE COUNTY.

Alonzo L. Thornton was a practical surveyor and maker of maps. Having prepared an excellent map of this county he directed the attention of the people to the importance and feasibility of adopting a general system of drainage. Commencing in January previous to his decease, in order to bring this matter intelligently before the people, he wrote a number of articles for the Pocahontas Record and the Pocahontas Times from which the following outline of his views has been gleaned.

"The general distribution of low land, often covered with water, has given the impression to strangers and superficial observers that this whole region was one vast bog of cold wet land, the difference of level between the slough and the corn land being so slight, that it was not easy to see how the latter could be very good so close to those that were apparently worthless. While the surface water remains upon the low lands it interferes with the drainage of those that are higher because there is no outlet. This fact shows the desirability of a general system of drainage. To lower the general level of the surface water 24 inches would materially advance the market value of all the land. A glance at the map of this county shows

that all the streams in it flow to the south and southeast in nearly direct lines, and divide it into eight long, narrow strips. These streams are the natural outlets of the surface water but at present they take weeks and months to do what should be completed in a few days.

The track of the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. on the bridge over the Little Cedar in Swan Lake township, west of Laurens, is 1,330 feet above tide water, and this is the highest point reached by a railroad in the county. The bridge of the Illinois Central R. R. over the same stream at Fonda is 1237 feet above tide and it is 12 feet higher than the former one above the bed of the stream. These data show that there is a fall of 110 feet in the distance of 20 miles between the two railroads, or an average of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile. The bridge over the Big Cedar, east of Laurens and four miles distant from the former one, is 1,289 feet above tide. This bridge is 41 feet lower than the former one and the bed of the stream is 72 feet higher than at Fonda 18 miles distant, which shows a fall of four feet per mile. The railroad levels in the east part of the county show that four feet per mile is the average fall in the slopes along Beaver and Pilot creeks, and the several branches of the Lizard. According to the levels of the Des Moines Valley R. R., the fall in the Des Moines river from Fort Dodge to Des Moines, a distance of 80 miles, is only 198 feet, an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile; and the fall in the Cedar river from Northwood to Wapello, a distance of 203 miles, is 540 feet, or only a little more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile. The Des Moines and Cedar rivers are both swiftly flowing streams whenever the water is high.

The flow of the water in the smaller streams in this county is impeded by flags, water rushes, cane grass and even the coarser kinds of slough grass that have so invaded their beds as to completely fill them and produce extensive sloughs. That which is needed is a channel sufficiently wide and deep to remove the roots of these vegetable growths and secure a continuous flow of the water. This at first thought may seem a difficult and expensive thing to do, in view of the great width of some of the sloughs thereby giving the impression they are the result of a large flow of water. This is a misapprehension. A ditch

six feet wide at the surface, three feet at the bottom and twenty four to thirty inches deep, cut through the entire length of our prairie creeks will accomplish this result and render valuable for agricultural purposes thousands of acres that are at present comparatively worthless. These drains would form a suitable outlet for the drainage of the slough valleys that are found along the divides between the streams. The measurement of levels indicates that the rise between the streams is nearly uniform and ranges from 7 to 10 feet a mile, or nearly double that of the slopes along the streams. The crest of each divide is generally much nearer the stream on its western side and in consequence more slough valleys or undeveloped streams are found on their eastern slopes and they vary from less than one to four miles in length. Many of these slough valleys need a ditch of the same size as the main channels of the streams and they should be constructed before anything like a general system of drainage can be effected. Since they are also public waterways they should be inserted by the county as a general improvement for the public good.

Such a system of drainage would provide an outlet but leave the drainage of the present tillable lands to private enterprise. The effect of it would be beyond computation. It would remove the greatest cause of discouragement to the farmer, especially the uncertainty of crops in wet seasons; it would greatly increase the productiveness of the soil and we would find ourselves at one bound in the front rank as an agricultural county. We would realize that the goose that lays the golden egg for Pocahontas county is "Drainage."

Such a ditch can be inserted by a double ditching plow at an average rate of 100 rods a day or two miles each week, and at a cost ranging from \$25 to \$50 a mile. The probable extent of the system constructed at the public expense would be as follows:

NAME OF STREAM.	ESTIMATED LENGTH IN MILES.
Little Cedar.....	22
Big Cedar.....	32
East Branch, Cedar.....	9
Outlet of Muskrat Lake.....	9
South branch, Lizard.....	22
West branch, Lizard.....	29
Lizard creek.....	36
Pilot ".....	21

Beaver ".....	13
Two branches Pilot creek.....	10
Total.....	203.

At \$50 a mile the cost of 203 miles would be \$10,150. To this should be added the cost of surveys, outlet drains beyond the county, superintendence and incidentals that cannot well be anticipated, estimated at \$5,000, making a total of \$15,150. Even if it should amount to \$25,000 it would not be a ruinous amount for this county to expend in a permanent improvement so profitable and so beneficial to the people in all parts of the county. Some counties are expending the last named amount for a substantial court house. For this county to erect such a public building at this time would be like putting a fine stove pipe hat on a man whose boots are without heels and toes, and whose feet are getting wet at every step. Better, we say, to wear the old hat and attend to the feet first. Protecting them we promote our own health, the health of our horses, cattle and hogs, and greatly increase the annual yield of hay, oats, wheat and corn. Our soil when freed from surplus surface water is as rich and productive as any the sun shines upon, and I hope to see the day when this county shall not be surpassed in productiveness and value of farms, in beauty and attractiveness of homes, and in the general prosperity and happiness of its people by any spot in this broad land.\*

Two districts in this county, known as Drainage Districts No. I and No. II, have had large drains inserted in them under the direction of the board of county supervisors at the request of the citizens living in their vicinity.

The drain in district No. I is along the course of Crooked creek, the southwest branch of Pilot creek, and extends from the northwest corner of section 2, Center township, southward to section 11, thence southeast to section 16, Clinton township, and thence northwest to a point on the east side of the adjoining section No. 8. The survey and profile of this drain, made by L. C. Thornton, was approved July 21, 1886. This drain is about seven miles in length and was completed by

\*Pocahontas Times, Feb. 5, 1885.

F. M. Gombar and Geo. O. Pinneo of Dover township, Nov. 1, 1888. It cost about \$3,000.

The drain in district No. II is along the course of the Little Cedar in Dover township. It is two and one-third miles long, has a fall of seven feet and is located on sections 18, 19, 20 and 29. Its depth ranges from two to seven feet, its average width at the surface is 10 feet and its cost was about \$2,000. It was constructed in 1894 by Armstead Bros. of Calhoun county.

In 1889 the board of supervisors began to make an equitable allowance for their value to the highways, of tile drains constructed by farmers for the removal of sloughs along them. The first tile drain recognized in this way was the one constructed by Wm. Marshall on sections 27 and 33, Cedar township.

The survey for the two large drains in Williams township was made in the fall of 1885 and they were constructed in 1887 with a large dredging machine at a cost of \$20,000. In many places they are 16 feet wide and 7 feet deep.

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY ORGANIZED.

The democratic party in Pocahontas county was regularly organized during the year 1885 under the leadership of Thos. L. Kelleher, M. D., L. E. Lange, D. W. Edgar, M. D., and F. E. Beers, who perceived that at the previous general election forty per cent of the voters of the county voted the democratic ticket, there having been 775 votes for Blaine and 494 for Cleveland. F. E. Beers of Lake township was appointed chairman of the central committee for this county and in response to his call a democratic county convention was held at Pocahontas Aug. 15, 1885, when Thos. L. Kelleher, D. D. Day and M. T. Collins were appointed delegates to the democratic state convention held at Cedar Rapids, and B. McCartan, D. D. Day and J. W. O'Brien delegates to the representative convention held at Pomeroy

on Oct. 2d that year, when Thos. L. Kelleher received the nomination for representative from the 78th district composed of Pocahontas and Calhoun counties.

On Sept. 7, 1885, a second convention was held that year at Pocahontas and the following persons were nominated for the county offices: For auditor, T. F. McCartan; treasurer, Carl Steinbrink; recorder, to fill vacancy, F. E. Beers; sheriff, C. H. Hutchins; superintendent, Frank Deklotz; surveyor, Wm. Marshall; and coroner, D. W. Edgar, M. D. At this convention F. E. Beers served as chairman and Amandus Ziemann as secretary.

The call for both of these conventions was addressed to all who had supported or intended to support in good faith the platform and nominees of the democratic party, and the basis of representation was one delegate from each township in the county and one additional delegate for every ten votes cast in 1884 for J. E. Henriques, democratic candidate for auditor of state. At the latter convention Thos. L. Kelleher, J. W. O'Brien and T. J. Calligan were elected a county central committee, and the following persons were appointed chairmen of the township committees: Bellville, H. W. Behrens; Center, John Stelpflug; Clinton, J. T. Hagan; Dover, M. J. Lynch; Lizard, M. T. Collins; Marshall, A. McLain; Grant, Henry Russell; Cedar, William Bott; Colfax, David Spielman; Lincoln, John Stegge; Lake, F. E. Beers; Swan Lake, J. L. Hopkins; Sherman, J. W. Carson; Powhatan, Wm. Baker; Washington, M. E. O'Brien.

#### PEOPLE'S PARTY CONVENTIONS.

During the years 1881 '82, '83 and '84 county nominating conventions were held under the name of the People's Party that were usually convened by Wm. Snell of Cedar township. This was a local opposition

party composed mainly of democrats and independent republicans, who did not care to support the nominees of the republican party and had no direct connection with, or representation in the democratic state and representative conventions.

An account of the first People's Party convention held in 1881 has already been given. At the People's Party convention held at Pocahontas Sept. 2, 1882, at which W. H. Hait served as chairman and D. W. Hunt secretary, M. Crahan was re-nominated for recorder and W. H. Hait was nominated for clerk of the court.

On Sept. 8, 1883, the People's party held a convention at Pocahontas and placed in nomination the following persons for the county offices: For auditor, T. F. McCartan; treasurer, Wm. Brownlee; sheriff, S. H. Gill; surveyor, C. P. Leithead; superintendent, W. F. Bowman.

On the same day and at the same place the democrats held a convention and appointed five delegates to represent this county in the democratic representative convention for the 78th district at Fonda Sept. 8, following, when L. T. Danforth of Lake City was nominated. This was the only county convention held by the democrats this year.

On Oct. 18, 1884, the People's Party held their last convention at Pocahontas previous to the organization of the democratic party. John Fraser served as chairman and S. P. Thomas as secretary. The nominations made were those of Amandus Zieman for recorder and Walter P. Ford for clerk of the court.

Wm Brownlee, nominated for county treasurer in 1883, was the only successful candidate nominated by the People's party during the years 1881 to 1884.

1886.

The year, 1886, was noted for the unusual number of labor strikes that

occurred throughout this country. During the five years preceding, commencing with 1881, they numbered each year respectively, 471, 454, 478, 443 and 645; but in 1886 there were 1,412, and they involved 9,893 business concerns. During the six years named they caused a loss of \$51,815,165. Of these strikes 42 per cent were caused by demands on the part of the laboring men for an increase of wages and 19 per cent for a reduction of the hours of labor.

The area of public lands disposed of in 1886 was 20,974,134 acres, one million more than in 1885 but six millions less than in 1884 when more than eleven millions were disposed of in Dakota alone. The amount of public lands disposed of during the five years preceding was 100,974,134 acres, an area equal to four states like Kentucky, three like Iowa, more than Great Britain and Ireland, or three-fourths of France or Germany.

In 1886 the Iowa and Minnesota telephone line was established between Fonda, Pomeroy, Manson, Pocahontas and Rockwell City with central office at Pomeroy. The steel harvesting machine of William Deering was introduced.

The year 1886 was one of severe drought throughout the northwest and the weather from July 1st to 7th was the hottest ever known. In some places in Dakota the hot waves swept over the fields, blighting the wheat, shriveling the corn and other crops, and for awhile great uneasiness was felt as to the result. Another intensely hot period was experienced from Aug. 20-26, when many ponds and lakes in this county became dry for the first time in many years; yet this was the year in which Iowa became the greatest corn producing state in the union.

The crops, wherever well cultivated, were excellent and never before was

there so general realization of the fine opportunities presented by this section of the country. Here was an opportunity for production on cheap, fertile and convenient lands; an opportunity for remunerative labor to all who would engage in the development of a new and great country. These opportunities brought to this section the sturdiest and most intelligent of the agriculturists of the states further east and they constituted a broad and sure foundation on which to build prosperity. The fact that the area of desirable lands available for settlement in other portions of the west had been greatly reduced served to stimulate the movement of population to this section. Even the misfortunes of large communities in the east and the stringency felt there in all kinds of industries were also considerations that encouraged immigration to this section.

These and similar impulses were so strong that it was difficult to find a place in any village or even on the prairie where their influence was not felt. A knowledge of the industrial relations of the country and an acquaintance with the resources of this northwestern section were all that was necessary to demonstrate its destiny. Its wonderful productiveness and certainty of good crops even in the time of drought concentrated upon it more than ever before the attention of a new class, the capitalists. In the previous history of the other new sections of this country men of liberal means waited until its development was an accomplished fact but here they came in anticipation of its development. The copious inflow of money from many directions marked a new era, for it was the evidence of faith in its destiny and every dollar meant quickened activity.

#### CORN RECORD.

In the fall of 1886, in order to obtain correct data in regard to the pro-

ductive power of the soil of this county Port C. Barron, editor of the Pochontas Record, offered two prizes of \$15 and \$10, respectively, for the best samples of corn raised on five acres of ground. The first prize was won by R. C. Jones of Havelock, who gathered 315 bushels from five acres, an average of 63 bushels to the acre. This was planted May 11-12th. The second prize was accorded Thomas L. Dean of Lincoln township who on fall plowing raised 312½ bushels or 62½ bushels to the acre. Others that reported were E. S. Norton, Grant township, 300 bushels from 5 acres, averaging 60 bushels; B. C. Boyesen, Sherman township, 234 bushels, 39 to the acre; Frank J. Sinek, Center township, 346 bushels from ten acres; and F. DeKlotz, Center, one field of 55 acres that in 1884 on breaking yielded an average of 30 bushels, in 1885 50 bushels and in 1886 33 bushels to the acre.

1887.

The year, 1887, was one of unusual activity in railway construction, the amount being 12,714 miles against 3,608 miles in 1885. This unusual activity in railway construction throughout this country exerted a potent influence on its financial and industrial condition. The construction of these new railroads furnished special employment to a large army of men and so increased the mileage of the railway systems that their maintenance and management gave permanent employment to 65,000 additional workmen.

The impulse of this general activity was felt in this county. Under the leadership of Geo. Fairburn who was then serving as mayor, the principal streets of Fonda were graded and covered with gravel, eighty cars, from Cherokee; the town was platted for drainage and sewerage and a main sewer constructed from Main street to Cedar creek; and provision was made for lighting the streets at night by the

erection of a set of street lamps at the corners of the principal ones. These improvements marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Fonda and the leading town of Pocahontas county began to have the appearance of a city. The Fonda creamery, that had been closed for a year, was reopened by Ed. L. Beard in May and the Presbyterian church was completed in October.

During 1887 an effort was made to obtain some facts in regard to the amount and value of the railroad business of this county. The data given herewith were obtained from the agents of the several stations in this county by the Fonda Town Lot Co.

During the year 1886 the shipments in car load lots at Fonda were as follows:

	ILL. C.	WABASH
Hay.....	69	480
Oats.....	46	144
Hogs.....	39	96
Flax.....	2	25
Cattle.....	19	24
Corn.....		14
Barley.....	2	8
Wheat.....	16	
Straw.....	1	
Lumber.....	2	
Emigrant goods.....	1	
Sundries.....	54	58
Total.....	251	849
Received	440	260
Totals	691	1,109

This shows that in 1886 there were forwarded from Fonda 1,100, and received 700, making 1,800 carloads.

On March 1, 1888, it was found that the carload shipments at Fonda for the five months preceding that date were as follows:

	ILL. CENT.		WABASH	
	Forw'd	Rec'd	Forw'd	Rec'd
October	34	57	152	96
November	31	31	177	135
December	55	25	128	162

January	65	32	86	105
February	127	39	100	103
	312	184	643	601

Whole number forwarded 955, received 785, total 1,740 carloads. During the last three months of this period cars were not available to do all the work as they were needed. If they had been available the aggregate would have been considerably larger.\*

It will be perceived that the shipping done during these five months lacked only 60 cars of being as great as during twelve in 1886.

Two months later the following statistics of the railroad business at Fonda and the neighboring towns on the Illinois Central R. R. were obtained for the six months of October, November and December, 1887, and January, February and March, 1888.

	Rec'd	For'd	Way Fr't	Total
Manson	365	709	74	1148
Pomeroy	346	359	33	738
Newell	306	503	72	881
Storm L.	407	446	95	948
Fonda	397	980	256	1633

In the above figures of the Fonda stations, the Wabash cars are reduced to those of standard size and the way freight of all stations to cars of ten tons each.†

The publication of these statistics was a surprise, both to the railway officials who perceived the importance of Fonda as a shipping station, and to the leading citizens of the neighboring towns, who did not appreciate the fact that Fonda with her population of only 600, was so far in the lead of her neighbors from this business standpoint.

The amount of shipping done at the several towns in this county during the same period of six months from Oct. 1, 1887, to March 31, 1888, was found to be as follows:

\*Times, March 1, 1888.  
†Times, May 21, 1888.



Plover.....	598
Gilmore City*.....	600
Havelock.....	1234
Laurens*.....	1250
Rolfe.....	1362
Fonda.....	1633
Total.....	6,677.†

It may be fairly estimated that one third of the number of cars handled at Pomeroy and Manson, 629, are for Pocahontas county, and if these be added to the above they make the number of carloads of shipping for Pocahontas county in six months 7,306, and for that year about 12,000 to 14,000 cars. A reasonable estimate of the value of the shipping for this county for the six months above enumerated would be \$1,000,000. At that date, which was only seventeen years from the time of the first settlements in the western half of it, only about one-half of the tillable land of this county was occupied or under cultivation. To the man seeking a profitable farm or a good business location this county then as now presented many unusual inducements.

The year of 1838 opened with a severe blizzard on Jan. 12-13, that prevailed generally throughout the north-western states, and in Dakota caused the loss of a number of children returning from school.

The season was a good one for flax and many farmers in this section realized from this crop alone a sufficient amount of money to pay for the original cost of the land on which it was sown. Henry Hout, southeast of Fonda bought that spring 80 acres of land for \$800 and, putting 75 acres of it in flax, threshed therefrom 800 bushels for which, at \$1.10 a bushel, he received \$880, or \$130 more than the cost of the land. His neighbor, Adin, at the same time threshed 650 bushels of flax from 60 acres of newly broken prairie and received \$615, or \$115 more

than the cost of the land.

The hay and other crops were excellent and Pocahontas county made more substantial growth than during any of the previous years. The new settlers were good farmers who came to found homes and join with their predecessors in the general improvement of the county. Thousands of acres of beautiful prairie sod were turned for the first time in this county and many new houses were erected in every direction.

In Rolfe the Presbyterian church was built and also the business house of Crahan and McGrath, the first one of brick in that city.

During the following winter there prevailed to an unusual extent in Cedar, Colfax and Grant townships, certain contagious diseases, such as measles, scarlet rash and diphtheria, and several children died from them.

On May 4, 1887, Arbor Day was observed at Fonda and 125 shade trees were planted on the school grounds, Miss Anna E. Brown serving as principal. This was the first year that Arbor Day was observed in Iowa, and it was done at the recommendation of the state superintendent for the purpose of attracting public attention to the law of 1882 which provides that, "the board of directors of each township and independent district shall cause to be set out and properly protected twelve or more shade trees on each school house site belonging to the district, where such number of trees are not now growing, and defray the expenses of the same from the contingent fund."

In June, 1887, Aggie Garlock of Rolfe had the honor of being the first in the county to receive the certificate for having passed a final examination with a standing of 90 per cent, on completing the eight years course of study according to the classification register adopted Nov. 9, 1886, by the board of supervisors for the district schools of

\*Estimated.

†Pocahontas Record, Jan. 24, 1899

the county.

On Jan. 26, 1887, the surveyors of the Sioux City and Northeastern R. R. Co., reached Pocahontas, having entered the county on section 30 of Dover township. In April following, this survey was completed from Sioux City to Belmont via Kingsley, Alta, Pocahontas and Rolfe. On June 7th following a special election was held in Clinton township and a tax of five mills in aid of this railroad was approved by a vote of 91 to 54. On June 28th a similar proposition was lost in Dover by a vote of 41 to 55, but at a second election held Aug. 30th following, this decision was reversed by a vote of 56 to 39. On July 5th Center signified approval by a vote of 50 to 43. On Sept. 13th, Lincoln approved a tax of 2½ mills by a vote of 23 to 6. This road, however, was not built.

In October, 1887, another route, known as the St. Paul and Council Bluffs R. R., was surveyed across this county. This line passed southwesterly eighty rods east of Plover, three-fourths of a mile west of Pocahontas and a short distance east of Fonda.

The practice of dehorning cattle was introduced in February, 1887, as a result of the experiments made by Prof. Henry of the Wisconsin experiment station.

1888.

On July 5, 1888, the Reveille was established at Rolfe by Messrs. J. J. Bruce and J. H. Lighter and that town had then two weekly newspapers.

At the general election held in 1888 the question of restraining stock was for the last time submitted to the voters of this county by order of the board of supervisors. For a number of years the "herd law" compelling everyone to herd or keep his cattle within an enclosure had been in force. The object of this submission was to see if the people desired a change. For the herd law there were cast 1510 votes and against it 142. Lizard township

cast only 38 for and 61 against it, but it was the only township that cast a majority against it.

#### NURSERY OF D. C. WILLIAMS.

On May 7, 1888, occurred the death of D. C. Williams of Washington township, his wife having died the year previous. Mr. Williams was not one of the public officers of this county but, as a practical and successful nurseryman, proved himself a public benefactor by the establishment in 1881 of the nurseries in Washington township for the special benefit of the people who were settling in this new and treeless section of country. Inasmuch as his own farm was unbroken and therefore unsuited for immediate use, he leased in 1881 a plot of cultivated ground from J. C. Strong on section 32. Later he planted similar plots on his own, now known as the Edwards farm, and on that of his son, Frank Williams on section 19, now owned by John Ryon. At the time of his death he had about thirty acres on which the young trees were growing as vigorously as any seen anywhere. The different varieties, planted each by itself, showed their natural shapes and habits of growth. Not every variety planted did equally well; some that were supposed to be hardy proved to be unsuited to this climate while others were unaffected by the cold of winter or the heat of summer. His few years of experience as the first nurseryman in this county showed that whilst it was of little use to send south or very far east for trees to plant in this section, yet success in raising apple trees was not more doubtful than the effort to raise maples, ash or butternuts; also that trees lifted in the fall, shipped and heeled in over winter do better in this latitude than those lifted in the spring. After the decease of Mr. Williams the nurseries were converted into orchards and crops of beautiful fruit ranging from 100 to 300 bushels, have been gathered

from the trees planted by him as the years have passed.

1889.

In 1889 the Presbyterian and Catholic churches at Gilmore City were built, also the Presbyterian church at Plover and the Methodist church at Havelock.

At 9 a. m. April 30, 1889 the church bells all over the country rang to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as president of the United States. This day was further observed at Fonda as arbor day and two special trees were planted on the school grounds in memory of Washington and LaFayette, after the public exercises of the occasion.

This was also the first observance of "flag day," when our national flag was unfurled from our school houses, or poles erected in front of them for that purpose. This beautiful emblem, unfurled before the young in our public schools, becomes to them a constant lesson in patriotism the good influence of which cannot be measured. Symbolizing by its colors the principles of love, liberty and loyalty and by its stars and stripes the union of all the states, it stands as a whole for the supremacy of law and order without which the union itself would be in constant jeopardy.

"Give it free to the wind  
As a warning and call;  
It stands for humanity, God and  
the right;  
It proclaims all equal in law and  
God's sight.  
Fling it out on the wind  
A source of joy to all."

FARMERS' ALLIANCES.

On March 1, 1887, W. H. Burnett of Cedar, and Geo. Watts of Dover, through the columns of the Pocahontas Times, issued a call for a meeting of the farmers of Pocahontas county at the Pinneo schoolhouse in Dover

township—now Varina—on the evening of March 8th following for the purpose of organizing a farmers' mutual insurance company. In response to this call on March 22, 1887, a meeting of the farmers in the vicinity was held in schoolhouse No. 3, Cedar township, and a farmers' mutual insurance company was organized by the election of Geo. Watts president and treasurer, R. Wright of Cedar secretary, and the following persons as directors for one year, namely, W. H. Burnett, S. P. Lampman, Geo. O. Pinneo and C. A. Sayre. The object of this organization was to provide a cheap and reliable insurance against fire and lightning. A farmer became a member of the company by paying a membership fee of \$1.00 and five cents additional for each \$1.00 of risk taken on his property. The president and secretary of this organization called a meeting to be held at the court house on June 24, 1887, but no further progress was made at this time.

On July 21, 1888, the Powhatan township farmers' alliance was organized by the election of John Fraser president, James Henderson vice president, P. G. Hess secretary and Mrs. J. Stronzel treasurer. On April 6, 1889, the Farmers' Alliance at Rolfe, No. 882, of which P. H. Bendixon was president and J. J. Bruce secretary, issued a call for a county convention to be held at Pocahontas May 27, 1889, for the purpose of organizing a county alliance. At this convention there were present delegates from Bellville, Cedar, Colfax, Dover, Grant, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, Rolfe and Runyan (Washington) local alliances. After a picnic dinner in the grove the convention was called to order by P. H. Bendixon. C. M. Saylor of Lincoln was chosen chairman and M. W. Linnan of Dover secretary of the convention.

At this meeting it was decided to organize a Farmers' Mutual Insurance

Company to consist of all the local alliances in the county, each of which should be represented by its president and secretary and one additional representative for every ten members thereof. A constitution was adopted that provided for the annual meeting to be held in the month of June and June 29, 1889, was designated for the first meeting.

The object of this organization was declared to be to unite the farmers of Pocahontas county for the promotion of their interests, socially and financially, regardless of party; and to oppose all forms of monopoly as being detrimental to the best interests of the public. Whilst it was not a political organization they pledged themselves to support for the legislature only those men who would best represent the farmers' interests in that body. They adopted this resolution: "That we favor the calling of a convention for the nomination of county officers based upon the whole vote of the county rather than submit to the dictation of a few." The officers elected were William Brownlee of Bellville, president, R. N. McCombs vice president, M. W. Linnan, secretary, Wm. Bott, treasurer.

At the first annual meeting held at Pocahontas June 29, 1889, there were present about twenty-five delegates, who represented twelve township alliances. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Wm. Brownlee, president; R. N. McCombs, vice president; M. W. Linnan, secretary, and Wm. Bott, treasurer. Messrs. John A. Crummer, W. F. Atkinson and J. A. Ryon were appointed delegates to the annual meeting of the state alliance at Des Moines in September following. The propriety of buying supplies at wholesale, the appointment of a county purchasing agent and the development of a county mutual insurance company were discussed but no further progress was

made at this time.

At the next annual meeting held at Pocahontas March 26th, 1890, C. M. Saylor was chosen president, J. J. Bruce secretary and George Watts treasurer. Geo. Henderson, C. M. Sayley, J. J. Bruce, Geo. Watts, P. J. Shaw, Wm. Brownlee, Alex. Peterson, J. W. O'Brien, W. F. Atkinson and James Clancy incorporated under the laws of Iowa and the officers were authorized to solicit memberships. After several months spent in this work, the oft-expressed wish of the farmers of this county was realized and the Pocahontas Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Association, on Jan. 1, 1891, issued its first policy to its presiding officer, C. M. Saylor of Lincoln township.

The farmers at this period did so much fencing and thereby made necessary the grading of new highways to such an extent that at the request of the board of supervisors in 1889, the people voted an extra two mill tax for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892 for grading purposes.

1890.

In January, 1890, the La Grippe or Russian influenza as a general epidemic spread over this country and nearly everybody was more or less seriously affected by it. During the drought that prevailed in midsummer many of the shallow wells failed and in meeting the demand for deeper ones the drill began to be used in place of the well auger. This proved to be the first of a continuous period of five years of drought that was most seriously felt in 1894.

The census of 1890 was taken by the following enumerators: Capt. Joseph Mallison, Cedar and Fonda; N. M. Nelson, Bellville and Lizard; J. W. Wallace, Center and Sherman; Mrs. Kate H. Melson, Clinton and Rolfe; Mrs. Jennie Sanquist (now Mrs. Ed. Hogan), Colfax and Grant; J. S. Smith, Des Moines and Powhatan; Frank A.

Thompson, Dover and Marshall; Ed. G. Fargo, Lake and Lincoln; and Benjamin E. Allen, Laurens, Swan Lake and Washington. According to their enumeration this county then had a population of 9,553 persons, which showed a gain of 5,840 in ten years.

#### CROPS OF 1890.

The year of 1890 was another one of great material growth and many new farm buildings were erected in every direction. The following items show the excellent character of the crops raised that year in this section. In Lizard township Wm. Stinson raised 1,200 bushels of oats from 20 acres, an average of 60 bushels to the acre; Michael Walsh raised 5,000 bushels of oats that averaged 50 bushels, and his corn averaged 60 bushels to the acre; John Masterson, on the farm of Charles Kenning, in 1889 had an average of 50 bushels of corn from 115 acres and of oats 40 bushels; in 1890 his oats averaged 30 bushels and his corn 60 bushels. The rental for the land was \$1.50 an acre. In Bellville, 150 acres of corn on the Blanden farm averaged 65 bushels to the acre. In Grant, H. C. Tollefsrude threshed an average of 15 bushels of flax to the acre where the sod had been turned in an old pasture of 16 acres. In Lincoln, Wm. Boog in 1889 bought 50 acres of land for \$10 an acre, broke and sowed it in flax and it brought him \$13 an acre; in 1890 a crop of oats was raised on the same land and it brought more money than the flax crop of the previous year. In Lake, Gerd Elsen in 1890 raised 4,000 bushels of corn from 100 acres, his oats yielded 45 bushels to the acre, flax 10 bushels and potatoes 50 bushels. His farm of 530 acres bought a few years previous for \$6.50 and \$12 an acre had been improved with a good farm house and three good barns, and it was then estimated to be worth \$24 an acre, an advance in price that showed as a reward for his investment and labor upon it in ten years to be \$12,130

independent of the annual income from the crops and stock.

#### GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

On March 22, 1890, the Big Four District Fair Association was organized at Fonda and held its first exhibition that fall. On June 12th Laurens, as an incorporated town, held its first election of officers, a new and large school building having been erected the previous year. R. F. Beswick, having purchased the Fonda creamery and provided it with a separator, a new Scandinavian invention, started it anew and established another one in Williams township. The first buildings were erected on the county farm in Grant township that had been purchased the previous year; and to the court house were added two fire proof vaults and a jail. These vaults and jail were built by Joseph Mikesh and cost \$3,400.

In 1879 there was a criminal conviction in this county, and this circumstance led to the observation that until that date there had not yet been a criminal sent from Pocahontas county to the penitentiary. The arrest of a criminal in this county was a very rare occurrence, and in such cases the persons arrested were taken to the jails of the neighboring counties, especially Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Sac City and Storm Lake. As the number of criminal arrests increased with the great increase of population during the eighties, in 1890 the sentiment prevailed that Pocahontas county should also have a jail of its own.

#### COUNTY FARM.

As early as Jan. 8, 1884, the board of supervisors passed a resolution to buy a county farm of not less than 160 acres of land at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 and located within four miles of Pocahontas, and authorized the auditor to solicit bids therefor until their next meeting. Two years later the farm of Peter Peterson was rented by

the board and, N. B. Post being employed to prepare the specifications for a county poor house, bids were solicited therefor; but on June 8th 1888 the erection of a building was indefinitely postponed. Nothing further seems to have been done until April 3, 1889, when A. W. McEwen, Swan Nelson and Wm. Fitzgerald were appointed a committee to select and ascertain the price of a suitable farm for the use of the county. On May 11th following, on their recommendation it was decided to purchase the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  and e $\frac{1}{2}$  nw $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 4, Grant township, containing 262 acres for \$2,850. The house, barn and other outbuildings on this farm were erected in 1890 by Thomas L. Dean, contractor and builder, and it was rented that year to Charles J. Carlson of Center township upon the condition that he should pay a rent of \$240 a year for the farm and take proper care of all persons sent to it by the board, at the rate of \$2.40 a week. After two years he was succeeded by Charles Kezer, who continued in charge of it until the completion of the asylum Jan. 5, 1899, a period of six years, when he was succeeded by Wm. A. Elliott the present incumbent, who has charge also of the asylum. The latter was built in 1898 at a cost of \$4,500. It is 60x32 feet, two stories in height and has 41 rooms. All the incurables supported at that time by the county at the state asylum in Independence were brought here in January, 1899.

At the time Thomas L. Dean was building the house on the county farm he was justice of the peace for Lincoln township, and while he was busy at work just after the building was enclosed, he was called upon by a couple of young Swedes. On learning that the object of their errand was to be married, he courteously invited them to alight and have the ceremony performed in the new building. Not wishing to have it said "they were mar-

ried in a poorhouse," they persistently refused all his entreaties and the matrimonial knot was tied while they sat complacently in their buggy.

This happy couple fared better than the one that appeared before Judge Lot Thomas at Pocahontas a short time previous with an application for a divorce, and he denied the request of the wife on the very grounds she had pleaded, to the effect, "that while the throwing of spittoons and dishes at each other was rather unpleasant, still he did not consider it sufficient grounds for a divorce."

1891.

On January 1, 1891, the Pocahontas County Mutual Fire and Lightning Association issued its first policy, and on June 21st the Methodist church of Havelock was dedicated.

On Feb. 3d the Rolfe Argus, a democratic paper, was established at Rolfe by Lawrence J. Anderson, who continued its publication until Nov. 1, 1892, when he sold it to J. A. Faith. In March, 1893, this paper was bought by M. Crahan and it was edited by Wm. Porter until April 4, 1894 and by A. L. Shultz to Dec. 1, 1898, when the outfit was sold to parties outside the county and the subscription list transferred to J. H. Lighter, editor and proprietor of the Rolfe semi-weekly Tribune.

In 1891 the farmers were favored with beautiful weather, fine crops and good prices.

Joseph Fuchs of Cedar township in July, 1891, sold Matt Foley five cars of fat steers for \$5,546, or \$59 a head, and his brother, Louie Fuchs, on the same day also sold him 65 head for \$5,665, or more than \$87 a head, the two lots amounting to \$11,211. When these two brothers arrived at Fonda in 1870 they did not have money enough to pay for an eighty acre tract of raw prairie and after two months the former, returning to the place from whence they came, worked there as a

farm hand for five more years and sent his earnings to his elder brother Louie to assist in paying for their first purchases of land. The annual sales of cattle by these men have been increasing as the years have passed, so that those of Joseph alone in 1899 amounted to nearly \$18,000.

The Fonda creamery, for the first time in its history, was kept running during the previous winter with the patronage of twenty-eight customers, and another separator was put in it. The receipts of a few of the patrons at this time were as follows: For six months, J. B. Weaver \$203; M. Murphy \$210; S. C. Swink \$221; Patrick Duffield \$253; for eight months, David Spielman \$232 and John Cartlidge \$278.

The iron bridges across the Cedar at Fonda and the Des Moines river near the north line of the county in Des Moines township were built in 1891, by the Iron Bridge company of Canton, Ohio, who had delivered them two years previous to that date. These were the first, and to this date are the only iron bridges built for the use of the public in this county. The steel bridge of the Illinois Central R. R. at Fonda was built in 1890.

#### FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Congress having passed a law and made an appropriation to carry into effect the experiment of establishing free delivery of the mail in twelve small towns, and the Postmaster General having neglected to name a town in Iowa where this experiment might be made, Hon. J. P. Dolliver recommended Fonda; and Fonda enjoyed this luxury from May 1, 1891, to June 30, 1896, a period of five years and two months. During this period the mail of all persons residing within the incorporation and east of the creek was delivered either at their places of business or homes twice a day. Six mail boxes were located on the corners of the streets and from these the mail

was also collected twice a day. During this period the patronage of the Fonda postoffice was greatly increased and the plan was highly appreciated by all except those whose mail consisted largely of drop letters, on each of which they had to pay two cents. F. H. Covey served as mail carrier during nearly all of this period of free delivery and Geo. Sanborn was postmaster.

The demand is now for free rural delivery and during the last two years the growth of this system, according to the report of the Postmaster General, has been remarkable. Within the last two years it is stated, "largely by the aid of the people themselves, who, in appreciation of the helping hand which the government extended to them, have met these advances half way, it has implanted itself so firmly upon postal administration that it can no longer be an experiment, but has to be dealt with as an established agency of progress, awaiting to be determined how rapidly it shall be developed."

Among the advantages accruing from this system he names increased postal receipts, enhancement of the value of farm lands, general improvement of the condition of the roads traversed by the mail carriers, better prices for farm products and the educational benefits conferred by ready access to wholesome literature.

On Dec. 4, 1899, rural free delivery was established in Iowa in the vicinity of Waterloo, Edwin S. Geist having been appointed mail carrier for a route that is 23½ miles in length and serves a population of 504 persons who occupy an area of 26 square miles.

1892.

In 1892 the general health of the country was excellent and the crops were good, yet one million laborers were out of employment. This was a condition of things that to many seemed to be due to the tendency then

manifested to organize new political parties in the interest of particular classes of the people, and those were the first to suffer who became the victims of leaders whose successful leadership meant an unstable standard of money and a fluctuating currency.

In May, 1892, Pocahontas and Havelock held their first elections as incorporated towns. At the general election held that fall the voting was done for the first time in Iowa in accordance with the Australian ballot law, the board of supervisors having appointed the following persons to serve as judges of election in the several townships of this county, viz: Bellville, Geo. Loats; Cedar, Ed O'Donnell; Clinton, C. P. Leithead; Colfax, R. C. Brownell; Des Moines, D. D. Day; Grant, L. J. Lieb; Lake, J. Donahoe; Lizard, M. O'Shea; Marshall, Geo. Thomas; Powhatan, Robert Swan; Sherman, Albert Wolf; Swan Lake, A. B. Ellis; Washington, P. L. Christopher.

In 1892 the Christian church in Laurens was built and the German Lutheran church in the south part of Williams township.

#### GOOD ROADS.

The spring of 1892 was cold and wet. On April 13th there occurred a severe blizzard that left the roads in an awful condition, and during the following month there fell 7.9 inches of rain, more than twice the usual amount, which rendered many of them absolutely impassable with wheeled conveyances. No other topic was so widely discussed as their bad condition, and on May 24th the board of supervisors, unable to get to Pocahontas their usual place of meeting, held a special meeting at Rolfe to consider what might be done for them. Everybody seemed to feel that the excuse the old settler in Arkansaw had given for not fixing the leaky roof of his cabin, because "when it was raining he couldn't fix it and when it was dry

it was good enough," had more of comfort in it than they had previously realized, for it shed a grateful light on the experience of some bad roads; "when they are impassable they can't be worked and when they are dry they are good enough."

A correspondent at Pocahontas in describing the state of things existing at that "beleaguered town on the prairie," when it could no longer be reached by wheel vehicles and they resorted to the use of stone-boats, wrote as follows: "Two more boat loads of flour and groceries arrived in town Saturday, May 14, from Rolfe. Mr. Hronek, our merchant, is doing all he can to supply our wants; he is paying fifty cents per hundred pounds for hauling from Rolfe. The boats are making regular trips to Rolfe and Havelock. The great Northeast line is in command of Capt. Thomas Travis and consists of one iron-clad and two barges, and makes connection with all points east and southeast, north and northwest. The Great Northern line is commanded by Capt. Joseph Mikesh and consists of five barges built on the latest improved plan. No passengers are carried on this line except the pilots or agents of the firm. Close connections are made at the bridges and the ends of the route."\*

The general consensus of opinion expressed at this time was to the effect that the spring of the year was the golden time to repair the roads, and that any plan of repair, that did not provide for the complete and speedy removal of the surface water from their vicinity, did not meet all the requirements of this section.

#### ANTI-MONOPOLY COUNTY ALLIANCE, OR POPULIST PARTY, ORGANIZED.

At a meeting of the farmers and independent voters held at Pocahontas March 28, 1892, delegates were present from Dover, Swan Lake, Washington and Center townships. Under the

\*Times, May 19, 1892.



auspices of Mr. Robinson of Marathon a county anti-monopoly alliance was organized and officers were elected as follows: M. W. Linnan, president; D. Miller, vice president; J. D. Fitzgerald, secretary and treasurer; D. Miller, lecturer; F. M. Starr, chaplain; James Eral, steward.

"The object of this alliance was to direct attention to money, transportation, trusts and combines—questions of vital importance to every farmer. Farmers and laborers are the leading wealth producers of the nation. Industry, frugality and foresight are indispensable conditions of the increase of wealth. The farmer possesses these qualities. Does he have his share of the increase of wealth? The trade and commerce of which we so proudly boast, the great transportation facilities, the great mineral wealth, etc., are valuable because agriculture has called them into being. The farmer and the farm are the basis of every well ordered state, and the first care of such a state will be its agriculture."

At the general election held that fall 210 votes were cast in this county for the national and state candidates of the Populist party. About the same number of votes were cast for J. D. Fitzgerald, J. C. Brubaker and John Barrett, who, at another convention held on Sept. 17th previous had been nominated for the county offices of clerk of the court, recorder and auditor respectively.

1893.

The year 1893 was rendered memorable by the Columbian Exposition or World's Fair at Chicago, May 1st to Nov. 1st. The drought of midsummer throughout the Mississippi valley was so long continued that in the dairy districts it became necessary to feed the cattle upon the pastures, but the wheat, oats and corn were excellent.

On May 2, 1893, the Fonda Big Four Weekly Herald was established at Fonda by Fred Ellis. August 15th

following he sold it to E. E. Fisher and on Nov. 9th (1893) its publication was discontinued.

August 1, 1893, the Havelock Item was established at Havelock as an independent local newspaper by Fred J. Pratt and he continued its publication eight months. April 1, 1894, it was purchased by E. A. Donahoe, and he conducted it until Oct. 11, 1897. U. S. Vance edited it from that date until Oct. 1, 1899, when it was purchased by Charles C Johns, its present editor and proprietor.

In 1893 school directors were elected for the first time for a term of three years, and since that year one-third of their number has been elected each year, instead of the whole number as previously. The township trustees began to serve three years in 1879, and in 1896 the time of their annual meeting was changed from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in November.

#### CYCLONE YEAR.

The year of 1893, has been called the "cyclone year," because so many destructive storms occurred throughout the United States; and, in this respect, it is very vividly remembered by many living in this section, inasmuch as during the months of April, May and July that year, three severe storms passed over small portions of this county.

The first one occurred at 6 o'clock p. m., Tuesday, April 11th. The destructive path of this storm was a quarter of a mile in width and, commencing at a point in Sac county twelve miles south of Fonda, it extended northeast into Colfax and Center townships, crossing the south line of this county midway between Fonda and Pomeroy. In Williams township, Calhoun county, its path was almost identical with that of the similar, but not so destructive storms of 1878 and 1886, when, as on this occasion, the Jackson school house was either lifted

from its foundation or completely destroyed. Twenty persons were injured and one life was lost, the little daughter of John Dilman of Sac county, whose house was destroyed. Others who suffered the loss of buildings and to whose families the injured belonged, were Wm. Garote, Sac county; John Nyreen of Garfield, Chris Bartels, Henry Nagle, Wm. Helmbrecht, Mr. McGuire, E. Sterling, A. J. Pruden, A. Mitchell, O. K. Rocholtz, Garlies Tweddale, Wm. Hutchinson and S. H. Hutchinson of Williams, and C. Kimball, Henry Hout and Joseph Becker of Butler township, Calhoun county; G. W. Ferguson, Charles Johnson, Peter Murphy, Moody & Davy, Elias Dahl and Mrs. Maggie Hoppy of Colfax, Jans Sinek and Frank Zieman of Center township, Pocahontas county. This storm was preceded by a heavy fall of rain for twenty minutes. The underground stone house of John Woods, in the southeast corner of Cedar township, on this occasion proved a safe place of protection to all its inmates; and after the storm it became an hospitable inn to which a number of the injured and homeless in that vicinity were carried and cared for until they got better or a new home had been provided for them.

During the night of Sabbath, May 21, 1893, a severe wind storm, accompanied with rain and hail, passed in a southeasterly direction across portions of Marshall, Sherman, Center and Lincoln townships. Those who sustained the loss of barns and outbuildings were Mr. Errick of Marshall, Frank Stacy, James Eral and Andrew Shades of Sherman, John Shimon, Herman Schmaing, Martin Eral, Mr. Borden and Mrs. Marden (house also) of Center, Wm. Boog, Chas. Travis and Ernest Peterson (house rebuilt after storm of April 11th ult.) of Lincoln township. The Jackson school house in Williams township, Calhoun county, was de-

stroyed, making it the second time it was wrecked by windstorm this spring, and the fourth since its erection in 1874.

After six o'clock on the evening of July 6, 1893, there crossed the southwest corner of this county a storm popularly known as the "Pomeroy cyclone," because its greatest work of destruction was wrought at that town. It destroyed more lives and property than any similar visitation to that date in our western history. At the drama of the world's great fair, then in progress on the shores of Lake Michigan, with its myriad scenes of beauty illustrating "the grandest achievements of man—his industry, energy and the godlike sweep of his majestic intellect that seemed to be asking for other worlds to conquer—all nature appeared to be man's slave, chained by his imperious will and manifesting its power at his bidding; but here nature asserted her despotic omnipotence and in such a way as to cause everyone to feel how puny after all is the arm of man and idle his boasted power."\*

"All nature seemed in calm repose,  
Upon that summer day,  
No thought of dire disaster rose  
Or of danger on its way.  
The fields of gently waving corn  
Dressed in living green,  
Did the brown earth with grace  
adorn,

A sight for any queen.

And then, as evening time drew near  
With faces glad and bright,  
The people supped their tea with  
cheer,

Nor thought of coming fright.  
But look toward the northwest sky!  
See the evil omens come!  
There riseth clouds of blackest dye  
That soon obscure the sun.

And nearer yet with silent tread  
Then lower, lower still,  
Until each heart is filled with dread  
And minds with terror thrill.

That peaceful scene has vanished,  
now

There's hurrying to and fro,  
And many are inquiring how  
They may to safety go.

\*R. M. Wright, at Pomeroy, July 6, 1891.

But ere they find a sure retreat  
 Erom wind and hail and rain,  
 The awful cyclone bursts complete,  
 Protection's sought in vain.  
 In time more brief than can be told  
 It has passed on its way;  
 But what a scene the eyes behold,  
 Left there that summer day.

The homes of Pomeroy low are lain,  
 But sadder far than all,  
 There's kindred dear among the slain  
 The chains of death enthral.  
 What pen can paint that awful sight?  
 What tongue can ever tell  
 The agony of the coming night,  
 The sorrow that befell.

Three scores of people are found dead  
 And others wounded sore,  
 Thus on the wires the message dread  
 Now flew the country o'er.  
 Sympathy filled the hearts of men  
 For such a grief untold,  
 And gifts were offered freely then;  
 May they return a hundred fold.

MOLLIE NIGHT.

The track of this storm was about 1,000 feet in width and 50 miles in length. Commencing at a point three miles northwest of Quimby, Cherokee county, it passed a little south of east, or nearly parallel with the Illinois Central railroad, to a short distance east of Pomeroy, in Calhoun county. That day was a very sultry one and the approach of rain was indicated by a light colored cloud appearing in the west that changed to a darker hue as it slowly rose higher and spread over the entire western horizon. The approach of the terrific windstorm was witnessed first by the people living in the bluffs on the west side of the Little Sioux river, who saw two angry looking clouds approach each other from the northwest and southwest. The convergence of these clouds was witnessed also at Storm Lake and Pomeroy.

At Fonda the sight of light colored, capering clouds originating apparently overhead and moving swiftly westward, driven by a strong east wind into the face of the storm, suggested the probability of a cyclone. About

5:00 p. m. thunder was first heard and it came from the bank of dark clouds in the west. About three-quarters of an hour later the lightning became continuous, the thunder incessant and a rumbling roar was heard somewhat different from the usual sound of distant thunder. At 6:20 there fell a heavy rain lasting ten minutes and accompanied by a slight fall of hail. It was at this time the terrific windstorm passed over the southwest corner of this county a half mile south of Fonda. To persons living southwest of the town who witnessed its approach from a position just south of its course, as it swept across the country from the Hersom school house to Cedar creek, it appeared as a dense black cloud with a greenish tint extending from above close to the ground, heavily charged with electricity and rapidly advancing with a swiftly rolling, surging and awfully destructive movement. It was a fearful sight to behold, for the air was filled with flying debris and the wild roar of the storm was one never to be forgotten. When it had passed, the fearful evidences of its mighty power were seen everywhere along its path. Large trees were broken or uprooted and others, standing alone, were entirely stripped of their bark, leaves and small branches. Houses, together with their inmates, barns and other outbuildings were lifted from their foundations, carried considerable distances, overturned, utterly crushed and their fragments strewed in every direction. Passing through the center of the lake, at Storm Lake, it raised the water to the height of 100 feet.

At Pomeroy, in Calhoun county, a town of 600 inhabitants, it arrived at 7 o'clock p. m. having been preceded by a gentle rain of five minutes. Here its path of total destruction was about 1,200 feet wide and of partial destruction 1,800 feet. In three to five minutes all of the buildings in the south

part of that town, which embraced nine-tenths of all in it, including about one hundred houses, were completely demolished and their fragments were strewn promiscuously in a southeasterly direction. Everything was absolutely flat on the ground—there was not a building nor green tree to be seen, nor the movement of any living thing until after the lapse of several minutes. Even the persons and animals that were not seriously injured were apparently stunned by the electric shock. Intense darkness prevailed for a short time after the tornado that hindered the work of immediate rescue and precluded the possibility of determining to what extent life and property had been injured. It also rained and hailed terribly. The awful suddenness and completeness of the change of a pretty and prosperous town to a desolate waste produced an impression upon the minds of those who witnessed it that will never be forgotten. The loss of human life was appalling. Four days later the death roll in that vicinity contained 48 names, and 105 other persons were receiving treatment in the hospital and homes, temporarily provided for the injured.

In crossing Cherokee and Buena Vista counties the movement of the black, whirling electric storm cloud was observed principally by those who were located south of its course, and it was distinctly seen as far south as Odebolt. Whilst its general course was a straight line it had an undulatory movement, alternately rising and falling, that to some extent was believed to be due to the ascent of high knolls and the obstruction presented by groves of large timber. These seemed to give it an upward tendency that carried it over long stretches of intervening and less elevated country.

The storm, after leaving the city of Storm Lake, where several large buildings were injured, dropped and de-

stroyed the large new barn of Jesse Allee south of Newell that cost \$3,000, the one on the Gilmore farm occupied by Charles Peirie, and all the buildings on the farms of Paul Winter, S. V. Moore, Peter Larson, (Mack farm) and of Mr. Shumway then occupied by a newly married couple.

About one mile west of the line of Pocahontas county the barns of W. I. Lane, A. W. Eno and A. J. Hamilton, and the new and large buildings of John Schlieman were completely destroyed and serious injuries were sustained by Mrs. John Schlieman, three of her children, and by Mr. and Mrs. Schlieman, Sr., John's parents. The buildings of John McDermott were also seriously injured.

In its path across this county, all the buildings were completely destroyed on the farms of E. I. Sargent, occupied by E. A. Shirley, of Samuel T. Hersom, Harry Hersom, on the one occupied by Amos H. Gorton, at the Hersom schoolhouse, of Mrs. Marshall occupied by John Detwiller, and on those of P. B. Shirley, G. W. Ferguson, Moody & Davy occupied by W. I. Webb, of Benjamin Peach and Charles G. Perkins. The barns were destroyed on the farms of J. H. Stafford, Harvey Eaton, Geo. Sanborn (occupied by Jarvis Gates) and James Mercer. At the home of W. J. Busby the windmill was wrested from its moorings and left resting on the roof of the house.

It struck the south line of Pocahontas county first near the old Kephart grove and passing east to the crossing of the D. M. N. & W. railroad commenced a zigzag movement that was continued to Pomeroy. It veered first northeast to the residence of P. B. Shirley, whose grove and buildings were completely destroyed. Here it was joined by a smaller twister and turned south to the county line where the buildings of G. W. Ferguson and Joseph Becker, all rebuilt after the

April storm, and the outbuildings of John Woods were completely destroyed. From that point it passed eastward along the county line, destroying all the buildings on the farms of Moody & Davy (occupied by W. I. Webb) Benjamin Peach and August Weidaurf ("Chichago Johnson" farm). From this place it veered northward and destroyed all the buildings and grove of Charles G. Perkins, thence southeast, destroying the buildings and groves of John Dalton and Mrs. Fuller, thence east making similar havoc of the grove and buildings on the farm of W. D. Parker and residence of Jacob Foster, at the edge of Pomeroy. Here it made a slight circular turn to the southeast across the residence portion and south part of the business blocks of Pomeroy.

Those that were injured in this county were Mrs. John Detwiller, Harry Hersom and two children of Amos H. Gorton.

ROLL OF THE DEAD.

The list of the persons that were killed by this storm or died soon after from injuries received is as follows, the numbers at the right denoting their ages.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

John Detwiller—29, Mrs. Amos H. Gorton—33, Jessie Gorton—11, Jennie Gorton—9.

BUENA VISTA COUNTY.

W. R. Clemons, Bernard Johnson, Jacob Breecher, Miss Breecher, C. N. Totman.

CHEROKEE COUNTY.

Mrs. O. M. Lester, Frank Lord, Mrs. Molyneaux, Frank Johnson, Marion Johnson, Lula Slater, Samuel Burg, wife and four children.

POMEROY AND VICINITY.

Maria Adams—67, Wat Arnold—64, Mrs. Sarah Arnold—66, Mrs. J. F. Anderson—65, Bessie Banks—14, Ray Banks—8, John Beckley's two children, Grover Black—8, Black—in-

fant, E. O. Davy—31, Ben L. Davy—20 Mrs. Katie Davy—18, Ellen Dahlgren—28, Joseph DeMarr—25, Henry Dillmuth—63, Edward Doyle—27, Mrs. N. Fecht—38, Olive Frost—17, Henry Geige—36, Mrs. Henry George—32, August Forche—38, N. S. Hulett—72, Mrs. N. S. Hulett—72, Roy Keifer—18, Lena Keifer—11, Mrs. F. Johnson—25, J. P. Lundgren—58, Ollie Lundgren—12, S. N. Maxwell, Alexander Maxwell—14, Herman Mellor—1, Mrs. B. J. Harlowe—68, August Meyer—17, Henry Neiting—74, Mrs. Neiting—64, J. M. O'Brien—60, Mrs. D. L. O'Brien—24, O'Brien infant, Mrs. Agnes Quinlan—21, Michael Quinlan—1, Silas Rushton—34, Mrs. Silas Rushton—28, Charles Rushton—3, Betsey Talbot—68, Nina Thomas—4, A. J. Wilkinson—65, Mrs. H. Geige—36.

RECAPITULATION.

Pocahontas county.....	4
Enena Vista " .....	5
Cherokee " .....	12
Pomeroy and vicinity.....	49
Total.....	70.

On the night of July 14th the following injured persons were taken from the temporary hospital at Pomeroy to the Samaritan Home and St. Joseph Hospital in Sioux City: J. W. Black, Mrs. J. W. Black, three Black children, Mrs. Andrew G. Blomberg, Evelyn Blomberg, Dina Blomberg Joseph DeMarr, Edward Doyle, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Frank Forche, Arthur Forche, Henry Geige, Jr., Mrs. Henry Geige, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Helen George, Arthur George, George—baby, George Guy, Mrs. George Guy, Addie Guy, Thomas Harmon, Emma Harmon, August Helm, Lottie Helm, Roy Keifer, John Koklantz, Mrs. Koklantz Koklantz—baby, Mrs. A. Lindblad, Mrs. Gus Linder, two Linder children, Mr. Lull, Mrs. S. N. Maxwell, James Mellor, Mrs. James Mellor, Linda Oleson, Jacob Paap, Mrs. Jacob Paap, Jesse Pruden, Michael Quinlan, Mrs. Silas Rushton, Mary Soderstrom, Mr.

Thomas, Mrs. Thomas, Henry Wegraffe, Total, 49. Edward Doyle died as the train arrived at the depot in Sioux City, and Joseph DeMar, Mrs. Geige, Roy Keifer and Mrs. Rushton a few days later. At the end of two months the others had so improved they were able to return to their own homes.

On the day after this storm Governor Boies visited the scene at Pomeroy and issuing a proclamation announcing the greatness and appalling character of the disaster, called upon the citizens of the state to cooperate generously in the work of immediate relief. This relief work was organized by the appointment of the following persons as a relief committee, viz: Mayor M. F. Stadtmueller of Pomeroy, chairman; Mayor C. A. Whittlesey of Manson; Senator Edgar E. Mack of Storm Lake; Messrs. E. C. Stevenson of Rockwell City, J. B. Bollard of Fonda, J. H. Lowrey, Thomas Miller, R. A. Stewart, Ray C. Brownell and C. W. Alexander, of Pomeroy. This committee on Oct. 12, 1893, reported that they had to that date received and disbursed \$69,761, 23.

"Then dawned humanity's bright morn,  
 Gifts and good cheer were speedily borne;  
 And women's hearts were moved to show

Such wealth of love as sisters know."

—ADDIE B. ELLINGTON.

A very beautiful and comforting feature of the ministry of relief was the part rendered by the women of Des Moines. When the appeal of Gov. Boies was read, Mrs. John Wyman, a noble hearted woman of that city, conceived the idea of organizing a circle of ready workers, to go to the scene of the disaster supplied with sewing machines, materials and all necessary accompaniments and thus by their personal knowledge render gifts sent doubly valuable to the needy. 'This thought, born of a desire to

comfort the women of Pomeroy by the presence of a company of women whose hearts and hands were in lively co-operation, came as an inspiration", and in response to an appeal twenty-three women signified their willingness to render service in this way if summoned.

As soon as C. S. Gilmore, superintendent of the Rock Island railroad heard of this project he very promptly placed two cars—a passenger coach and baggage car—at Mrs. Wyman's disposal, together with a sufficient number of cots for sleeping accommodations during their stay at Pomeroy.

They arrived at Pomeroy Tuesday evening, July, 11th, the fifth day after the storm, and, reporting at headquarters for duty they were warmly welcomed by officials and citizens and the freedom of the village was accorded to them. In three days they had accomplished the object of their special errand. Two hours previous to their departure they were unexpectedly called upon and made 37 stretchers to be used that evening in carrying the injured ones to and from the train while making the trip to Sioux City. "This work of love for humanity's sake, bringing out the best that was in their nature, cemented friendships never to be forgotten."

FONDA AND VICINITY.

On the day after the storm the pastor of the Presbyterian church, who was one of the first to arrive at the scene of destruction where John Detwiler lay unconsciously breathing his life away, began to solicit voluntary offerings for the immediate relief of the pressing wants of the sufferers in the vicinity of Fonda. The next day an arrangement was made by the pastors of the Fonda churches for the appointment of a local relief committee to consist of a representative from each congregation and another to be selected by them. The committee thus selected consisted of Hon. James

Mercer who was chosen chairman, Wm. Bott, J. R. Johnson, Ed. O'Donnell and R. F. Beswick who was chosen secretary and treasurer. The report of this committee rendered Aug. 10, 1893, showed that in addition to a car-load of flour from the Pomeroy relief committee and other donations of clothing and provisions it received and disbursed the following amounts of money.

Individual gifts, Fonda and vicinity.....	\$ 618.24
From Rolfe.....	278.52
“ Pocahontas.....	154.50
“ Laurens.....	64.09
“ County Relief Fund.....	1250.00
Total.....	\$2,365.26.

On the day appointed for the appointment of this amount among the sufferers Alex. McEwen, Alex Peterson and F. A. Thompson, members of the board of county supervisors, were present to co-operate with the committee.

The following statement of the relief sent from Rolfe and vicinity was made Aug. 3, 1893:

Rec'd by Mesdames J. Carroll, M. W. Coffin, M. Fawcett, A. Malcolm and S. A. Car- son, solicitors.....	\$139.87
Collection at church.....	204.05
Clothing contributed.....	30.00
From a friend to relatives in Pomeroy.....	129.90
Total.....	\$503.82.

The comparative frequency of tornadoes in different sections of the United States may be seen in the following table prepared by the Signal Service Bureau at Washington in 1884 for the preceding period of ten years.

Connecticut.....	40 per cent.
New York.....	53 “ “
Iowa.....	58 “ “
Georgia.....	62 “ “
New Jersey.....	75 “ “
Missouri.....	77 “ “
Kansas.....	88 “ “
Indiana.....	88 “ “

This exhibit shows that all sections of the country are alike subject to them and that the percentage in Iowa is much lower than in many other states. The two most destructive storms in Iowa were those at Grinnell in 1882 and at Pomeroy in 1893, but the loss of life and property, appalling as it was, is comparatively insignificant to the awful wreck at St. Louis, the great metropolis of Missouri, when it was visited by the storm of May 27, 1896, and fully 500 persons perished including fifty school children at Drake, Illinois.

If one hundred men were asked which destroys the most property, cyclones or hailstorms, in all probability ninety-nine of them would unhesitatingly answer that cyclones are the most destructive. So far as loss of life is concerned they would be right, but the estimated value of the loss sustained from a single hailstorm in midsummer is usually ten times that of all the tornadoes in any state in an ordinary year.

A tornado inspires terror because of its fierce destruction of whatever comes in its path, but fortunately its path is very narrow so that its width, on any ordinary map, is correctly indicated by a mere pencil mark. This illustration serves to show that it would take a great many years to cover a state and that the danger from cyclones is vastly exaggerated in the popular mind. They make bad work when they strike, but they are not nearly so liable to strike as many people think. This common misapprehension has grown out of the fact that the newspapers publish such graphic accounts of tornadoes when they occur.

The hailstorm does not destroy life, but coming at a time when crops are maturing, it wipes out the harvest of a township, worth one hundred thousand dollars or more, and the event often passes without note or comment. In this state, the records of the in-

insurance companies have established the fact that the loss from hail alone is five times as great as that from tornadoes, fire and lightning combined.

#### 1894—MULCT LAW—DROUGHT.

On March 20, 1894, the Martin mulct law was enacted by the legislature of Iowa that provides for a state tax of \$600 to be assessed against every one engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors except registered pharmacists holding permits; and thirty days later a consent petition was circulated in this county for the establishment of a saloon at Fonda. New jury and game laws were enacted. The women of Iowa were granted the right to vote at any election for the purpose of issuing bonds for municipal or school purposes, or for the purpose of increasing a tax levy. It was also made unlawful to sell or give tobacco or cigarettes to minors under sixteen years of age.

Labor Day, first observed by the Knights of Labor in New York City, September 5, 1882, was in June, 1894, made a legal holiday by our national congress.

The financial depression was deeply felt throughout the country and two armies of the unemployed were organized to march to Washington for the purpose of demanding relief from congress. The army of J. S. Coxey, consisting of 122 persons, left Massillon, Ohio, April 1, 1894, and arrived at Washington May 1st, following. At this latter date Kelley's industrial army, consisting originally of 1300 men from the country west of the Missouri river, arrived at Des Moines and passed down the Des Moines river on 150 flat-boats constructed for their special use.

The year of 1894 was one that tried men's souls. It opened with a general financial depression that paralyzed every branch of industry and caused more business failures than any year of that decade. Then the

repeated midsummer droughts of the four previous years had their culmination of severity in the long continued drought of this year throughout the Mississippi Valley, that caused famine and want in central and western Nebraska, and terminated in terrible forest fires in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, that were as destructive as the cyclones and floods of other years, five hundred lives being lost by one of them at Hinkley, Minnesota.

The large lakes in Marshall and Swan Lake townships, this county, became dry for the first time in the memory of man, and during the following summer these lake bottoms were planted with corn and other cereals.

Amid the general disappointment and gloom, caused by the loss of crops from the drought, the people of Pocahontas County were highly favored. A couple of light showers passed over this section in August that revived the pastures and growing crops. Well fed thoroughbreds continued to graze contentedly upon hill and dale, great fields of corn lifted their rejoicing heads and the crops, when garnered, though not so large in quantity were superlatively fine in quality. The husbandman perceived anew, and more strikingly than ever before, the superiority of this section as regards its ability to survive the direful effects of long continued drought.

The cause of this period of drought was attributed to the fact that the prevailing winds, that usually bring the hot air charged with moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to this section, were blown against the Rockies where they were met by a counter current of cold air from the north and the barren sides of the old mountains were literally flooded, while the air that was carried over the Mississippi valley lacked moisture. All know the effect of cold air on steam, it con-



condenses it. When a cold current of air from the north or northwest comes in contact with warmer currents from the gulf charged with moisture, the latter is condensed and there is a fall of rain. The winds from the gulf, however, do not always reach this section direct, but frequently from the southwest making a circuit over Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. If there is moisture in the currents of air it may be condensed, but if there is none there can be no condensation, or fall of rain. This is the reason why the rainmakers who, at this period in Iowa, Texas and other places, endeavoring to produce rain by the use of explosives in mid-air, could accomplish nothing when circumstances were not favorable.

The rich soil of this section never bakes like the clays of other regions and from the time of its first settlement to this date there has never been a failure of the corn crop from any cause, least of all from drought. Nevertheless the drought had its lessons for the observing farmer and one of them was, that the capacity of this black soil of our prairies to hold moisture and support plant life in times of drought depends to a great extent on the fineness of its particles and the depth of its cultivation. Its thorough pulverization, wherever properly drained, increases its capacity to hold moisture and lessens the downward tendency of the latter from the atmosphere by forming a mulch that acts like a blanket of straw. The good cultivator, therefore, even in a dry season, has the assurance of a good crop by reason of the finely pulverized condition of the soil and its great fertility.

It was also observed that the native prairie grass did not wilt during the drought like the tame grasses, yet the latter are much better. The former was a summer grass that came late in the spring and turned brown early in

the fall, while the latter grow early in the spring and late in the fall. If the tame grasses rest during a mid-summer drought a good substitute is readily found in winter rye or some other rapidly growing crop.

1895—NEBRASKA RELIEF.

On February 9, 1895, C. C. Gardner, treasurer of the relief committee of Sargent, Custer county, Neb., arrived in Fonda and after a conference with the pastors of the several churches it was decided to put forth an effort to secure a carload of grain and provisions for the needy sufferers in the drought-stricken district represented by him. For this car there were contributed 330 bushels of corn, of which 30 had been selected for seed; 47 bushels of oats, 65 sacks of flour, 460 pounds of cornmeal, 60 pounds of oatmeal, 200 pounds of meat, a lot of hay, groceries, bedding and clothing, that, including the cash contributed, \$93.76, was estimated to be worth \$400.00. This car was loaded February 16, and left Fonda six days later, when the deficit (\$51.72) on a freight bill of \$112.69 was advanced by Rev. R. E. Flickinger, who accompanied it to its destination.

About two weeks later an additional half car load of grain and provisions solicited by C. F. Bockennoegen, was contributed by the people in the vicinity of Laurens, Havelock and Rolfe, and sent to the same needy district.

These donations, contributed so promptly, were very creditable to the people of this section. They spoke louder than words of their generous spirit of sympathy and charity, and gave publicity to the abundant harvest gathered in this section during the previous year.

The severe drought of 1894 was broken by a gentle rain on April 1, 1895, and the crops of wheat, barley, oats, corn and potatoes that year were immense. Phil D. Armour and other capitalists of Chicago, built great

cribs at all the towns in this section to receive and hold the large crops of corn.

The year of 1895 was one of gradual recovery from the stagnation of the previous year, Large wells were sunk and a system of water works was constructed at Fonda and Laurens; Rolfe having secured a similar improvement the previous autumn.

At the republican representative convention that met several times at Rolfe in 1895, for the district embracing Pocahontas and Humboldt counties, there occurred a deadlock that finally resulted in the nomination of two republican candidates, Parley Finch, of Humboldt, and James Mercer, of Pocahontas county, both by petitions filed at Des Moines. This result was unexpected and was due to the fact that each county having eight delegates in the convention, those of Humboldt were unwilling to vote for any other candidate except Mr. Finch and those of Pocahontas, having no special preference or instructions for any particular candidate, were nevertheless unwilling to support Mr. Finch for a second term, that courtesy having been several times extended to candidates representing this district but never to any one from this county. Mr. Mercer was not a candidate, delegate or even present at this convention, and on the last day allowed by law, no nomination having been made by the convention, a petition was prepared at Rolfe and sent to Des Moines without his previous knowledge, placing his name in nomination. He accepted the nomination and received 999 votes in this county, Mr. Finch 82 and G. W. Core, democrat, 683 Mr. Finch was elected by a small majority by means of the vote in Humboldt county.

June 11, 1896, the Fonda Review, a local weekly, democratic paper was established at Fonda by W. O. Lester. On October 1st, following, he sold it

to Fred E. Moore and he continued its publication until September 1, 1897, when he sold it to John E. Pope, its present editor and proprietor. In April, 1899, the office of publication was moved from the John Forbes store building to the new brick block of Roberts & Kenning.

In July, 1896, the supervisor districts of this county were rearranged so that there was one at each corner of the county consisting of three townships each, and one at the center consisting of four.

The township of Lake was divided into two election precincts on September 12, 1894, district No. 2 consisting of the east half of section one, on which the west half of Gilmore City is located.

#### THE SALOON ISSUE.

On April 2, 1895, the grand jury brought in bills of indictment against all, in all parts of the county, that were then engaged in the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, and on April 8, 1896, the board of supervisors imposed a tax of \$1000 upon the premises used for that purpose at the first named date. On July 30, 1896, Judge Thomas at Storm Lake ruled that the first consent petition filed in Pocahontas county was insufficient and granted temporary injunctions against all the saloons in this county, which were located at Fonda and Gilmore City, except that of Waldman & Son, Fonda, who were allowed to continue until the September term of court, when his case was set for final hearing.

In the fall of 1896 the most important issue before all the people of this county was the re-establishment of the mulct saloon, the petition of 1894 having been declared insufficient. This issue was precipitated on this occasion by an organized effort to secure a valid consent petition by having it presented for signatures at every polling place in the county on November 3d, the day of the general



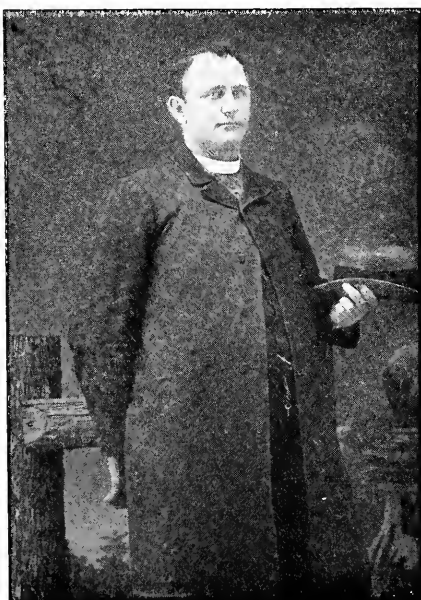
ARTHUR W. DAVIS,  
County Superintendent, 1898-99.  
Fonda.



JOSEPH P. ROBINSON  
County Superintendent 1882-85



WILLIAM H. HEALY  
Attorney at Law



REV. P. J. CARROLL  
Pastor Catholic Church, 1882-87



REV. Z. C. BRADSHAW  
Pastor M. E. Church, 1892-94

Fonda.

election that year.

The campaign against the success of this movement was inaugurated by a large union mass meeting held in the Presbyterian church of Fonda on Sabbath evening, October 11th, when Messrs. Orville Lee, O. R. Adams, S. E. Barnard, F. R. Brownell and W. B. Howell, leading business men and active christian workers of Sac City were present, the first three delivering addresses protesting against the establishment of the saloon from the business standpoint, and the last four singing several appropriate quartettes. At this meeting the following resolution was presented and adopted by an almost unanimous rising vote:

We, citizens of Fonda and vicinity, in union mass meeting assembled do hereby remind the voters of Pocahontas county that this has been our experience with the saloon in Fonda: It has brought poverty and sad disappointment to the home, wrecked individual character, jeopardized the interests of the public school and the church and led to the destruction of human life. In view of these and other considerations that might be enumerated, we earnestly protest against the re-establishment of the saloon in Fonda, and respectfully request that all voters who appreciate the work of the churches, the value of a good name and the purity of the home, will firmly refuse to sign said consent petition whether it be presented on the day of election or later. We are encouraged to make this protest and appeal, for reasons that should prevail among the good citizens of this county, and because the neighboring counties of Buena Vista, Sac, Calhoun, Humboldt, Kossuth, Clay and Greene have refused to give place to the open saloon.

This appeal and protest was echoed in all parts of the county; but a majority of the people had reached the conclusion that "while nothing good can be said in favor of a saloon, we believe an open saloon regulated by law is preferable to dives and holes-in-the-wall." Under the petition then circulated three saloons were es-

tablished in this county, one at Gilmore City and two at Fonda that have since been maintained under a mulct penalty of \$1400 each, a year. In November, 1899, another one was established at the new town of Varina.

Lest the reader should think, by reason of these establishments, the water of this section is either deficient in quantity or lacking in quality, we beg leave to add that there has not yet been realized any lack of that beautiful and healthful beverage, and there may be said of it all that John B. Gough affirmed when he said: "There is no poison in that cup; no fiendish spirit dwells beneath those crystal drops to lure you and me and all of us to ruin; no spectral shadows play upon its waveless surface; no widows' groans or orphans' tears rise to God from those placid fountains; misery, crime, wretchedness, woe and want come not within the hallowed precincts where cold water reigns supreme. Pure now as when it left its native heaven, it gives vigor to youth, strength to manhood and solace to old age. Cold water is beautiful, bright and pure everywhere. In the moonlight fountains and sunny rills; in the warbling brook and giant river; in the hand of beauty or on the lips of manhood—everywhere cold water is beautiful."

1897.

The first declamatory contest between the pupils of the various schools of this county was held at Fonda April 29, 1897. Four schools were represented. The participants were Miss Jennie Eaton and Weston Martin, Fonda; Litta Tumbleson and Grace Smith, Havelock; Clara Heathman and Margie McEwen, Plover; Robert Ainslie and Grace Grove, Rolfe. The judges were Prof. Holdoegel, Rev. J. A. Cummings and D. M. Kelleher, Esq., who gave the award to the representatives from Fonda. The teachers present formed a county declamatory as

sociation by the election of Prof. Rutledge of Rolfe, president, and Prof. U. S. Vance of Havelock, secretary, and Rolfe was chosen as the place for the next contest. The arrangements for this one were undertaken and carried to completion by Prof. A. W. Davis, of Fonda.

In 1897, this county for the first, and to this date the only time in its history, cast a majority for the democratic state ticket. At the general election held Nov. 2, 1897, Fred E. White, democratic candidate for governor, received 37 votes more than Leslie M. Shaw; and John Ratcliff, democrat, was elected sheriff by a majority of 93. The republican candidates however, for senator, representative and all the other county offices received majorities that ranged from 72, for M. E. DeWolf for representative, to 373 for A. W. Davis for superintendent of schools. Local and personal issues were pressed during the campaign, but a glance at the majorities of the winning republican candidates indicates that these local issues did not materially affect the result. The real cause was manifestly more general and in all probability may be more correctly attributed to the demand for "free silver," that to a greater or less extent affected other parts of the country at that time.

#### HOG CHOLERA, ITS CAUSE AND CURE.

In the spring of 1897, Assessor E. Gibbons, while making the assessment of Powhatan township, found that while the whole number of hogs in that township at that time was 2887, a greater number, namely, 2964, had died there from cholera during the previous year. The number of hogs raised was 77 less than the number that had died and, at \$10 each, the latter represented a loss of \$29,640 in one year from this cause to the farmers of that township. The estimate of loss for this county during 1896 was 40,000 head. J. R. Sage, chief of the

Iowa weather and crop service, estimated that during that year 1,800,000 hogs, valued at \$15,000,000, died in Iowa.

The annual loss sustained by the ravages of this disease has been great in other years, but it was in 1897, that more conspicuously than ever before or since, the attention of the farmers of this county and state was specially directed to the causes and cure of this dread disease by the public experiments and official tests of that year. We would not add a word to what has been written upon this topic but, in view of its great importance to the people of this county and for the benefit of our numerous rural readers, we would put in convenient form for future reference the positive and valuable results of these experiments.

They may be summarized as follows:

I. Locality. The disease was most prevalent in a belt five counties in width, extending north and south across the central part of the state, west of the west line of Howard and Davis counties; and it was least prevalent in the seven northeastern counties of the state. The latter is the great dairy district of this state and the former its greatest section for corn. The general average of loss throughout this state was 30 per cent, but for the northeastern district it was only 7 per cent and for the entire eastern belt of the state embracing 31 counties, it was only 11 per cent. In the 27 counties on the Missouri slope it was 32 per cent and in the 42 counties in the central belt it was 40 per cent.—J. R. SAGE.

II. Experiments. 1. Dr. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, Washington, D. C., at the expense of the government made an experiment in Page county with anti-toxine serum with the result that of several herds containing 278 animals, only 39 died of the 214 that were treated of which 86 were sick. 83 per

cent of the herds treated were saved while 85 per cent of those under observation, but not treated, died. In the eastern half of Page county, under the personal direction of Dr. John McBirney, the government undertook to exterminate the disease by destroying the entire herds affected by it and remunerating the farmers for the loss thus sustained. The disease was thus eradicated in two weeks from eight townships and eighteen herds numbering 900 head were wiped out of existence. This was the most heroic treatment the disease had yet received and the only other place where such an experiment was made was in Hickman county Tennessee.

2. R. P. Dodge, of Atlanta, having found a remedy that was effective for curing those phases of the disease that prevailed in Georgia, came to the officials of the Iowa State Agricultural society and requested opportunity to test his treatment and remedy under their observation, that their official endorsement might be given it before it should be offered for sale in Iowa. This proposition was accepted and he experimented with three herds on the poor farm of Polk county. John Cowrie and Henry Wallace, in their report thereon, state that "the hogs in these herds were affected with lung plague, pneumonia or congestion of the lungs, commonly called cholera, of which the symptoms were weakness, staggering walk, dragging the hind legs, etc. This disease has hitherto baffled all efforts to cure or even control it, and the proposed remedy does not meet expectation."

3. Prof. M. Stalker, veterinary at the State Agricultural College, Ames, summing up the results of experiments with Dr. Keller's remedy states: "At this stage of the experiment there is nothing to warrant the belief that any substantial benefit whatever has resulted from the treatment. In fact those receiving no treatment are in as

good condition as those under treatment. The most scientific doctor of the present day cannot give you a cure for typhoid fever, pneumonia or cholera. An intelligent doctor may lessen the mortality from these highly fatal forms of disease affecting human beings, but he does not assume to know a specific cure.

Swine plague and hog cholera probably combine more of the symptoms of these three diseases than anything else. There is little or nothing in medical science to justify the belief that a hog cholera cure has been or will be discovered. Strictly sanitary police regulations which will prevent, as far as possible, exposure to the infection will do more to restrict the disease than all the remedies combined. When the public becomes sufficiently informed on this subject to demand, that as adequate provisions shall be made for protecting swine against exposure, as is now provided for preventing the spread of scarlet fever in a well regulated city, its practical disappearance will be but a question of a very short time."

4. Evan McLennan, Esq., of Brooklyn, Iowa, having hogs afflicted with loss of appetite and frequent scouring, and remembering that the internal constitution of the hog is very similar to that of the human being, used with good results in every case Chamberlain's Colic Cure by putting a teaspoonful in a quart of boiled sweet milk placed alone before them each in a separate pen until they drank it. This gave immediate relief and ordinarily effected a cure in two days. At his request his neighbors, James Grary and John C. Gray used the same remedy with the same result on those similarly affected, but with no avail on those affected with symptoms of lung trouble.

5. Frank Baumgartner, of Peotone, Ill., after seventeen years' study of the disease, found a cure that proved

effective in his own neighborhood. Under the auspices of the general freight agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway in January, 1897, he operated on a herd belonging to Orne Bros., of Dubuque. Claiming that what is popularly known as cholera may be produced by irregular feeding, he placed six sound hogs in a pen from which a lot of diseased ones had been removed only a few hours previous. He declared he would produce cholera in three of them and keep the remainder free from it, but one of the sick ones would be allowed to die for the sake of an examination. The three that were destined to become sick were separated from the others by an impassable but open partition of narrow boards so they could touch each other but might not feed together. Both lots were fed according to instructions given, one regularly and with a proper diet; the other abundantly but irregularly. At the end of twenty days the three former were hearty and healthy, but the latter, gorging themselves, soon became dumpy and a week later were very sick. One of them was allowed to die and a post mortem examination made by Dr. Bauman, a local veterinary, revealed the fact it had died of cholera. The other two that became sick were cured. This experiment seemed to controvert the prevailing contention that sound hogs placed in the same pen with those infected with cholera will contract the disease in four to twenty days. Orne Bros. had been feeding a herd of sixty-five head on the slop from a large hotel. The entire herd had become infected and thirty-eight had died before his arrival. The disease was pronounced cholera and the owners had no hope of saving the remnant of this herd. After inspecting the herd he advised that five be killed as incurable, promised to save sixteen and possibly six others. He saved nineteen and con-

tended that hog cholera is neither contagious nor infectious, but due to improper and irregular feeding and care. His experiments were repeated later with similar success on hogs similarly affected at McGregor, West Union, Mason City, Algona, Emmetsburg and other places in this part of the state.

III. Results. The report of J. R. Sage, locating most of the losses from hog cholera in the great corn belt of the state is certainly very suggestive that corn as an article of diet may be conducive to the development of this disease. Those farmers who have studiously avoided an exclusive corn diet by feeding also oats, wheat and middlings have, as a matter of fact, sustained the least losses from this cause. Anything, however, that weakens the system, makes it more susceptible to disease. This may be done by feeding young animals an exclusive corn diet, filthy slops, impure drinking water, nesting in damp places and other irregularities in regard to their care and keeping.

These experiments show clearly that there are two forms of disease commonly called hog cholera, the one affecting the lungs and the other the bowels. The former phase of it may prevail in one locality and the latter in another. The former may be very contagious and the latter not. The former may be incurable, and the latter both easily cured and prevented. Worms also cause sickness and death, but a single dose of the right kind of medicine will usually bring relief.

This case is one where "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The best preventives are found in absolute cleanliness and regularity in care and keeping. Some have found an effective and satisfactory regulator of the bowels in a small dose of wood ashes once a fortnight. Others have found that a pile of slack or pulverized soft coal within their enclosure



has answered the same purpose; while others maintain that the following inexpensive mixture is a sure proof against all stomach troubles commonly called cholera: To one quart each of salt and sulphur add four quarts of air slacked lime. Mix thoroughly and put it in a dry place where it will be always accessible.

The conviction has been growing that new blood needed to be infused into the stock so susceptible to disease and the "razor back" of the south having been comparatively free from its attacks, several car loads of them were that year brought to this county and the results have been quite satisfactory. Among those who received the "razor backs" were H. L. Bruit, B. L. Allen and M. E. DeWolf, of Laurens, each a car load from Texas; the Kennedy Bros., Fonda, one car load from Arkansas, and the Charlton Bros., of Rolfe, two car loads.

1896.

On July 1, 1896, the free silver campaign demanding the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 was inaugurated in this country by the nomination of W. J. Bryan, at Chicago.

From August 3d to 9th the heat was intense, the temperature ranging from 94 to 100 in the shade. At St. Louis there were 100 prostrations; at Chicago 75 prostrations and 22 deaths, and in New York City 30 deaths.

On the afternoon and evening of September 22d, 1896, a great republican rally in the interest of sound money was held in a large tent at Fonda. The city was patriotically decorated for this occasion and marching clubs were present from Rockwell City, Lohrville, Jolley, Sac City, Newell, Pomeroy, Pocahontas and other sections. Large delegations were present from Storm Lake and other towns west as far as Cherokee. The cornet bands from Newell and Jolley were present to co-operate with the one from Fonda. Addresses were delivered by Sen-

ator W. B. Allison, Congressman J. P. Dolliver and Hon. John Brennan, of Sioux City. The vocal music was furnished by the McKinley Male Quartette of Sac City, and the Prairie Creek glee club. At seven o'clock in the evening the different marching clubs, numbering 600 persons all of whom were supplied with flambeaux, and the three cornet bands formed a torch light procession, that marched through some of the principal streets of the city before going to the tent. About 1200 Roman candles had been distributed among the different clubs, and as they marched the heavens were illuminated with brilliant, fiery balls of red, white and blue. It was a beautiful sight to witness and the greatness of this meeting surprised every one. It was the largest meeting ever held in the county and the grandest political demonstration ever made in this part of the state. More than six thousand people gathered at the tent.

1898.

The year 1898 was one of the most remarkable in our nation's history. It was a year of unrivaled material prosperity, and more great achievements were crowded into its annals than in any other in our nation's history. It saw the beginning and end of the war with Spain, in Cuba and the Philippine Islands, at the close of which the United States occupied a new position in the world and launched upon an era, having new and untried responsibilities.

The crops in this county were among the largest ever raised; but during that year, ten of the main business-houses of Laurens, representing \$60,000 worth of property, the flouring mill at Rolfe, owned by the Fouch Bros., the Plover creamery owned by John Carroll, and the principal drying house of the tile factory of Straight Bros., Fonda, were consumed by fire.

1899.

The year 1899, like its predecessor,

was one of large crops and good prices. The lively impulse of prosperity was felt in all parts of this land so that every wheel was in motion and every man willing to work found employment at remunerative wages. So great was the activity in railroad construction that the demand for iron caused a great advance in the manufactured product. In this vicinity, the Milwaukee road built the extension from Fonda to Spencer, and a service of one mixed train a day each way was established and maintained during the ensuing winter months. It constructed also the branch from Rockwell City to Storm Lake via Sac City, and the Illinois Central the line from Tara to Omaha via Rockwell City. The grading of the Rock Island across this county was completed from Manson via Pocahontas and Lau-

rens, and three new towns were established in this county, two of which were named Varina and Palmer. Other new towns established this year in this vicinity were Albert City, first called Manthorp; Glenora, Hesperia, Lavinia, Lytton, Nemaha and Northam. So great was the demand for laborers in the construction of these roads, that exorbitant prices were in many instances offered for workmen, and those who responded were required to labor seven days in the week. The construction of one road north of this county had to be postponed one year because the material for the iron bridges and track could not be obtained.

"This land o' ourn still ye's got to be  
A better country than man e'er see;  
I feel my spirit swellin' with a cry  
That seems to say 'Break forth and  
prophecy'."



## XII.

## BELLVILLE TOWNSHIP.

“Who o’er the prairies looks abroad,  
 And does not see the hand of God  
 Preparing them through ages past  
 To be the homes of men, who cast  
 The seed abroad and reap again  
 A rich reward in golden grain!”

—LEONARD BROWN.

## FIRST SETTLERS.



BELLVILLE township was not the first one settled or organized, but it is the first one in an alphabetical list of the townships of this county. It is township 90 of range 32, the second one from the east in the south row of townships. At the time of its survey the fact was noted that it contained “numerous small marshes and a few of considerable size. There are also several swamps, most of them unfit for cultivation, although some of the marshes are good for hay as is also the whole township. A considerable portion of this township is covered with pea vine. The surface is generally level, and the soil first and second rate.” At the time of its survey there was not a tree to be seen in the township, and the surveyor who made these notes, for that reason and those stated did not regard it a desirable place for settlers

to locate their homes. Now that the swamps and marshes, by means of a little drainage, have been made very productive, and beautiful farm buildings have been erected all over the township, the prejudice of the surveyor has vanished.

The first settlers in this township were William Bell and Niels Hanson, who in the month of March, 1869, located their homesteads, the former on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and the latter, on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 10. Returning together to Fort Dodge in a lumber wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, they hauled the lumber for the first cabin, which was erected on the homestead of Wm. Bell. This structure was a very humble one, 10x12 feet square and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. These two men occupied this cabin together until the fall of 1870, when Niels Hanson built a sod house on his homestead. This sod house was sunk two feet in the ground, but had a good floor, was plastered inside

and had two windows, one on each side at the top of the ground. When completed each occupied his own cabin, but in the spring of 1871 Hanson married Lena Loding, of Fort Dodge, and then his had two occupants.

Others that located in this township during the year 1869, were Wm. Brownlee, wife and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dickinson, their son-in-law, M. B. Parks and wife, Peter Peterson, wife and two sons, Bernard Niehouse, Michael Burns, James Hagan, James O'Kiefe and two sons, John and Frederick Johnson, Nelson Anderson and Aaron Erickson, Swan Nelson, Patrick Enright, Niels Anderson, John Lampe and his three sons, Henry, F. J. and George Lampe. These were followed in 1870 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kezer, Andrew O. Long, wife and two children, W. R. Owen, Alonzo Cady, James Bennett, Joseph Strong, E. K. Cain, H. W. Behrens, Christian Peterson, Fritz Weigert and others.

In the spring of 1870, at a meeting of the citizens held at the home of Wm Bell, it was decided to ask the board of county supervisors to set off this township from Lizard and call it "Bellville," in memory of the fact that Wm. Bell was the first settler to erect a cabin in it. On June 6, 1870, Bellville township was established by the board of county supervisors who designated October 11, 1870, as the date for their first election and the cabin of Wm. Bell as the place to hold it. The following board of election officers was appointed and the oath was administered to them by G. H. Johnson, a justice of the peace from Lizard township: Judges, Wm. Bell, James Bennett and W. B. Dickinson; clerks, M. B. Parks and Joseph Strong. Township officers were elected for the ensuing year (1871) as follows: Alonzo Cady, Henry Lampe and M. B. Parks, trustees: W. B. Dickinson and

Charles Kezer, justices; Joseph Strong and Wm. Bell, constables; W. B. Dickinson, clerk; James Bennett, assessor; E. K. Cain and Charles Kezer, road supervisors.

The first record of a meeting of the trustees is of date April 11, 1871, when they made a levy of five mills for road purposes, and authorized W. B. Dickinson to buy for the township one good road scraper, for the care of which during that year he should receive \$5.00. April 13, 1872, he was authorized to purchase three more scrapers but no additional compensation was allowed. The township that year was divided into four districts and the supervisors were Niels Hanson, John Lampe, Charles Kezer and John Christmas. The general election, Oct. 14, 1873, was held at the residence of Peter Wendell and he was elected a justice of the peace and township clerk. On April 10, 1874, he reported that all the township property, consisting of four scrapers, had been burned in a prairie fire that consumed also the stable and stock of Jeremiah Connelly. In 1892 two large road graders were purchased from the Fleming Manufacturing Co, Fort Wayne, Ind., for the sum of \$450.

The second, or general election in 1871, was held at the residence of W. B. Dickinson, and in 1872 at the school house on section 17. From 1874 to 1885 they were held in school house No. 3; from 1886 to 1892 in school house No. 8, and since 1893 in No. 5, the center school house.

The assessor's book for the year 1874, showed an enrollment of 42 persons in the township liable to do military duty. The new names that appear are those of D. Beneke, L. S. Bivans, J. Cady, P. Ellison, Rudolph Beneke, Abraham Burgeson, Henry Elsen and his two sons Gerd and Charles Elsen, John Christmas, August Anderson, Alexander Geddes, S. H. Gill, C. H. Hallock, A. Himan, J. Hogan, G. Lar-

son, A. G. Loats, C. P. Lundgren, M. and J. McAuliff, M. McAlpin, G. Miller, M. McGrath, Peter Wendell, John Larson, C. Peterson, Patrick Quinn, D. Ragan, A. Reedland, E. Short, C. and A. Stickelberg, A. Zinn and Anton Smorkovski.

This assessor's book also shows that in January, 1874, as many as twenty-one persons were allowed timber and fruit tree exemptions for plots ranging from one half an acre to four acres. The grove of one acre planted by W. B. Dickinson on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, in the spring of 1869, was the first one in the township. James O'Kiefe in 1871, planted the second one, also of one acre, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12. In 1872 two orchards of one acre each were planted by Mrs. Sylvia A. Bennett, on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, and Anton Smorkovski on SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28; and groves by Charles Kezer, John Lampe, Patrick Quinn and Niels Hanson. In 1873 nearly every other resident homesteader planted a grove.

There were perhaps more sod houses built in this township than any other during the first two years of its settlement, 1869 and 1870. The first one was built by Philip Myers, on the Quinn farm. Others were built by John Lampe, A. Himan, Niels Hanson, John Johnson, Alexander Geddes, Swan Nelson, Peter Wendell, Charles Kezer, Wm. Owen, Matt. McAlpin and Gus. Peterson. The sod house with its low thatched roof of slough grass was always a place of danger when the prairie fire came sweeping along. In the fall of 1871, A. Himan and Gus. Peterson lost their houses, hay sheds and stacks of hay, wheat, beans and buckwheat; and later Peter Wendell his house and contents.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Previous to the organization of Bellville township, the directors of Lizard township established a school in the home of John Lampe and em-

ployed as teachers E. K. Cain and Thomas L. Dean.

On March 4, 1871, the electors of the district township of Bellville held their first meeting, W. B. Dickinson serving as chairman and E. K. Cain as secretary. E. K. Cain, Charles Kezer and Jerry Connelly were elected as the first board of directors, each for the term of one year. This board organized by the election of Charles Kezer, president; W. B. Dickinson, secretary and Wm. Bell, treasurer. One week later a tax of ten mills was approved and levied for school house purposes. About the same time there was levied a tax of ten mills for the teachers' fund and seven mills for the contingent. The wages of male and female teachers were fixed at \$35 and \$30 a month, respectively. It was also decided to lease three buildings in which to hold a three months' term of school during that summer. Two buildings were leased, one from Mr. Brownlee, located on the SE corner of Sec. 29, in which Lucy Van Doren was the teacher, and the other from W. R. Owen, located at the  $\frac{1}{2}$  stake on the west side of Sec. 20, in which he was the teacher. These temporary buildings were constructed expressly for this purpose and the specifications of the first one was as follows: "8x10 feet square, 6 feet high, boarded up and down, board floor, one half window, a door hung with hinges, the roof to be as tight as boards and batens could make it, two desks, one on each side each to be 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and 10 feet long, and three benches; and the monthly rental shall be \$4.00."

On September 18, 1871, Jerry Connelly resigned and James E. Bennett was appointed a member of the board in his place. The house of Wm. Bell was leased and W. R. Owen was appointed teacher of this school for three months.

In March, 1872, the electors neglected to meet and the members of the

old board renewed their oath of office. Wm. Brownlee was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of E. K. Cain, and he was then elected president of the board. The wages of the teachers were reduced to \$25 in summer and \$30 in winter.

On April 27, 1872, the board made arrangements with A. D. Moore for the erection of four temporary school houses 12x16 feet and 8 feet high, for \$591. For one of these buildings the first school house site was purchased from Geo. A. Loats (SE corner Sec. 28) and for another one they leased a site on the NE corner of Sec. 10. Miss Emma Parks was the first teacher in this last building, the others who taught that summer being Mattie E. Owen and E. D. Bivans.

In the fall of 1872 the township was divided into five sub districts known as the O'Kiefe, Lampe, Brownlee, Kezer and Bennett districts, and the new teachers employed were Lily M. Bosworth and T. L. Dean; and during the next summer Mrs. E. S. Parks and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady. During the winter of 1873-4 E. D. Clark taught a term in the home of Peter Wendell.

In 1875 permanent buildings were erected in district No. 2 by T. L. Dean, and in district No. 3 by H. W. Wilcox. In 1880 the term of school was fixed at seven months—four in winter and three in summer. In 1881 the first school house grove was planted by A. Erickson for \$36. This was the one in district No. 6 and it had been farmed for several years previous. The trees planted were soft maples with a row of cottonwoods around them. In 1883 Charles Kezer planted the grove in district No. 8. Later, all the other school grounds in this township were planted with trees and the beautiful groves that now mark the school house sites are sources of delight to teachers and pupils, a matter of pride to all the citizens of the township and objects of beauty that call

forth the admiration of the traveler. The township of Bellville was the first in this county to secure a fine grove around each of its school buildings and until 1897 it enjoyed this honor without a rival. It has now new, large and brightly painted buildings in every district.

Joy for the sturdy trees!  
Fanned by each fragrant breeze,  
Lovely they stand!  
The song birds o'er them thrill,  
They shade each tinkling rill,  
They crown each swelling hill,  
Lowly or grand.

Other teachers who taught in this township during the seventies and eighties in addition to those already named, were J. O'Kiefe ('75), Annie Condon, Jason H. Lowrey, Kate Connelly, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Brownlee (8 terms), Ida Lowrey (Gill), Emma Lowrey (Wilbur), Mrs. S. A. Bennett, C. Kreul, E. O. Davy, L. A. Brooks, E. S. Parks, Hattie Hallock, Mary Quinn (13 years), Patrick Quinn (10 years), Maggie Quinn, Martin Quinn, Katie Ellis, Agnes Denny, R. Brownlee, Maggie Griffin and Ida Wendell.

The fine condition of the earliest records of the board of directors of Bellville township and the excellent manner in which all the interests relating to the public schools were managed merit special commendation and suggest that the men who in the early days were elected directors were not only capable but appreciated the importance of the trust committed to them. The earliest records, in the handwriting of W. B. Dickinson, begin with the very beginning of things at the organization of the township, are found in a large, well bound volume suited for the purpose, and they are written in a plain, legible hand with a good quality of black ink that has not faded with the lapse of years. They are remarkable for their fulness and minuteness of detail, inasmuch as they include complete copies of all the contracts made by the board with

each teacher, builder and workman. the bond of the treasurer and the specifications of every building to be erected.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The succession of officers for the school board of Bellville township has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS:** Charles Kezer, '71; Wm. Brownlee, Henry Stahl, Charles Kezer, '74, 6-7; S. H. Gill, '75; Wm. Brownlee, '78, '81, '83; P. Quinn, Swan Nelson, '80, '89, '93; A. F. Froid, '82; Geo. A. Loats, '84; Henry Lampe, Patrick Clancy, '86-88; Rudolph Beneke, '90; Peter Anderson, '91-2, '97; W. E. McReynolds, '94-'96; M. Hanson, '98; Henry Behrens, '99-1900.

**SECRETARIES:** W. B. Dickinson, '71; A. Cady, '72-4; Charles Kezer, J. W. O'Kiefe, T. R. Moore, Charles Kezer, '78-86; A. G. Quinn, Wm. Brownlee, '88-'92; Peter Long, '93-'96; August Johnson, '97-'98; Anton Larson, '99-1900.

**TREASURERS:** Wm. Bell, '71-'72, Wm. Brownlee, '73-'75; James O'Kiefe, '76-'81; Swan Nelson, '82-'84; John Larson, '85-'88; Patrick Clancy, '89-'93; Swan Nelson, '94-'99; Charles Schroeder.

#### CIVIL OFFICERS.

**TRUSTEES:** The following persons have rendered service as trustees: Alonzo Cady, M. B. Parks and Henry Lampe all in 1871; Wm. Brownlee, Henry Lampe, '72, '74, '75, '81, '86; D. B. Hallock, Wm. Bell, C. H. Hallock, A. O. Long, James O'Kiefe, Alex. Geddes, H. W. Behrens, '76-'78, '82-'85, '87-'92, '95-1900; Rudolph Beneke, '77, '89-'94; John P. Peterson, '77-'80, '94-1900; Patrick Quinn, '79-93; Gust Peterson, '80-'82; John Larson, '86, Niels Hanson, '87-88; Geo. A. Loats, '93, '95; Frank Lampe, '96-1900.

**CLERKS:** W. B. Dickinson, '71-'72; Wm. Brownlee, Peter Wendell, Wm. Bell, '75-76; Charles Kezer, '77-'82; Frank Lampe, '83-'86 Andrew Quinn,

'82-'94; Anthony Larson, Peter Anderson, August Anderson, '97-1900.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:** W. B. Dickinson, Wm Brownlee, Peter Wendell, Charles Kezer H. W. Behrens; Swan Nelson, '83-'98; Patrick Quinn; Fred Bruns, W. A. Berry, Anthony Larson.

**ASSESSORS:** James Bennett, '71-'72; A. Cady, L. S. Bivans, Charles Kezer, '75-'77; S. H. Gill, '78-'79; A. F. Froid, J. P. Peterson, '83-'86; Wm. Gadaw, '87-'90; Fred Bruns, '91-'98; John Quinn.

#### EMMANUEL GERMAN CHURCH.

The first and to this date the only church organized in Bellville township is the Emmanuel German Church of the Evangelical Association of North America. It was organized about the year 1880, and the original members were Christ DeWall, John DeWall, George DeWall, Albert Loats, George Loats, August Munch and their families, Maria Schon and Mr. and Mrs. John Schon. The first officers were John DeWall, Maria Schon and George Loats. The officers in 1899 were Otto Pfreundheiler, Henry Westfall and Fred Schlieut, and the adult membership was about 36. The meetings were first held in the Loats school house. Their house of worship, located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, was dedicated August 15, 1891. It is 28x40 feet, tower 8x8 and 40 feet high, and cost \$1600. The Sunday school meets every Sabbath, the preaching services are held on alternate Sabbaths and their present pastor resides at Rockwell City. The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. Mr. Drumhauer (1880), Otto Gerard, Gerd Knoke (3 years), G. Branstats, J. D. Schaible, L. Smith, — Weverseck, Peter Gertman, Daniel Rikert, — Koinig.

#### FIRST DEATH AND BIRTH.

The first death in Bellville township occurred in the spring of 1871, when Frederick Johnson, a young Swede, died at the age of 23 years. He came with his brother, John John-

son, who located a homestead on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  18, in the year 1869. They erected a sod shanty and lived together. This shanty had a roof of slough grass that caught fire on two occasions when prairie fires swept over that section, and twice did they lose all they had in it. Fred died of consumption and was the first one buried in the Swedish Mission burying ground of Bellville township. The funeral service was conducted by John Hamer-son, a young Swede residing in Grant township.

Carrie Christmas, daughter of John and Mary Christmas, was the first child born in this township. She was born in February, 1870, became the wife of Morton Root, and they are now residing at Fort Dodge. Her father was a soldier in the civil war. In 1869, accompanied by his wife and two children, he came to this county and located on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, Bellville township, and, after securing the patent for his homestead, in 1874, sold it to Saunders S. Assing, Sr., and moved to Fort Dodge. After three years he returned to Manson and was killed at Rockwell City in October 1897 while crossing the track of the D. M., N. & W. railway in a buggy driven by Edward Tullar.

The second birth in the township was that of Huldah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson. This event occurred during the dreadful snowstorm of March, 14-16, 1870. Her parents were Swedes and, accompanied by three children and Philip Myers, in the spring of 1869, they came to this country and homesteaded the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, Bellville township. He was a successful farmer. His wife died in 1878 and he died in 1889, leaving a family of five children, all of whom have moved from the county. Huldah is now married and residing at Fort Dodge.

Nelius M. Nelson, whose birth occurred May 4, 1870, was the first boy

born in the township. He is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Nelson, who are still residents of the old homestead. He was, for a few years, one of the public school teachers of this county, and is now in Dakota.

Bellville township claims the peculiar distinction of having produced the largest baby in the county. It was a bouncing boy that weighed twenty-two pounds. He first saw the light in 1871, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Cain, on section 21. In June, 1869, this family located on section 4 and one year later on section 21, and they lived there until February, 1872, when they moved to Lincoln township where, during a period of four years, he filled the two offices of assessor and justice of the peace. He was a teacher, carpenter and farmer, and in 1884 moved to Clayton county.

The "Bellville giant" is John O'Brien, the pioneer occupant and owner of the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 17. He is a Canadian, six feet in height and weighs 260 pounds. At the age of twenty-five his great strength was a surprise to others, and the above *nom de plume* was accorded to him by his neighbors many years ago, when he lifted the side of a horse-power, that needed to be mounted on wheels, that two ordinary men were unable to move.

Lone Rock on the NW Cor. Sec. 33, originally about twenty-five feet high, was a very prominent landmark in the early days.

The first public road established in Bellville township was the one extending east and west north of section 10, known as the Bell & Hanson road. It was established in 1870 and was surveyed by Oscar I. Strong, deputy county surveyor, assisted by Niels Hanson as one of the chain carriers. This road extended across the county and in Lizard, Bellville and Colfax townships was located on the section lines, in Cedar township it is one-half mile further north and passes through



the center of the north tier of sections.

#### BELLVILLE CREAMERY.

A creamery was established on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, in 1890, by Fred Dilmuth, who moved the plant from Grant township and managed it in its new location two years thereafter. It was then purchased by Bernard Fisher and Rudolph Beneke, but is now owned by the former who is also proprietor of a grocery store established at the same place. Mr. Fisher, who is a native of Germany, in July, 1869, began to occupy and improve a homestead on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, which he still owns together with the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6 and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7. He has a large family, all of whom are still at home.

#### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

During the seventies many other new settlers located in this township, among whom were James Sinnott, John Larson, Peter Scherf, Ira G. Vaughan, Abraham Burgeson, Louis Oleson, Henry Lieb, Andrew Carlson, Swan and James F. Peterson, S. S. Assing, George DeWall, John O'Brien, Lander and C. G. Blanden.

During the eighties there came Geo. J. O. and S. O. Peterson, Frank W. Schuster, Geo. Reining, John W. Boog, Peter Anderson, Benjamin Loats and many others.

The following personal notes do not include any reference to those whose biographies appear in the latter part of this volume.

August Anderson, a native of Sweden, in May, 1872, entered a homestead of 80 acres which Claus Hanson in June, 1869, had entered but later forfeited. He had a wife and two daughters when he came and they are still residents of the old homestead.

William Bell, after whom the township was named, in 1871 added to his cabin a good frame house 12x20 feet and continued to occupy his homestead until about the year 1878 when he went to the Black Hills'

region, and in partnership with a friend, engaged in mining gold. He took an active part in all matters relating to the organization of the township and the first election in it was held in his cabin on section 10. During the years 1871-72 he served as the first treasurer of the School Board, during 1873-74 as a trustee of the township and during 1875-76 as the township clerk. He was about fifty-six years of age and unmarried when he left the county.

James Bennett, in March, 1869, entered a homestead on NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, improved it and died there in August, 1872. His wife, Sylvia Bennett, secured the patent for one half of his claim, (the other half being declared swamp land) and for the adjoining claim of Alex. Oleson. In 1876 she sold both tracts to Col. Blanden and with her family moved to Manson. Mr. Bennett was the first assessor of Bellville township.

Abraham Burgeson and his wife Eliza, natives of Sweden, came to Bellville in 1870 and the latter entered as a timber claim the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18-40 acres—but it was forfeited in 1877. A few days later it was re-entered by her husband and in February, 1893, the patent was issued to their son, Alvin Burgeson. They now own and occupy the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, Colfax township, and have raised a large family.

Michael Burns and James Hagan entered adjoining homesteads on Sec. 10, in January, 1870, and lived together in the same cabin for several years. Then each occupied a cabin on his own homestead and the latter farmed both farms, while the former worked on the railroad. About 1884, Mr. Burns married a daughter of Wm. Gadaw. He still owns the old homestead and also the one of Wm. Bell on which he and his family now reside. James Hagan, single-handed and alone, still occupies his old homestead,

which was the one originally entered by Peter Murphy.

Alonzo Cady, having a wife and two children, in March, 1869, entered a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 24, which he improved and occupied for a number of years. He moved first to Lizard township and thence to Dakota. He was one of the first trustees, the second assessor and for three years secretary of the school board of the township.

Wm. B. Dickinson and Milton B. Parks, his son-in-law, entered homesteads on Sec. 14, August 31, 1868. These were the first claims entered in the township. Owing to the fact they did not begin to occupy their claims soon enough they were both forfeited, but re-entering them in 1872 and 1873, they received their patents in 1873 and 1874, respectively. The former was a soldier in the civil war, and now resides with his daughter at Gilmore City. He was the first secretary of the school board, the first justice of the peace and first clerk of the township. The latter about 1882, moved to Havelock and engaged in the drug business. After the loss of the store by fire he moved to California. He was one of the first trustees of the township.

Peter Ellison, of Sweden, accompanied by his wife, who was a sister of John Lawson, in 1873, secured a homestead of 40 acres on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20. He has added 80 acres to the homestead and still occupies it. Their family consists of three children—Annie, who is married, Christine and Edward.

Aaron Erickson, of Sweden, in September, 1869, entered a homestead on Sec. 20, built a cabin on it and the next year was joined by his wife and family. In 1872 this claim was relinquished in favor of Martin McAuliff, who still owns it, and Erickson bought a farm on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, which he still owns and occupies. He has raised a large family,

William Gadaw, of Germany, accompanied by his wife, two sons and one daughter, in 1873 bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, and improved it. Mr. and Mrs. Gadaw died several years ago. Their sons, William and Ernest, still own and occupy the old farm. The former was assessor of the township during the four years, 1887 to 1890. Three daughters were born in this county and all three of them are married. The two oldest are living in neighboring counties and the youngest, married to Michael Burns, lives on section 10.

David B. Hallock, who served as one of the trustees of the township in 1883, came to this county with a large family in 1870 and located a homestead on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10. He met with many discouragements and, when his crops were devoured by the grasshoppers a second time in 1874, he moved to Lake township, and five years later to Kansas. His eldest son, Charles H. Hallock, in 1870 located a homestead on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, and improved it. In April, 1873, his house, which had a thatch roof, or was filled with hay as a protection overhead, caught fire while he was away from home and his wife was outside the building. She rushed in to save her child, asleep in the cradle. She saved the child, but her own clothing caught fire and though she extinguished the flames in a slough near at hand, she died soon after a neighbor came to her relief. Charles is now living in Kansas.

Niels Hanson, a native of Denmark, (born Aug. 24, 1839) came to Bellville township with Wm. Bell in March, 1869, and in June following filed his homestead claim for the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, for which he received the patent Oct. 30, 1874. Two years later, (1876) owing to the frequent and successive losses sustained from the ravages of the grasshoppers he lost his homestead and purchased 40 acres adjoining on

the northeast corner of the same section which he still owns and occupies. In 1893 he bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3 adjoining it on the north so that he has now a fine farm of 200 acres, improved with a beautiful grove, fruit-bearing orchard and good buildings. After living two years in the sod house and twenty-three in its successor, a frame 12x16 feet, he erected (1894) the large and comfortable house he now occupies. He was one of the first and is now the oldest resident of the township. His wife, Lena Loding, is a native of Norway. Their family has consisted of four sons and two daughters. Hans, the eldest, in 1894, married Mary Hanson and they live on her father's farm on Sec. 8, Colfax township. They have a family of two children, Minnie and Mabel. Hannah, the eldest daughter, in 1893, became the wife of Anton Larson and they lived on his father's farm in Bellville township until the fall of 1899, when they became proprietors of the first hotel in Palmer. Martin, Niels, Minnie and Edward (18) are at home. Mr. Hanson served as a trustee of the township during the years 1887-88. In August 1899 the new town of Palmer, first called Hanson, was located on his farm, and his daughter Minnie, who was engaged in teaching public school, was appointed postmistress, when the postoffice was established in January, 1900.

Aaron Himan, a native of Sweden, (born May 21, 1835) came to America in 1868 and on Aug. 12, 1869, in Illinois, married Matilda Solomonson. In April, 1870, they came to Bellville township and, selecting a homestead of 80 acres on N $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, began its improvement by the erection of a sod house 10x12 feet, that lasted them seven years. They preferred to live in this humble dwelling rather than to occupy a frame building with a lien upon it. In the fall of 1871 the prairie fire burned everything on the farm

except this sod house. In 1877 they bought a small house and later enlarged it, but in 1890 they dispensed with it and erected a fine large residence that would be a source of pride in any community. He has also erected a large barn, granary, cribs and other outbuildings. In 1883 and 1890 he secured additions to his farm making it now 225 acres. He has been a successful stockraiser and aims to keep sufficient of it to eat all the proceeds of the farm. In comparing the present time with former days he sees a great contrast. He happened to locate his sod house on a high place in the center of a slough where there was plenty of tall grass for fuel. At that time the only things that could be raised abundantly were slough grass and water, but now these are the hardest to find. Their family consists of three children, Charles W., Jennie and Oscar E., who are at home on the farm.

Michael McAlpin and family, of Canada, in 1871 located on a homestead on Sec. 8. His wife died in 1872 and was buried in the Lizard Catholic cemetery. About 1895, he married again and later moved to Fort Dodge, where he now resides. To the homestead he added 40 acres on the same section and 80 acres on Sec. 17. The old homestead is now occupied by his son James McAlpin, who married a daughter of Henry Kreul, and has a small family. His sisters, Bridget and Margaret, (the latter married) are living together in Minnesota. Maria, married to Bernard Kreul, lives at Pocahontas.

Martin McAuliff, of Canada, in April, 1878 secured a homestead originally entered by Aaron Erickson on section 20 and improved it. He is now the owner of a good residence in Pomeroy, where he now resides, and 320 acres of land in Bellville township. He came very near winning matrimonial honors on one occasion, but

induced to change his mind, he is still enjoying single blessedness.

Thomas McAuliff, of Canada, an elder brother, in December 1871 secured the homestead first entered by Wm. Brownlee on section 18 and lived upon it about eight years. He still owns it, but lives in Colorado.

Philip Myers, accompanied by his wife and two sons, in March 1869 entered a homestead claim on section 28. After the lapse of some years he sold it to Patrick Quinn and moved to Kansas. He was a member of the 112th Illinois infantry during the Civil War.

Bernard Niehouse, of Germany, in Oct. 1869, secured a homestead on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, which he improved and occupied until 1876. His wife, who was a sister of Bernard Fisher, died a few years ago and he is now living with his son-in-law, John Lampe.

Andrew Norman and family in 1876 secured a homestead on NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, which he still owns, and his only son, John Norman, owns and occupies a good farm on section 1.

James O'Kiefe and his two sons, John W. and Daniel O'Kiefe, in August, 1869, entered and began to improve three homesteads of 80 acres each on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 12. Daniel married about the year 1877, and his father, who was a widower, died at his home in 1881. The two brothers soon thereafter moved to Lake township, where Daniel still resides, the happy owner of 240 acres on Sec. 31. John W. is married, lives at Rolfe (1899) and still owns the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, Bellville township. James O'Kiefe at the time of his death and for five years previous, was treasurer of the school board of Bellville township, and John W. was secretary in 1876.

William R. Owen, of Canada, in April, 1870, entered a homestead claim on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, and occupied it till 1873, when he moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he and his

family still reside. His successor, Samuel H. Gill, secured the patent for this homestead and was occupying it in 1878, when he sustained the loss of all his buildings and also of his wife by the cyclone of April 21st, that year.

Gustave Peterson, a native of Sweden (b. 1841) and wife (Solomonson) came to Pocahontas county in 1870 with Aaron Himan, his brother-in-law, and located a homestead on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Bellville township. They built a sod house and occupied it till 1871 when they bought and moved to the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, Lincoln township where they still reside. They still own the old homestead and an additional eighty acres adjoining it on the same section. They are now in good circumstances, and have a family of five children; Henry, Albert, Ida, Minnie and Paul.

Swan Peterson, a native of Sweden, on May 26, 1876 entered the E $\frac{3}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 36, 80 acres, as a timber claim. This land had originally been entered by F. Carlson in 1868, and by Johanna Peterson in 1871 as a homestead, and the latter occupied it several years.

Peter Peterson, a native of Denmark (b. 1827), in 1871 secured a homestead of eighty acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, which he improved and occupied until the time of his death in 1893. His first wife died in the old country leaving one son George, and his second wife died in 1890 leaving two sons John P. and Christian Peterson. These three sons are now living in Bellville township and all of them own good farms.

George Peterson (b. 1843, Denmark) married Augusta, daughter of Frederick Weigert, and they have a family of small children. They are the owners and occupants of 280 acres on sections 10 and 15. He came to this country in 1883.

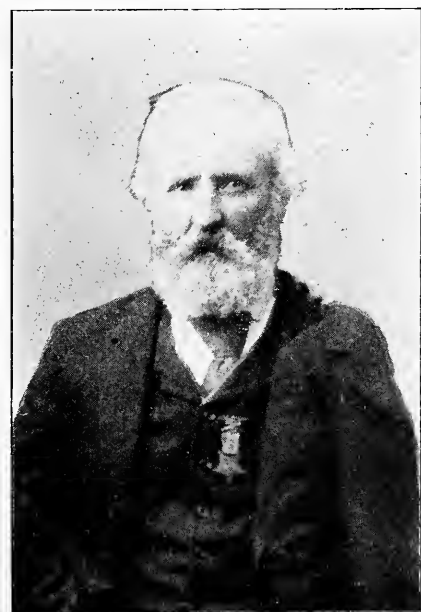
John P. Peterson homesteaded the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12 which had previous-



SWAN NELSON  
County Supervisor 1885-90.



MRS. SWAN NELSON

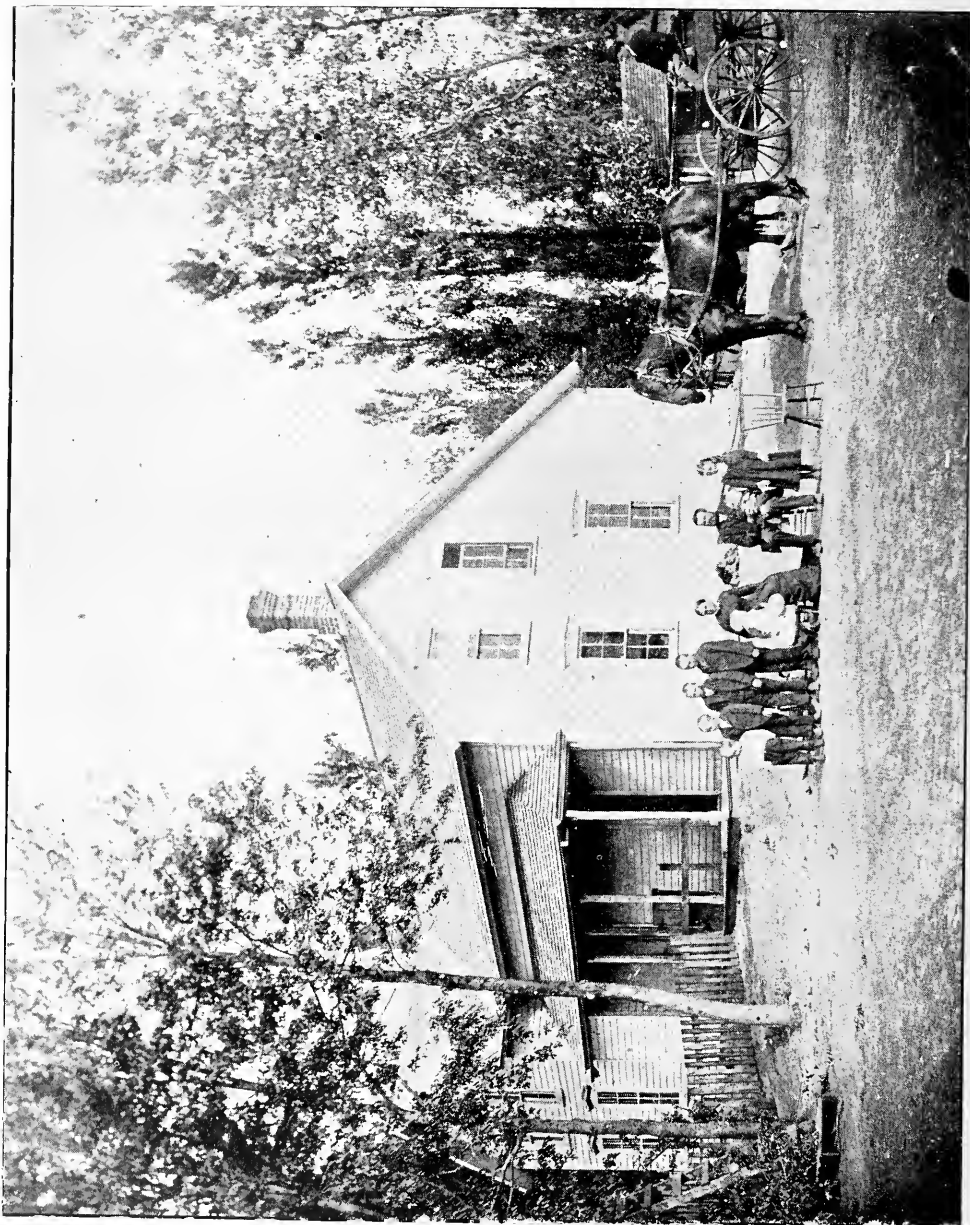


CHARLES KEZER



MRS. CHARLES KEZER

Bellville Township.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF RUDOLPH BENEKE, Bellville Township.

ly been entered successively by Ira G. Vaughn, Andrew C. Williamson, and James F. Peterson (no relative). After improving this property he sold it and is now the owner and occupant of the old homestead on section 2. In 1880 he married Maggie, a daughter of James Nelson and they have a small family. He is now serving his tenth year as a trustee of the township and was assessor from 1883 to 1886.

Christian Peterson (b. 1855, Denmark) is the owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14. About 1880 he married a daughter of Hans Markeson who, coming with wife, two sons and four daughters, homesteaded and until 1897 occupied the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12. Christian's wife died in 1892 leaving a family of five small children. He came to Bellville in 1870.

Rudolph Beneke, (b. Feb'y 23, 1850) of Bellville township, (Manson P. O.) is a native of Germany. His parents were Henry and Mary Beneke, and at the age of 18, in 1868, he came to America with his elder brother, Diederich, who now resides in Lincoln township. They located first in Scott county, Iowa, and in 1871 Rudolph visited Pocahontas county and bought 80 acres on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Bellville township. In 1875 he returned, located upon this land, began the work of its improvement and has lived upon it ever since. He first built a small house but in 1880 and again in 1887, as his family and farm grew larger, he enlarged it so that it is now one of the largest houses in the township. The other improvements consist of a large barn built in 1881, a cowbarn and a number of other smaller buildings. The beautiful grove, so nicely arranged around the house as to give it a picturesque view, was planted in 1875 and '76. In 1882 he planted an acre with plum, crab and apple trees and they are now in good bearing condition.

Mr. Beneke is a good illustration of a successful German farmer. He believes in investing the annual income of the farm in farm lands, and seems to have a special faculty for accumulating rural real estate. The record of his additional purchases has been as follows: In 1882, 141 acres; 1885, 40 acres; 1887, 80 acres; 1890, 120 acres; 1893, 40 acres; and in 1897 sells 75 acres and buys 320 acres, making him the present owner of 746 acres. He believes in cropping and raising stock together; he is not a large feeder, but keeps about 25 cows for dairy purposes. He keeps a careful eye on everything and nothing is allowed to go to waste. He believes in doing business on the cash basis and has been unwilling to go in debt. He has carefully avoided the payment of high rates of interest and the worry of mortgages.

On January 1, 1877, after a residence of two years in this country, he married Annie Smorkovski, (b. Dec. 4, 1855) a daughter of Anton and Barbara Smorkovski. Their family consists of five boys and three girls, all of whom are at home and at work on the farm, namely: Henry, (b. Jan. 24, 1878), Rudolph, (b. Sept. 18, 1879), Barbara, (b. March 18, 1881), Earnest August, (b. Aug. 30, 1882), Anton, (b. Nov. 28, 1884), Anna Sophia (b. Aug. 16, 1886) Mary, (b. April 16, 1888) and Frank (b. July 9, 1893). Mr. Beneke served as a trustee of the township six years—1889-1894, and was president of the school board in 1890.

#### WILLIAM BROWNLEE.

William Brownlee, (b. March 1, 1838), of Pomeroy, was a resident of Bellville township from the spring of 1869 until the fall of 1892, with the exception of the two years he served as county treasurer, 1884-'85, when he and his family lived at Pocahontas. He is a native of Welland county, Canada, and the son of Thomas and Sarah Brownlee, both of whom were of Scotch-Irish descent, and came

from the county of Armaugh, Ireland. On Nov. 3, 1861, he married Elizabeth H. Owen and one year later, coming to the United States, they located in Walworth county Wis. During a residence of six years at this place he found employment most of the time as a stage driver. In 1869, with a family of two children, they came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on a homestead on Sec. 18, Bellville township. After three years they bought another farm on Sec. 8, which they improved and occupied until the time of their removal to Pomeroy in 1892.

Mr. Brownlee was very highly honored by the citizens of Bellville, who recognized his excellent qualities of head and heart. He was enabled to render many years of efficient service in all the township offices that a good citizen is expected to fill. He was a trustee in 1872, clerk in 1873, a justice of the peace five years, president of the school board four years, secretary of it five years and treasurer of the school fund three years. He was also the first citizen of Bellville township to enjoy the honor of a seat on the board of county supervisors (1876-1883). On Jan. 7, 1884, after eight years of efficient service, he resigned his position as a member of this board, that he might accept the more responsible office of county treasurer, to which he had been elected the previous fall.

His estimable wife was one of the most efficient and popular of the early teachers of Bellville, and she joined with her husband in making their home one of the most hospitable and entertaining in that section. Their home was situated a short distance south of the South branch of Lizard creek and also near the largest lake in the township. This locality proved to be a favorite camping ground for the roving bands of Indians that annually frequented this section for the purpose of hunting and trapping in the days of its early settlement. These

Indian bands were neighborly neighbors, but everybody was glad when they left the community, for they were professional beggars of a treacherous character. The early settler, in the interest of peace and to get them to leave the premises as soon as possible, usually felt it was better to give them all they wanted, so that many times the larder was emptied in meeting their demands.\*

Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom are dead. William Allen (single) is engaged in the grain and seed business at St. Paul; Bert O., married to Harriet Swisher, is clerking in a store at Mallard; Bern R. married to Mabel Joslyn, is located on a farm in Calhoun county; Mary F. and Howard Lee are still at home.

Charles Kezer, (b. March 8, 1835) one of the pioneers of Bellville township, is a native of New Hampshire, and the names of his parents were Graham and Elvira Kezer. In 1856 he came to Illinois and on August 12, 1862, at Galva, Henry county, enlisted as a member of the 112th Ill. regiment. Seven days later he married Sarah Jane Smith, (b. April 23, 1841) of Stark county, Ill. After one year and two months of service he was transferred to the invalid corps and two months later was discharged for general debility. His father-in-law and one of his sons wishing him to go with them to the army, on January 25, 1865, he re-enlisted as a member of Co. G, of the same regiment. On April 4, 1865, at Goldsborough, N. C., he was detailed as an orderly and in June was transferred to the 65th Ill. regiment. He was discharged July 13, 1865. That fall he and his father-in-law and their families came to Book Grove, north of Webster City, where they spent the winter, and then located in Clear Lake township, Hamilton county, which they helped to organize. In the spring of 1870, he and his fam-

\*See page 154.



ily of two children came to Bellville township and located on a homestead on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28. In 1873 and 1875 he experienced the loss of his crops by the grasshoppers, and in 1881 two of his daughters from cerebral meningitis. In 1884 he moved to Sec. 22, Lincoln township; in 1893 became superintendent of the county poor farm and six years later moved to another farm in that vicinity. Mr. Kezer assisted in the organization of Bellville township in 1870. He was chosen president of the school board at the time of its organization in 1871 and filled that position again in 1874, '76-77. He was assessor four years, 1874-77; township clerk six years, 1877-82; and secretary of the school board ten years, 1875 and 1878-86. Mr. and Mrs. Kezer have won the confidence and esteem of their neighbors wherever they have lived. Of their family six children are still living. Edmund M., on Nov. 5, 1895, married Elizabeth, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Boyd; they reside at Rutland, where he is engaged in blacksmithing, and have one child, Joyce Pearl. Anna Elvira, on Nov. 28, 1895, married Arthur Irwin, and they reside in New Hampshire. Julia Winifred, Sarah Jane, Franklin G. and Charles Samuel are at home.

#### SWAN NELSON.

Two of the hardy pioneers who achieved a marked success on the farm in Pocahontas county, after a residence of thirty years on the old homestead on section 34, Bellville township, in the fall of 1899 moved to Manson to occupy a large and beautiful mansion especially designed and constructed by them with all modern appliances for their comfort and happiness. From the sod house to the mansion, is the worthy record of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Nelson. While many have been successful on the farm few have done better than they. Arriving in this country in 1869, empty-

handed but willing to "go west" and find a place where they were needed, by industry and the practice of economy they have become the happy possessors of a fine farm of 280 acres of land as productive and valuable as any in Bellville township. They improved it with fine buildings protected by a beautiful grove, and stocked it with the best of stock. Everything about the premises was so conveniently arranged and kept in such excellent order that labor was a source of pleasure as well as profit. The results, without including any reference to the many years of public service rendered in the township and county, are a good illustration of what may be achieved by patience and perseverance.

Swan Nelson (b. Sept. 30, 1843) is a native of Sandby of Kristianstads l'an Sweden. Leaving the "home where his cradle had been rocked and the country where his forefathers had been dedicated back to dust," on the 4th day of May, 1869, at the age of 26 years, he arrived in Bellville township on June 5th following, and began to occupy as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34,—80 acres—for which the entry was made Nov. 6, 1869, and the patent issued February 15, 1876. He did not cross "the pond" alone, but in company with a few friends, two of whom became his neighbors in Calhoun county for several years, and another was the lady to whom he was engaged to be married, who heartily seconded his proposal to found a home in this "great west land of which he had heard so much."

Some of their experiences in gaining an introduction to the fertile prairies of Pocahontas county were characteristic of the lot of many of the early pioneers that preceded the construction of the railroad. After a long and tiresome journey, arriving at Moline, Ill., where a sister and brother-in-law (Peterson) lived, they found

they had left a month previous to secure a homestead in Northwest Iowa. They felt they must follow, and passed to Dubuque on a steamboat. Hitherto on their journey, by the aid of interpreters, they had experienced no trouble in making known their wants in the Swede language, but now they were left to their own resources. After considerable trouble with the agent they finally succeeded in getting tickets for Iowa Falls, the western terminus of the train service of the Illinois Central at that time, and arrived there toward evening. When they stepped from that train they did not know how or when they could continue their journey, but seeing that the track was laid as far as they could see toward the setting sun, they decided to remain at the depot and get aboard the first train going westward. At nine o'clock, however, they were given to understand they could not remain longer in the depot, and in order that a train might not leave without their knowledge, they selected as a resting place for that night, a pleasant evening in June, the shelter afforded by an oak tree that stood near the station. The next morning they boarded a train facing westward and when Mr. Nelson handed the conductor \$7.50 for their fares they had only one dime left to complete their journey. At Fort Dodge they were comforted by meeting a former acquaintance who knew also their friend, Mr. Peterson, and his location in Calhoun county. The next morning, accompanied by this friend and having a loaf of bread for lunch, they set out on foot for Peterson's home. The wind was blowing from the west bringing an occasional shower, and they found this, the longest and most wearisome walk they had ever undertaken. When they arrived at Yatesville in the afternoon the young lady was completely exhausted and remained with a family by the name of

Hay, while the men completed the journey to Peterson's sod house five miles further west. The next day, Peterson, with a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, returned with the men to Fort Dodge for their trunks and Mr. Nelson signified his intention to become a citizen of the United States. He found immediate employment in the construction of the new railroad, but inasmuch as it rained about four days in the week, the income was not very large.

In the month of August, having selected their homestead, they concluded to get married. As there was no minister or justice of the peace in that vicinity, Mr. Peterson took the couple to Fort Dodge in the lumber wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen. A license was procured and the clerk sending them to a little house in which the judge lived, the latter "caused them to join hands and then, putting a very solemn look on his face, said something which the young people did not understand but which they believed was good and effective, since it held them together as man and wife ever since."

The wagon was then loaded with some lumber, eight sacks of flour and some groceries, and everything went smoothly on their return until they arrived near the place where Barnum is now located, and there although Peterson was on one side of the wagon and Nelson on the other driving the oxen, they stuck fast in the middle of a large slough. The latter carried his bride to the farther shore and then assisted Peterson to carry over the flour and lumber. After a long struggle they succeeded in bringing out the oxen and wagon. When they came to the next bad slough they were unwilling to risk an effort to pull through it, so they carried again most of the load over it, the groom carrying his bride a second time. When they reached home it was long

after the hour of midnight, and both were well satisfied that this was a rather hard country through which to make a wedding tour. The next spring they built a little sod house on the homestead and moved into it May 2, 1870.

Mr. Nelson became a citizen of the United States in the fall of 1874, and on January 1, 1877, as assessor, he began an efficient official career in Bellville township that was continuous from that date until the time of his retirement from the farm in 1899—a period of twenty-two years. He was a member of the school board many years, was president of it three years, 1880 '89 and '93, and treasurer of the school fund nine years, 1883-85 and 1894-99. He was a justice of the peace sixteen years, 1883-98, and a member of the board of County Supervisors six years, 1885-1890.

In all his official acts he has manifested an integrity of purpose that has won for him the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and the orderly arrangement of everything at his home found its expression in an honest effort to proceed according to law in the administration of every public trust committed to him. He never sold any grain, but fed it to cattle and hogs, and much of his success as a farmer is to be attributed to a careful observance of this fundamental principle of agricultural prosperity. After a few years of hard labor and successful achievement he has retired from the farm with well earned laurels to spend the rest of his days in comfort and luxury.

On August 22, 1869, he married Celia Nelson, (b. Sept. 6, 1835) a native of Sweden, and their family has consisted of three sons and one daughter—Nelius Moonat (b. May 4, 1870), August Leonard (b. Oct. 8, 1871), Mollie, Sophia and Axel Emil, who on Jan. 4, 1899 married Selma Christina Petrie, now occupies the old home on the

farm and has one son born December 28, 1899.

Mr. Nelson has been a loyal republican, a practical prohibitionist and a faithful member of the Swede church in Manson.

Betsey Nelson, a native of Sweden, came to this country in 1871, and homesteaded the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34. She built a sod house and lived on her homestead until she received the patent for it and then sold it to Elias Swanson, a brother-in-law. She is a sister of Swan Nelson and her first husband died in Sweden. She is now the wife of Peter Peterson, of Calhoun county, and they live in Manson.

Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, of Denmark, came to this country in 1877 and bought the farm of Fred Weigert, on Sec. 4, Bellville township. Their family consisted of one son, Rasmus, and two daughters, Maggie and Carrie. Rasmus in 1889, married Mary Hanson, and they now own and occupy his father's farm. Maggie became the wife of John P. Peterson and Carrie the wife of Charles Kelso, a carpenter, and they reside at Palmer.

Nils Anderson, a native of Sweden, (b. 1836) on Sept. 5, 1869, entered a homestead of 80 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 18 and secured the patent for it June 15, 1875. In 1869 he built a small frame house and occupied it alone that year. In 1870 his wife arrived with their family of five children—Turina, Christina, August, Euphemia and Emma, the last then four years of age. In 1876 his wife, Kizer Olsen, died, and two years later he married Emma Olsen, (no relative of Kizer) of Sioux City. They continued to occupy the old homestead till the spring of 1896, when they moved to Pomeroy. Turina Henricks, the eldest, (b. March 30, 1850, d. May 2, 1899) was a step-daughter of Mr. Anderson, and in 1875 became the wife of Frank Peterson, of Colfax township; Christina in 1872, married John A. Johnson, of

Colfax; August Anderson (single) is mining gold in Colorado; Euphemia in 1895, married Nils Walleen and they reside in the state of Washington; Emma in 1887, married Wm. Johnson, and they reside in Colorado; Betka, a native of Pocahontas county, is still residing with her parents. Nils Anderson was a good farmer and for many years has been an active member and liberal supporter of the Swedish Mission church of Colfax township.

Peter Anderson, (b. Oct. 17, 1856) the pioneer owner and occupant of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7, is a native of Sweden and a son of Frank B. Anderson, of Grant township. He came to Pocahontas county in 1880 and lived three years with his father. In 1886 he married Christine Youngren, also a native of Sweden, (b. Oct 4, 1862) and since that date they have lived on their present farm. Their family consists of seven children—Ida, Oscar, Elmer, Frederick, John, Nellie and May. Mr. Anderson was township clerk in 1896, and president of the school board three years, 1891-92 and 1897.

Heilert W. Behrens (b. Nov. 1827) is a native of Germany, where, in the spring of 1852, he married Marie Hedden (b. 1827) and in May, 1870, they and their two sons, Frederic and Henry, arrived in Pocahontas county. After a residence of three months in Lizard, they bought and began to improve the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, 160 acres, Bellville township. A few years later additional purchases were made until they owned 500 acres. Subsequently he sold 400 acres constituting the home farm, to his second son, Henry B., and made investments in real estate in Pomeroy. His wife died in August, 1892, and is buried at Pomeroy. In 1893 he married Mrs. Josephine Dibbert, but secured a divorce in January, 1897. He served two years as a justice of the peace and

seven years as a trustee of Bellville township. He has returned to Germany twice during his residence in this country and now resides on the farm with his son. He has been an ardent democrat and an active member of the German Evangelical church of Pomeroy. His family consists of two daughters who died young in Germany, and two sons.

(1) Frederic W. Behrens (b. 1866) in 1888 married Eliza Neetting and they located first at London, Iowa, where in partnership with his brother-in-law, they owned and operated a creamery for several years. After short residences in Ft. Wayne, Michigan and Ohio, they are now owning and operating a creamery in Missouri, and have a family of four children—Emma, Anna, Lily and Frederic. Two others died young.

(2) Henry B. Behrens, (b. 1868) the present owner of his father's farm, in 1888 married Annie Albright, and they erected a fine barn 56x70 feet, and a large addition to the old home, which is protected by a beautiful grove. Their family (one child died young) consists of four children—Minnie, Marie, Elizabeth and William.

Mr. Behrens is a very highly respected citizen and has served as trustee of Bellville township ten years. During the past sixteen years he has served as organist for the German Evangelical church of Pomeroy. During the first three years of this period he missed only three Sabbaths, and as a grateful recognition of this unusual fidelity received in 1886 a gold watch. He has also served several years as collector of the church funds.

Maurice Clancy, of Canada, visiting this county in 1874, bought 240 acres of land on Sec. 29, Bellville township. In 1875 he and his wife (Catherine Crowley) and their two sons, John and Patrick Clancy (and wife) came to this county, settled on this land and began the work of its improvement.

Maurice and his wife were both natives of Ireland. He died in 1889 at the age of 75 years and his wife in 1891 at the age of 70 years; and both were buried in the Catholic cemetery at Pomeroy. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters, two of whom settled in Canada. Michael was drowned in Lake Winnepeg, at the age of 26 years, while engaged as a surveyor in Dakota. John bought a portion of his father's farm in Bellville township, occupied it two years and then going further west, sold it to his brother Patrick, three years later.

Patrick Clancy (b. 1845) is now the owner and occupant of his father's (Maurice) farm in Bellville township. He has increased its size to 360 acres and provided it with fine improvements. He is a native of Canada and married there in 1872 Elizabeth McAlpin, a sister of Mrs. John O'Brien. He is a sturdy, hard working man, a successful farmer and a highly esteemed citizen. He was treasurer of the township school fund five years, 1889-93. His family consists of five children—Michael, Catherine (a teacher) Mary, John, Bridget A. and Thomas Michael.

Patrick Enright (b. 1833, Ireland) came to America in 1857 with a couple of his brothers and, locating with them in Canada, married there Cecilia Flynn, in 1861. In 1869 they came to Pocahontas county and located on a homestead of 80 acres in Bellville township, W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, which they improved and increased by purchase to 160 acres. His wife died in 1876 and his death occurred Oct. 28, 1898, after a residence of 29 years on the old homestead. He was a good farmer and both he and his wife are gratefully remembered as good citizens and good neighbors. Both are buried in the Lizard Catholic cemetery. Their family consisted of five children.

(1) Thomas Enright, the eldest,

(b. July 3, 1863, Canada) is the present owner and occupant of the old homestead. On April 12, 1893, he married Mary E., (native of Canada) eldest daughter of Patrick Quinn, and they have a family of two children, Thomas Joseph and Rose Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Enright have rendered long and efficient service as public school teachers, and their portraits may be seen in the group for Lizard township and vicinity.

(2) John Enright, (b. 1865, Can.) on Sept. 23, 1896, married Margaret Masterson, (b. Dec. 26, 1872, Ill.) and they located first on a farm of their own in Lizard township, but in 1898 moved to Clinton township, where she died Dec. 29, 1899, leaving an infant son.

(3) James Enright (b. 1867,) is traveling in the west.

(4) Mary A., in 1891 married John F. Quinn, and they reside on a farm in Bellville.

(5) Cecilia in 1892 married Patrick A. Quinn, and they reside at Pomeroy.

John G. Lampe (b. 1806 ?) is a native of Germany, and coming to this country in his youth, located first near Galena, Ill., where he married Catherine Nundar. After a few years they moved to Potosi, Wis., where they remained until the fall of 1868, when they came to Pocahontas county with a family of four children—Henry, George, Mary and Frank—and located on a farm in Lizard township. Soon afterward he and his two sons, Henry and George, and also his son-in-law, E. K. Cain, located each a homestead on sections 4 and 6, Bellville township, for which their claims were filed June 12, 1869. When they began to break the prairie sod on these homesteads the only other residents of the township were Wm. Bell, Niels Hanson and Philip Myers. The sod house on the homestead was their humble habitation during the year 1869. The next year Mr. Lampe and his son-in-law, E. K. Cain, built a frame shanty

on the line between their adjoining claims and both families occupied it. At the time this building was destroyed by the tornado of April 21, 1878, it was owned by Aultman & Taylor Co. and was vacant. Mrs. Lampe died in April, 1873, at the age of 74 years, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Pomeroy. Mr. Lampe is still living with his son, Henry Lampe. He is the oldest inhabitant in the township and, according to the date usually assigned for his birth, 1806, he is probably the oldest inhabitant in the county. His three sons, Henry, George and Frank, have fine farms adjoining each other, improved with large and beautiful buildings and they are rated among the most prosperous farmers of the township.

(1) Henry B. Lampe (b. Sept. 14, 1845,) on Nov. 12, 1872, married Joanna Kreul, and they are residing on the homestead he selected in 1868. His farm contains 240 acres and is finely improved. Their family consisted of thirteen children, four of whom died young. John Lampe, his son, May 6, 1896, married Christina Niehous, and they live in Lincoln township; Mary, on May 18, 1897, married John Schwady and they also live in Lincoln township; William, Kate, Gertrude, George, Maggie, Minnie and Edward are at home.

(2) George Lampe is also occupying the homestead on section 4, that he selected in the fall of 1868, but it has been enlarged to 200 acres. His family consists of six children—Anna, Mary, Kate, Lizzie, Henry and Rose, one having died in childhood.

(3) Mary Lampe in 1869, while they lived in Lizard township, married Elisha K. Cain. They located first on the homestead in Bellville, and in the cabin of Mr. Lampe, that same year, he taught the first school in the township. Their family consisted of thirteen children and they now reside in Minnesota.

(4) Frank Lampe married Kate Condon and they are located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 9, Bellville township. They were the first to occupy and improve this land and are now in very prosperous circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Lungren, (b. 1853) owners and occupants of a farm of 240 acres on Sec. 2, are natives of Sweden. During the second year after their marriage they came to this country and secured as a homestead the N $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2—80 acres—Bellville township, which they have finely improved and increased by two additional tracts of 80 acres each. They are now in good circumstances and have raised a family of eight children. Hildah, the eldest, in 1896 married Alfred Olson, and they reside in Grant township. Ellen, the third daughter, married Charles Olson and they also reside in Grant township, where they own a farm of eighty acres. Clara, Jennie, Martin, John, Albert and Mollie are still at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lungren are members of the Swedish Lutheran church of Colfax township.

John O'Brien, (b. March 31, 1849,) owner and occupant of the S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 17, (90-32), 360 acres, is a native of Canada, and married there Bridget McAuliff, (b. 1854) on Feb'y 3, 1879. One month later they located on their present farm and began the work of its improvement. He is a man of large stature and the possessor of great muscular strength, which he has always endeavored to use for some good purpose. He is a man of noble principles, pacific in spirit, a consistent member of the Catholic church and highly respected by all who know him. He has raised a family of ten children, all of whom are at home, namely, William, Mary, Jane, Richard, John, Margareta, Thoma, Thomas Michael, Anna Winnifred, Elizabeth Catherine, Alice, Martin Edward and George Emmet.

Patrick Quinn (b. March 25, 1825,) is a native of Ireland, and when quite young came with his parents to the province of Ontario, Canada. Here he grew to manhood and on April 15, 1856, married Bridget Guilteman (b. 1834), also a native of Ireland. After marriage they engaged in farming in that timber district until the year 1872, when, with a family of ten children—Andrew, Thomas, Bridget, Patrick, John, James, Martin, Michael and Maggie, they came to this county and bought the homestead of Philip Myers, on W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Bellville township. On their arrival they found a little shanty 12x14 feet. The first work of improvement was its enlargement so as to meet the wants of his rapidly growing family. Four acres of forest trees and one of fruit trees were planted that very soon developed into a shady grove and a fruit-bearing orchard; but the long continued drought of 1894-95 caused the loss of some varieties of trees and injured others. As a farmer Mr. Quinn has been eminently successful. He has made six additional purchases of land on the adjoining sections as the years have passed, so that he is now the possessor of 720 acres. The fine improvements erected at the old home consist of a large, two-story dwelling house built in 1884, a cow barn 52x82 feet, a large horse barn and another one for sheep, a large pig house and another one for poultry, a machinery hall, three granaries and two double corn cribs. He aims to secure a thorough cultivation of the soil, the application of all available manures and a proper rotation of crops. He has been a large and successful feeder of cattle, hogs and sheep. He has been accustomed to change the strain of his stock nearly every year, often paying high prices for what he wants, and has a decided preference for the Shorthorns, Poland-Chinas and Cotswolds. During the

twenty-seven years of his residence in this section he has never seen a failure of crops on the farm.

A family of fourteen children has grown up around him and, taking a laudable interest in extending to them the opportunities for receiving a good education, he has had the unusual pleasure of seeing as many as seven of them, as they became old enough, engage in teaching public school. The family consists of eleven sons and three daughters.

(1) Andrew G. Quinn in Nov., 1888, married Eva Howe, of Illinois, and they own and occupy a farm of 240 acres in Colfax township. They have a family of five children—Mary B., Edward, Francis, George and Genevieve Ann. He was township clerk and secretary of the school board of Bellville township in 1887. (2) Mary E., married April 12, 1893, Thomas Enright. She taught school thirteen years previous to her marriage. They live on Sec. 12, and have two children, Thomas and Rose. (3) Thomas B. Quinn Nov. 27, 1896, married Genevieve Whaley and they reside in Texas. (4) Bridget C. is at home. (5) Patrick A. Quinn Dec. 6, 1892, married Cecilia Enright and they own a farm of 160 acres in Bellville township. They reside at Pomeroy, where he is engaged as a teacher and carpenter. Their only child died young. (6) John F. Quinn in Feb'y, 1891, married Mary Enright. They own and occupy a farm of 160 acres in Bellville township, which they have improved with good buildings and a fine grove. They have three children—Mary E., George J. and Cecilia F. (7) James D. Quinn Nov. 24, 1896, married Mary Campbell. They own a farm of 160 acres in Sherman township which they were the first to occupy and improve. (8) Martin B. Quinn completed the business course in Highland Park college in 1892 and is now in a railroad office in Arkansas.

Michael, Maggie A., Joseph, Paul, Edward and Walter (twins) are at home when not pursuing their studies or engaged in teaching.

Patrick Quinn was president of the school board in 1879, justice of the peace two years, 1885-86, and a trustee of the township fifteen years, 1879-93.

Andrew Reedland, a native of Sweden, in 1873 with wife and three children came to Bellville township and homesteaded the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32. He improved and occupied this home until about 1889 when he moved to Colfax township and a few years later to Kansas.

John O. Schon, who on September 23, 1886 was killed by Otto Otten, came to this township about 1876 and located on section 23. He and his wife came from Illinois empty handed but in ten years through careful and economical management he was the owner of 200 acres of land on which he erected a good residence. He was one of the original members and supporters of the Emmanuel German church of Bellville township. His brother M. B. Schon is the owner and occupant of the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 19. His murder was effected by shooting through a window while seated at the supper table and it was wholly unprovoked. Otten was a young German, a neighbor and intimate friend of the family. When arrested, he confessed his guilt and received a sentence of imprisonment for life in the penitentiary at Anamosa.

Joseph Strong in January 1871 secured the homestead claim forfeited by Isaac Tappee on section 34. He was a young man, a brother of Mrs. John Christmas with whom he made his home. After a few years he sold his homestead to Swan Nelson and went to Colorado.

Frederick Weigert, a native of Germany, in the fall of 1870, accompanied by his wife, Mary, and two children, Herman and Augusta, secured a

homestead on section 4 which he improved. After seven years he sold it to James, the father of Erasmus Nelson its present owner, and bought the farm of A. Cady on section 24 which he still owns. Later he increased the size of this farm and finely improved it. In the spring of 1897 he and his wife, aged 73 and 65 years respectively, moved to Manson where they now reside. Their family consisted of two sons and one daughter. Herman, the eldest, in 1888 married Louisa Weigert (no relative) and bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, Lake township which he has improved and still occupies. Augusta in 1884 became the wife of George, a son of Peter Peterson and they reside on section 10, Bellville township, where they have a large farm. Frederick Jr., in 1897 married Maria Kelso and they occupy his father's farm in Bellville township.

Peter Wendell (b. April 7, 1842) is the son of Peter and Caroline Wendell both of whom died at Cincinnati, Ohio, six months after his birth, from the terrible scourge of cholera that visited that and many other cities of this land at that time. An elder brother is still living in Ohio. In his childhood and youth he was cared for by his Uncle John Rice, and at the age of ten came with him to Iowa. At Guttenberg, August 2, 1862, at the age of eighteen years, he enlisted for three years as a member of Co. D. 27th Regiment Iowa Infantry. This company was first sent to guard Fort Snelling against the Indians in Minnesota and remained one year in the frontier service under Gen. A. J. Smith. Then, becoming a part of the 16th Army Corps under Gen. Sherman, he passed through the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama; and participated in eighteen battles including those at Pleasant Hill, Little Rock, Tupelo, Old Town Creek, Nashville and Holly Springs. At Town Creek he was severely



wounded, the ball passing through the left lung and fracturing five ribs. His comrades drew a silk handkerchief through the wound and he survived. He received an honorable discharge at Memphis, Tenn. May 25, 1865.

On Nov. 25, 1865 he married Amelia Munch, widow of Christoff Seemans, who died soon after his return from the war. They first located at Guttenberg, Iowa, where he found employment as a butcher. After six months they moved to Cassville, Wis., three years later to Dyersville, Iowa, and in the spring of 1871 to the homestead on section 22, Belleville township, on which they still reside. It included 120 acres which was all on that section that was not listed as swamp land, and it had previously been entered by Fred B. Olson and Thomas Faherty. He is now the owner of 200 acres and the fine improvements erected thereon have called forth the admiration of many observers. He takes a commendable pride in the neatness and order of his farm and all its appurtenances. His house looks home-like, and his barns, sheds and stables are conveniently arranged for the care of a large number of cattle and horses. An un failing supply of water is furnished by a deep well and windmill. The water, after passing through the milk tank, finds its way into the stock yards where the cattle and hogs, even in the pastures, may quench their thirst at any hour of the day. Long racks for hay encircle the yards so that all the cattle can be supplied with food on the arrival of the first storm. All the buildings are encircled with a dense grove, that breaks the fierceness of the winter's storm and provides a cool retreat from the summer's heat. The buildings are located on a plat of ground that is elevated considerably above the surrounding country so that they can be easily seen at a

distance of four or six miles. The Shorthorn is his favorite and he aims to keep enough of them to eat all the grain raised on the farm. He served as township clerk in 1874 and later as a justice of the peace.

The family of Mr. Wendell consisted of seven children, one of whom, Edward died at the age of 19 in April 1888. William in 1887 married Folenia Schon and resides at Fonda, where during the ten years previous to March 1, 1900, in partnership with his brother George, he was proprietor of a meat market. He has a family of five children, Harrison, Clarence, Gilroy, Pearl and Adelia. George, in 1896, married Lizzie Griffin, resides at Fonda and has one child, Albert married Anna Wendell and lives at Marietta, Ohio. Lillie married Charles Kennedy and he is proprietor of a barber shop at Gilmore City. Ida has achieved a high degree of merit as a teacher in the public schools of the county. Emma, in 1898, married Benjamin Kidd and they live on a farm in Lake township.

More of the early settlers of this and the adjoining township of Colfax came from Sweden than from any other country, although Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Bohemia were also represented. That the Swedes naturally become attached to the "old homestead" and flourish finely when transplanted, with their own approval, in this soil and climate is apparent to any one who makes a tour of these townships and sees their cultivated fields, improved farms, beautiful homes and well furnished churches. They did not disdain the humble and uncertain comforts of the sod house, when these were the best this section afforded, and when it became possible to enjoy more of the comforts of life they have adapted themselves to the new order of things by enlarging and beautifying their homes and

adding many additional acres to the old homestead.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

William Brownlee, of Bellville, was county treasurer during the two years, 1884-85. The township has been represented on the board of county supervisors by Wm. Brownlee, eight years, 1876-1883; and by Swan Nelson six years, 1885-1890.

#### PALMER.

In August, 1899, the Rock Island railway company having completed the survey of their line through this county, bought of Niels Hanson twenty-five acres on the northeast corner of section 10, for a town site, seven miles north and three west of Manson. This place was called Hanson, in honor of Mr. Hanson, who as a pioneer owner and occupant, had improved and cultivated it for so many years, but about the first of December following, owing to the similarity of that name to Manson, it was changed to Palmer. The site of the town was surveyed and platted by Fred A. Malcolm, of Rolfe. The postoffice was opened at the hotel with Miss Minnie Hanson as postmistress, on January 3, 1900. At that date a number of buildings had been erected and several firms were doing business. Dr. J. T. Kessing and wife, the latter a pharmacist, opened a drug store as the first place of business. The second was the lumber office of the Wheeler Lumber Co., under the local management of Martin A. Hanson. The first building erected was the bank and real estate building of Morris W. Fitz. A little later the hotel of Larson & Co. was completed, also the hardware store of Olsen Bros. & Co., and the blacksmith shop of Joseph Abrahamsen. At this time most of the grading in this county had been completed, but the laying of the track had not commenced.

#### THE BLANDEN STOCK FARM.

The largest farm in this county and

probably the largest in North-west Iowa, is located in the southeast corner of Bellville township and known as the Blanden Farm. In 1876 Gen. Leander Blanden, of Fort Dodge, purchased section 25 from Henry Steckelburg, and other lands from others (unimproved) as follows: The SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 26 and all of Sec. 35. Soon afterward he bought section 36 in Bellville, and section 31 adjoining it in Lizard township, making a farm of 3,460 acres of choice land located principally on five adjoining sections.

The buildings are conveniently located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25 and consist of a large high barn 56x200 feet, built upon a wall 8 feet high, a horse barn 35x56 feet, cribs that hold 70,000 bushels of corn, 1200 feet of cattle-sheds arranged in the form of an enclosure, an elevated tank that holds 1,150 barrels of water and supplies the various feed yards with a good supply of pure water, a steam feed mill that grinds 1,000 bushels of ear corn a day, a 16,000 bu. elevator and several other buildings. The supply of water is from an artesian well sunk in 1880, to a depth of 1,285 feet, and its quantity is sufficient for a city of 10,000 inhabitants. The complete system of waterworks connected with it includes more than a mile of underground pipes. The feed yards and other arrangements for the care of stock are all on a very large scale. South of the barn are four large yards separated from each other by feed racks, 580 feet long constructed with heavy cedar posts and plank well framed together. This rack, which is ten feet wide, has a tight bottom two and one-half feet above the ground, that provides underneath it healthful quarters for 1500 hogs. On the south side it is open its entire length, but on the north it is sheltered with planking to the ground. Hay and grain are fed from this rack with ease and economy. The horse

barn is used only for stabling the work horses and mules that are in use on the farm. The basement of the large barn is divided by alleys with stalls on each side, so that in hauling from it the team is driven from side to side through double doors. When the barn was completed and for many years afterward these stalls were filled with 300 head of the finest thoroughbred and high grade Short-horn cattle in this country, their weight ranging from 100 to 2,700 pounds and their value from \$50 to \$1000 each. Over this basement the barn is floored with plank throughout and has room for storing 600 tons of hay. The arrangements for storing the hay are novel and labor-saving. The hoisting apparatus is so arranged that a load of hay may be laid in any part of the mow from a wagon standing at either end of the barn, and in hauling grain or hay into it, where the floor is not used for storage, no difficulty is experienced in turning the team and wagon even with the hayrack. When the barn is full the hay is dropped to the basement through long wooden tubes that extend nearly to the top of the barn. The work of hauling hay for the large number of cattle sheltered in this barn is no small chore, yet these are but a portion of the stock on the farm. In 1899 there were 800 head of fat cattle and 500 head of stock hogs (Poland-China) on the farm over winter. During the year 1880 as many as 60 thoroughbred bulls were sold to the farmers in that vicinity, a fact that tells of the excellent character of the stock and the public service rendered the farmers in this new section of country by the establishment in it of so fine a herd. One of the many fine animals on this farm was the 2d Duke of Moscow, bred in Kentucky, five years old in 1879 and weighed 2700 pounds. This animal won many premiums at state and county fairs and

had been taught to pose like a statue, for hours at a time when on exhibition, the only movement made being an occasional wink of the eye. In 1881 there was one cow on the farm that was 17 years old. In the American Herd Book she was listed as Dover Second, and she furnished \$17,000 worth of blooded stock for the market. During recent years the tendency has been to raise fat rather than fancy stock.

The first dwelling house erected, burned in the spring of 1881, and the present building, a two-story frame 30x40 feet, was built that year on the old site, a beautiful situation upon a commanding elevation. This is the home of the superintendent, and the southwest room on the first floor is used as his office. The first superintendent of this farm was H. G. Tyler, who in 1881, when the people's party was organized in this county, became its first candidate for the office of county treasurer and received 369 of the 826 votes cast for that office. In 1887 he was succeeded by Wm. A. Berry, the present superintendent, who is a step-son of Gen. Blanden.

As a home for the large force of teamsters, millers and other workmen on this large farm, another building has been provided, called the "barracks," that has a general sitting and reading room for them on the first floor and lodging rooms on the second. Newspapers and writing material are liberally provided and the occupants pass the long winter evenings here with pleasure and profit.

The rules of the place, though not harsh, are imperative and are observed with clock-like regularity. In the early days ten thousand acres of wild prairie grass were available for pasturage at a mere trifle, and the cost of making hay was only sixty cents a ton. The rule in regard to pasturage read as follows: "To each two hundred head of cattle put one pony and

a boy. When turned out in the spring the lot should be properly branded, boy, pony and all. It is well to salt the whole outfit three times each week."

The home on this farm, with its numerous buildings and busy scenes of activity, has the air of a small town, especially at those seasons of the year when grain and hay are harvested or stock is marketed. The stock on this farm annually consumes about 1,500 tons of hay and 75,000 bushels of grain. In addition to those on the farm many teams of the neighboring farmers are seen here weighing and unloading corn and oats, attracted thither by the liberal prices offered for the delivery of the grain. The artesian well which was sunk 200 feet through solid rock, cost \$5,000, and the other improvements on the farm \$15,000.

On completion of the C. R. I. & P. R. R. a private switch and stock yards was provided for the use of the farm.

Gen. Blanden volunteered under Lincoln's call in 1862, remained in active service until the war closed and was promoted in regular order until given command of his regiment, the 95th Illinois. In Dec. 1864 he was given command of the 2d Brigade, 3d Division of the Army of the Tennessee, and remained its commanding officer from that date through its long campaign after Hood, until its disbandment. He was mustered out with his regiment in Aug. 1865 when "the war was over" Brevet Brigadier General. After the war he engaged in banking at Fort Dodge, where he still resides. His farm is about three miles north of Manson and the enterprise manifested by him in raising fine and fat stock has been a general benefit to the farmers of this section, by inspiring an ambition to raise the best grades of cattle, hogs and horses, and

by furnishing on a large scale, a model of the conveniences needed for their successful management.

"Gen. Blanden is neither a tinker, a tailor

Nor a boy who wabbles at the plow;  
But a banker, a real granger,  
And a tiptop judge of a cow."

#### SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

Although the history of this township does not begin so early as some of the others, it covers the period of progress in harvesting machines. In 1869 the hay in this township was cut with a scythe, and in 1870 and 1871 the crops of wheat and small grain were cut with cradles, with the exception that in the latter year the crop of Wm. Brownlee was cut with a McCormick hand raking machine. In 1872 Peter Peterson of Calhoun county cut considerable hay for the farmers in the south part of the township with a mower and their small grain with a Buckeye dropper. In 1894 the perfected thresher with feeder, blower and weighing apparatus was introduced.

#### TORNADO OF APRIL 21, 1878.

On the evening of Easter Sabbath, April 21, 1878, a storm of unprecedented violence, coming up the Maple River valley to the vicinity of Storm Lake, where two persons were killed, and then changing its course southeast to a point in Calhoun county five miles south of Fonda, passed thence northeast across Williams township, the southeast corner of Colfax and sections 18, 8 and 4 of Bellville. Its destructive path was about eighty rods wide in the last named townships.

In Williams township the new house of John Duhin was completely destroyed and its six inmates, which included John Murphy, a neighbor, were seriously injured. The house of L. Willard and outbuildings of several others in the vicinity were also destroyed.

In Colfax township it destroyed all the buildings on the farm of Gad C.

Lowrey, on Sec. 26. The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Trenary and Charles F. Pearce, their farm hand. Mr. Trenary was injured about the head, his wife was carried about ten rods without injury, but Pearce was killed. He was the son of Henry Pearce and was in his 21st year. At the farm of George Wallace, on Sec. 13, all the buildings were destroyed. The house was lifted, overturned and reduced to fragments. When the storm struck it the last recollection of Mrs. Wallace was, that she was trying to keep the hot cook stove from injuring her daughter Eva. When she recovered consciousness she and her two daughters were lying in the public road and Eva's face was badly burned. Her own injuries crippled her for life.

In Bellville township, the house of Samuel H. Gill, on Sec. 18, was on the east or opposite side of the road from that of George Wallace. Mr. and Mrs. Gill and their two children were at home. After the heavy fall of rain and hail, Mr. Gill standing on the porch and looking southwest saw a whirl descend from a cloud and others from its edges join it until, like a long black tail to the cloud above, it extended to the ground beneath. In the distance at first it did not seem larger than a man's hand, but as it drew nearer it rapidly grew larger. He saw it pass over Lowrey's farm two miles distant, but as he had never heard of a tornado in this section he did not think of seeking any other shelter than that afforded by his home. As he entered it his wife saw the roof lifted from one of the out buildings, the next instant the windows on the east side of the house

were forced in by the awful pressure of the air, the roof was lifted and the west side of the kitchen addition falling on Mr. Gill rendered him prostrate but not unconscious. The building was then lifted and overturned in a northwesterly direction. Mrs. Gill, who had grasped a hand of each of her two little girls, aged four and five years respectively, maintained her hold of them, and while one of them was slightly she was so seriously injured that she died four days later.

The whirlwind, when it struck these places, was carrying a great mass of mud and water that covered everything and gave to the injured victims, whose blood was oozing from their wounds, a very pitiable and heart-sickening aspect.

The buildings of A. O. Long, on Sec. 8, two miles distant, were destroyed and three horses were killed; fortunately none of the family were at home. A vacant house on the farm of John Lampe, on Sec. 4, was also destroyed. Pieces of siding from Gill's house were carried twelve miles northeast. This was the first storm of this kind experienced by the early settlers of Northwest Iowa.

On October 15th, following, another heavy rain accompanied with a severe wind storm, visited this section. In Sac county several buildings were destroyed that had been rebuilt after the storm of April 21st. The Jackson schoolhouse in Williams township was completely demolished and its fragments strewn over the prairie. The cane-mill of J. F. Jackson was carried some distance and badly wrecked. After this event every ominous black cloud was watched with dread and distrust.

## XIII.

## CEDAR TOWNSHIP.

The rose may bloom for England,  
 The lily for France unfold;  
 Ireland may honor the shamrock,  
 Scotland, her thistle bold:  
 But the shield of this great Republic,  
 The glory of the West  
 Shall bear a stalk of the tasseled corn,  
 Of all our wealth the best.

—EDNA D. PROCTOR.



THE early settlement of Cedar township and Fonda was coincident with the construction of the first railroad in the county and has already been noted for the years 1868 to 1870.\*

On August 11, 1869, J. S. Howell and others residing in the southwest part of the county, presented a petition to the board of county supervisors, representing that there were 150 inhabitants in townships 90, ranges 33 and 34, (now Colfax and Cedar) and the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of townships 91, ranges 33 and 34, (now Grant and Dover) that they lived a long distance from any voting place and asking that a civil township embracing this territory be established. This petition was met by a remonstrance signed by John Dunkerly and

others, who affirmed that there were very few legal voters in the southwest part of the county and the organization of a new township was inadvisable. At the time set for the consideration of these petitions no one appeared and no action was taken.

On June 6, 1870, in response to a petition signed by John A. Hay and others for the organization of a new township comprising the territory in T. 90, R. 34, Cedar township, was established (including T. 90, R. 33, and 34) and arrangements were made for the first election to be held in Marvin (now called Fonda) on Oct. 11, 1870, by the appointment of H. R. Skinner, R. C. Stewart and B. F. Osburn, judges, and Capt. Joseph Mallison and A. W. Creed, clerks. At the time of the election the oath was administered to these election officers by A. H. Van

\*See pp. 248-252.

MRS. D. M. WOODIN

GEO. HUGHES

MRS. GEO. HUGHES

**FONDA &**

B. K. HAWKINS

MATTHEW BYRNE

M. J. SILVERS

**VICINITY**

ALEX. DUNN

JOHN CARLIDGE

F. M. CONROY

Fonda and Vicinity.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID SPIELMAN



MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. NICHOLS

*Fonda and Vicinity.*



Valkenberg, a justice of the peace of Lizard township. Elijah Chase, Harvey A. Hay and R. C. Stewart were elected township trustees, George Sanborn and George Spragg, justices of the peace, George Gearhart and E. Shreve, constables, Wm. Sanborn, P. F. Bennett and E. B. Clark, road supervisors, Sidney E. Wright, township clerk, and Capt. Jos. Mallison, assessor.

At this first election the sale of intoxicating liquors was voted upon with the result that of the 47 ballots cast, 25 were for prohibition and 22 against it.

The whole number of votes cast at this first election was 48, and by the following persons: S. N. Alford, Pelatiah F. Bennett, Charles Breslin, Elijah Chase, E. B. Clark, A. G. and A. W. Creed, T. J. Curtis, J. B. Chapin, E. Champion, Amos Dart, Charles E. Flint, Geo. W. Gearhart, Robert Griffin, Ephraim, Abram O. and Wm. Erastus Garlock, Harvey W., Joseph and John A. Hay, Geo. W. Hathaway, Wm. Lawler, John Lemp, Gad C. Lowrey, Wm. Marshall, Capt. Joseph Mallison, Edward Mellan, R. T. Mills, H. McGiven, B. F. Osburn, J. R. Perry, Henry Pellersells, Wm. Richards, Eden Shreves, Horace K. and Charles M. Skinner, J. F. Stevens, Geo. and Wm. Sanborn, David Spielman, R. C. Stewart, Knute Tisdale, L. D. Turner, Geo. H. and Sidney E. Wright, Geo. W. and John M. Wood. Others who were registered but did not vote were Wm. and John Abbott, John and Childs O. Brown, Wm. Carney, John Dunkerly, John Kruchten, Nicholas Keefer and Andrew Norem. The registration was made by Philip Russell, clerk of Lizard township. He missed Wm. Lynch, M. Byrne and C. G. Perkins, and they were absent at the time of the first election.

The first meeting of the trustees was held in Mill's hall, Marvin, Jan. 11, 1871. Messrs. Hay and Stewart were present and approved the bonds

of Capt. Mallison as assessor, and Wm. Sanborn as supervisor, Messrs. J. F. Stevens and Charles G. Perkins were appointed supervisors in the place of Messrs. Bennett and Clark, and the district of the latter included what is now Colfax township. Geo. Sanborn was appointed township clerk and R. C. Stewart a justice of the peace in place of Geo. Spragg.

The succession of civil officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES:** R. C. Stewart, 1871; H. W. Hay, 1871; Elijah Chase, 1871-73; B. McCartan, 1872; John E. N. Welsh, Wm. Richards, Wm. Marshall, Geo. E. Thompson, 1873; David Spielman, Wm. Bott, 1874, '84-85; O. C. Evans, J. H. Warwick, W. E. Garlock, Joseph C. Stevens, Chas. H. Whitney, 1875-78, '80-82, '96-98; J. O. Sullivan, 1876-79; Geo. M. Wood, M. Byrne, Louie Fuchs, 1878-82; John Lemp, 1879-80; Patrick Shea, 1881-83; '98-1900; Patrick Kearns, 1883-90; A. V. Sargent, 1883-97; Robert W. Russell, 1886-91; Wm. J. Busby, 1891-96; John H. Stream, 1892-95; S. T. Hersom, 1897-1900; S. S. Martin, 1899-1900.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:** Geo. Sanborn, 1871-73; R. C. Stewart, Wm. Marshall, 1872-74, '78-79, '83-88; Geo. M. Dorton, 1873-79; Geo. Spragg, 1875-76; W. G. Buswell, A. B. P. Wood, 1880-86; Theo. Dunn, 1880-82; R. Wright, 1887-90, '97-98; J. W. Gray, 1887-88; A. G. Wood, 1889-92, Wm. A. Henderson, 1889-91; J. B. Sargent, 1891-94; James Mercer, Capt. Jos. Mallison, 1893-1900; S. S. Martin, 1893-94; Z. C. Bradshaw, 1895-96; Alex. Dunn, 1895-1900.

**CLERKS:** Geo. Sanborn, 1871; H. W. Hay, A. O. Garlock, Wm. Snell, Capt. Jos. Mallison, 1875, '86; Patrick Shea, R. J. Griffin, T. F. McCartan, James Mercer, 1879-82, '87-88; T. S. Brown, 1883-84; A. G. Wood, J. B. Sargent, 1889-92; J. R. Johnson, 1893-1900.

**ASSESSORS:** Capt. Jos. Mallison, 1871-72; J. R. Johnson, Wm. Snell J. P. Robinson, Patrick Shea, John A.

Hay, G. H. Gottfriedt, 1877-78, '83-86, '89-90, '95-1900; Fred Lieb, 1879; N. B. Post, 1880-81; Joseph Hawkins, 1882; J. B. Sargent, 1887-88; D. J. Bailey, 1891-'92; John Kennedy, 1893-94.

**PRESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD:** Gad C. Lowrey, 1871; T. J. Curtis, B. McCartan, A. W. Dart, 1874, '79; M. Byrne, 1875, '86; James N. Mallison, M. J. Lynch, S. T. Hersom, Wm. Bott, Fred Lieb, Joseph Hawkins, John Lemp, J. B. Sargent, W. E. Garlock, Wm. Snell, G. H. Gottfriedt, John A. Thompson, 1889, '91-92; Geo. Lufkin, Joseph Hawkins, John Cartlidge, 1894-95; W. E. Post, 1896-98; W. I. Shetterly, 1899-1900.

**SECRETARY:** A. O. Garlock, 1871-72; B. F. Osburn, Geo. M. Dorton, 1874-75; M. Byrne, 1876-77; M. J. Lynch, S. T. Hersom, 1879, '83-85; Eugene Evans, 1880-82; T. F. McCartan, John Oakley, 1886-87; John J. McCartan, 1888-89; James Mercer, 1890-1900.

**TREASURERS OF SCHOOL FUNDS:** B. F. Osburn, 1871; Wm. Marshall, Eben M. Busby, B. McCartan, Geo. Sanborn, G. H. Gottfriedt, C. H. Whitney, 1877-78; Wm. Marshall, 1879-81; T. J. Curtis, 1882-86; M. Byrne, 1887-89; Louie Fuchs, 1890-1900.

#### FIRST SCHOOLS.

The first school in Cedar township was taught at Sunk Grove in the fall and winter of 1869 by Mary Skinner (daughter of Horace) in the log house of John Dunkerly on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, and included the children of Elijah Chase, Horace and Charles Skinner, Geo. Spragg and Pelatiah Bennett, a neighboring trapper in Buena Vista county.

In the fall of 1870, when this part of the county still belonged to Lizard township, there were four schools established namely, at Fonda, Sunk Grove, and the homes of Wm. Lynch and A. O. Garlock. The one at Fonda began about the first of December and was taught by Edward Calligan (a son of the director for this dis-

trict) in a small building that stood on the ground now occupied by the McKee brick block. The pupils were Lizzie and Jennie Bott (Mrs. J. B. Bollard), John and Steve Slater, Alice Skinner, Rosa Hay, Mary Wood (Adams) and Ed. Ibsen. The school building for the fall of 1871 was located on the corner now occupied by the Roberts & Kenning brick block.

The school at Sunk Grove in 1870 was taught by Robert Griffin in the home of Mrs. Rachel Hartwell, his sister, who as a widow had taken a homestead on Sec. 6 known as the Burnett property and now owned by Henry Voss. Cyrus, Fannie, George, Harry and James Thompson, Alfretha Converse and Thomas Chase were among the pupils that year. The school at the home of Wm. Lynch (Sec. 2) was taught by Mary Ann Calligan and it was attended by the children of Wm. Lynch, John Keef, and Julius F. Stevens. The next year (1871) this school was transferred to the Woolworth home. The school at the home of A. O. Garlock, a few rods west of his father's, in 1870 was taught by Mrs. L. D. Turner and included the children in the families of Ephraim Garlock, David Spielman, James Little and Joseph Fells.

#### CEDAR SCHOOL BOARD.

The first meeting of the electors of the district township of Cedar was held in Marvin, March 4, 1871, B. F. Osburn served as chairman and Geo. Sanborn as secretary. Messrs. Gad C. Lowrey, Capt. Jos. Mallison and B. F. Osburn were elected as the first school directors of the township which then embraced Colfax as sub-district No. 2. On March 11th a second meeting of the electors was held in the store of John A. Hay. It was decided to erect only temporary schoolhouses that year, their number and location to be left to the board of directors; a tax of ten (10) mills was approved for the

building fund and one (1) mill for the library fund.

On March 20, 1871 the board of directors met at the home of Gad C. Lowrey (Sec. 26, Colfax) and organized by the election of Gad C. Lowrey as president and A. O. Garlock as secretary. The board then proceeded in a body to Lizard township for the purpose of securing a division of the assets and liabilities of the school funds of that township to which this one had previously belonged. Not meeting with success they met the Lizard board a second time on April 1st in the Miller schoolhouse, but found that board unwilling to make any division of the funds.

On April 8th arrangements were made for the purchase of the Lockey house for \$140, the renting of a room in Marvin and another in the home of G. C. Lowrey, and for the ensuing summer term the following teachers were employed: Ida D. Lowrey, Mary A. Osburn, Mrs. Mary E. Mallison, Mrs. R. J. Griffith and W. W. Rathbun. John A. Hay was appointed director in place of B. F. Osburn and the latter was appointed treasurer of the school fund. Two weeks later arrangements were made to purchase a building of Levi Garlock for Sec. 25 and the erection of two temporary buildings by John A. Hay for sections 3 and 8. For the winter of 1871-72 G. C. Lowrey was authorized to arrange for two schools in his district, Colfax, and engage the teachers for them. In Cedar the teachers employed were J. P. Robinson, Marvin, W. W. Rathbun (Sec 3), Mrs. Mary E. Mallison (Sec. 8), and Mrs. Mary J. Wilbur (Sec. 25).

On March 18, 1872 Colfax, having been set off from Cedar, was accorded \$106.00 of the school funds in the hands of the treasurer; Cedar was divided into eight sub-districts and arrangements were made with A. D. Moore for the erection of three school-

houses at a cost of \$525 each in districts No. 2, 5 and 7. For their better protection lightning rods were put on those on sections 3 and 8 at a cost of \$23.50 each and a few months later on those in districts No. 2 and 5 at a cost of \$52.00. It was decided to pay \$30.00 a month to all the teachers until New Years and \$35.00 a month, after that date, to all that were first-class.

The settlement of this section progressed rapidly in 1872 and the work of organizing the sub-districts of Cedar township was nearly completed that year. The records of that year are in the handwriting of A. O. Garlock, cover twenty-two pages and show that fifteen meetings were held by the board of directors. The new teachers employed in 1872 were Cecilia Keef, Mrs. R. P. Thompson, Mrs. Maggie Sanborn, Mrs. Ann R. Curtis, Geo. Hathaway, Geo. M. Dorton, (in house of T. J. Curtis), Eliza Hay, Frank Gregg, Miss N. Herrick, Mrs. A. W. Creed and Mrs. R. T. Hartwell in the home of G. A. Woolworth, now Mrs. J. B. Weaver on Sec. 12,

In the spring of 1873 arrangements were made with J. D. Gould for the erection of three school buildings in sub-districts No. 1, 3 and 8 for \$635.00 each, and with A. O. Garlock for one in Marvin (Fonda) for \$1,400. This proved a year of "hard times;" matters did not run smoothly. The president of the board was unwilling to sign the contracts after they had been approved and he was politely asked to resign. The secretary also resigned about the same time and as many as four other persons were successively appointed and served in that capacity for a short time during that year, namely; B. F. Osburn, Geo. Fairburn, Geo. M. Dorton and W. E. Garlock. Before the completion of his contract Gould transferred it to L. T. Swezy, of Newell,

A few years later there are a number of pages in the volume containing the early records of this township that are not signed by the secretary or any other member of the board, and the reader wonders what pioneer scribe may have left traces of his handiwork in the writing upon them until, fumbling them over several times, he finally discovers a name very modestly written on the margin at the top of one of them.

The annual report of the secretary for the year ending Sept. 19, 1871 shows 82 pupils enrolled in 5 schools and for 1872, 105 pupils in 8 schools. In 1876, five years from the date of organization, there were 125 pupils enrolled, Fonda having 31, the largest number, and there were eight good frame schoolhouses each supplied with a fine library and apparatus valued at \$75. The sites for the schoolhouses in this township were surveyed by Wm. Marshall and the persons who assisted him were M. J. Lynch (1) M. Byrne (2) Elijah Chase (3) Jacob Spielman (5) W. E. Garlock (6) and Charles Whitney (7 and 8). Fonda became an independent district in 1880. In 1882 the unsold school lands of Sec. 16 were appraised at eight and ten dollars an acre and those remaining May 1888 were appraised at six and eight dollars an acre.

Only a few sod houses were built in Cedar township, the arrival of the railway, bringing suitable building materials, removing their necessity. Those that are remembered were built by E. Chase, Robert J. Griffin, Pel Bennett, Geo. Spragg Jos. C. Stevens, Charles Skinner and John Wood.

On May 4, 1884, the trustees, consisting of Wm. Bott, Patrick Kearns and A. V. Sargent, were first organized as a board of health. On Feb. 17, 1894, an order was issued that all persons in the township over one year should be vaccinated and that all pupils not vaccinated before March 1st

that year, should be excluded from the public schools.

#### MARVIN—FONDA.

Marvin was the name first given to the station and express office, and Cedarville to the the postoffice in Cedar township. The use of these two names was the occasion of considerable confusion to the public and, in the railway service, the two names Marvin and Manson, were so nearly alike that the one was often taken for the other, so that goods intended for these two stations were often missent. In 1874 Messrs. A. O. Garlock and Geo. Fairburn concluded to take the P. O. directory and select a new name that was not common in the west. Both were pleased with "Fonda," which appeared but once in the directory, as the name of a town in western New York. In response to petitions sent the P. O. department, the railway and express companies, the new name, "Fonda," was adopted. The selection was a good one for its euphony and brevity, and it was eminently appropriate for this section of country in the early day, since it is derived from a Latin word that signifies a fountain; although a more recent derivation from the Spanish language makes it mean a hotel.

#### FONDA.

"My country 'tis of thee  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing."

Fonda is situated near the center of section 27, Cedar township, in the southwestern part of Pocahontas county. It has two main lines of railway, the Illinois Central and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, that extend east and west, north and south. It is 115 miles northwest of Des Moines, 409 miles west of Chicago, 101 miles east of Sioux City, and all passenger trains stop at this place.

It has always been an attractive trading center, not merely for a great

part of this county, but to many of the people living in the adjoining counties of Calhoun, Sac and Buena Vista. It has enjoyed hitherto the best railroad facilities of any town in this vicinity and these, in connection with the enterprise of her citizens and natural resources of this section, have tended to promote a constant growth and substantial development of business interests. Fonda very soon became and has hitherto maintained the position of being the principal city of Pocahontas county in numbers and wealth, educational and religious privileges.

The section of land (27) on which Fonda is situated belongs to the odd numbers that were included in the railway grant. The first deed of it was entitled, "A Grant of Land made by the United States to the State of Iowa in alternate sections, approved by Congress May 15, 1856, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in the State of Iowa." The second one, "The State of Iowa, a Grant to the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad, approved by an act of the General Assembly, July 14, 1856, to aid in building said railroad." The third transfer, filed September 10, 1870, is the deed of the Dubuque & Sioux City R. Co. to John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J., the contractor and builder of the railroad. On the same day there was filed another deed entitled, "A Deed of Dedication, by John I. Blair and Anna, his wife, to the Public." This last included all the streets and alleys of the first plat of the town, which he called "Marvin," in honor of Marvin Hewitt, superintendent of the Illinois Central railroad. It included twelve blocks that extended from the railroad northward to Fourth street, south of the Presbyterian church.

The first addition to Marvin consisted of a triangular plot of ground north of the railroad and west of Vine street, Oct. 7, 1872, by the Sioux City

and Iowa Falls Town Lot & Land Co., who had then become the owners of the unsold portions of the town site and surrounding section.

The 5th addition included blocks 25 to 30, located in the east part of the town, and was made May 5, 1888, by the Fonda Town Lot and Improvement Co., who succeeded the former land company in the ownership of their lands on section 27. Their last addition, made May 25, 1893, and called the 9th addition, includes blocks 35 to 37 on out lots 2 and 3, north of Sixth street.

The Busby addition was platted and a copy thereof filed for record October 5, 1886, by Wm. J. and Louisa A. Busby. Two of the streets were called Robbie and Offie, after the names of his two oldest sons. On July 26, 1888, the plat of a second addition was filed and the two additional streets were named Georgie and Willeben, after the names of two other sons.

The plat of the Robinson addition, comprising out-lots 1 to 5 north of the Illinois Central railway and west of Cedar creek was filed by J. P. Robinson Aug. 14, 1890.

The arrangement of Fonda is that of a square lying principally north of the railroad and east of Cedar creek; and the compact form of the city has tended greatly to economize the work of its improvement. In 1887, its main streets were covered with gravel from Cherokee and the first provision was made for lighting them at night with kerosene street lamps.

The Fonda Town Lot and Improvement Co. was organized March 29, 1888, and the incorporators were Hon. A. O. Garlock, Geo. Fairburn, J. N. McKee, A. S. Wood, Dr. M. F. Patterson and W. H. Given. Since its organization Geo. Fairburn has been the president and A. S. Wood the secretary and treasurer. Their original purchase included nearly 500 acres around Fonda, and although some of

the stock has changed hands the company is still in existence. The special aim and object of this company has been to promote the growth and development of Fonda by all the means that money, activity and thought may indicate. At the time of the establishment of the Big Four fair a concession was made equal to half the value of the land enclosed, and a similar concession was made for the brick and tile works. It still stands ready to donate lands for sites for factories and kindred objects.

#### FIRST TOWN ELECTION.

On December 26, 1878, the people of Fonda by a vote of 26 to 19 decided to become an incorporated town. On January 7, 1879, Theodore Dunn, Geo. L. Brower, Capt. Joseph Mallison and O. A. Langworthy, commissioners, issued a notice to the qualified electors of the corporation of Fonda to meet at Guyett's hall on Friday, January 14, 1879, for the purpose of holding their first election. On this date Capt. Joseph Mallison was elected mayor; Ed. B. Tabor, recorder; Geo. Fairburn, Geo. L. Brower, Theo. Dunn, W. J. Busby and Peter G. Ibson, councilmen—all to hold office until the ensuing spring election. Their first meeting was held Feb'y 1, 1879, pursuant to the call of the mayor; all the members were present and after passing several ordinances relating to the boundaries of the incorporation, the salaries of the mayor, recorder and marshal, they appointed Geo. L. Brower, treasurer, E. C. Brown, street commissioner, and C. G. Guyett, marshal. Three days later they met again and passed ordinances relating to taxing dogs, restraining stock and granting licenses in certain cases.

On Monday, March 3, 1879, a new set of officers was elected as follows: John W. Gray, mayor; Ed. B. Tabor, recorder; and for councilmen A. C. Knight (1), P. G. Ibson (1), Geo. Fairburn (2), Geo. M. Dorton (2), Geo. L.

Brower (3), and F. Millard (3). The casting of lots to determine who should have the one, two and three year terms, resulted as indicated by the numbers opposite each name.

At their first meeting held March 6, 1879, they appointed Geo. L. Brower, treasurer; E. C. Brown, street commissioner, and Mark A. Haven, marshal. On March 18, 1879, the first saloon license was granted to H. Maxwell, who presented a petition signed by 23 electors. After the lapse of a month this license was surrendered and a similar one was issued to Henry C. Stevens.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**MAYORS:** Capt. Jos. Mallison and J. W. Gray both in 1879; Theo. Dunn, Geo. Sanborn, Geo. Fairburn, '82-83; Capt. Jos. Mallison, John C. Stevens, Robt. W. Russell, Geo. Fairburn, '87-88; Mark A. Haven '89-92; A. G. Wood, '93-94; Capt. Jos. Mallison '95-96; F. W. Swearingen, Edward R. Ellis, '98-99; S. E. Leece, 1900.

**RECORDER:** Ed. B. Tabor, 1879-80; J. W. Gray, '81-83; Abram Burson, '84-85; A. S. Wood, '86-92; R. F. Beswick, (appointed Sept, '92); Wm. H. Healy, '93; M. G. Coleman, '94-1900.

**COUNCILMEN:** Geo. Fairburn, '79-80; Geo. Brower, '79-82; Theo. Dunn, '79; W. J. Busby, '79; P. G. Ibson, '79; A. C. Knight, '79; Geo. M. Dorton, '79-80; F. Millard, '79-80; G. W. Bothwell, '80-82; J. N. McClellan, '81-83, '87; Geo. H. Ellis, '81; O. A. Langworthy, '81-83; Wm. Snell, '81; G. Pfeiffer, '82-86; J. N. McKee, '82-96; Fred Swingle, '83-85; Geo. Fairburn, '84; Ed. O'Donnell, '84-86; N. B. Post, '84-85, '87-90; T. F. Kelleher, M. D., '85; M. A. Haven, '86-88; W. J. Redfield, Fred Haffele, Geo. Sanborn, '87; D. W. Edgar, M. D., '87-97; J. D. Carpenter, '88-89; Abram Burson, '89-97; J. B. Bollard, '90-95; J. P. Robinson, '90-92; G. R. Reniff, '91-96; R. F. Beswick, '93-1900; L. S. Straight,

'96-1900; John Forbes, '97-99; Thos. L. Kennedy, '97-1900; G. H. Fitch, '98-1900; Geo. G. Craft, '98-1900; Fred J. Kenning, 1900-.

#### THE CEMETERY.

On July 12, 1875, Wm. Marshall was appointed to survey a plat of six acres for a township cemetery, on lands belonging to the Sioux City & Iowa Falls Town Lot and Land Co. Some difficulty was experienced in gaining possession of this land, and, during the next two years it was appraised by three different sets of appraisers, all of whom appraised it at \$10.00 an acre.

In 1879, \$20.00 were offered an attorney in Fort Dodge to obtain a deed for it. The first deed for the sale of a lot in it was issued March 18, 1889, to G. W. Bothwell, M. D., and twenty-five others were issued that year. The price of the lots now ranges from five to twelve dollars. The first person buried in this cemetery was Ebenezer M. Busby, who was killed August 23, 1873, by the accidental discharge of his own gun while hunting with friends from Dubuque.

The next persons buried here were Georgie Fairburn, who died of membranous croup in his second year, June 26, 1874, and Jane Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Marshall, who died of diphtheria July 2, 1874.

A few years ago, through the leadership of the Fonda Relief Corps, the cemetery was very much improved in appearance, and upon four lots set apart for that purpose, the base has been constructed for a soldiers' monument.

The cemetery belongs to the township, and is managed by the trustees who, to secure its improvement and care, for a number of years past, have annually levied a small tax upon the taxable property of the township outside of the incorporation. During recent years individuals and societies in the city have generously co-operated

in the work of its improvement, and negotiations are now pending that may result in a recognition of the city in its management. The township clerk is the agent of the trustees in all matters relating to its use and he employs a custodian who gives it his personal care and attention. These persons at present are J. R. Johnson and Henry Bakker.

#### FONDA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The petition for the independent school district of Fonda was presented to the directors of Cedar township and approved on March 9, 1880. Two days later at a special meeting of the Cedar township Board this action was reconsidered and reversed because the petition for the independent district included with sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, its present territory, also all of sections 15, 16, 21 and 22 for the purpose of taxation. The difficulties that immediately arose were not settled until November 18, 1880, when the school board of the independent district which consisted of Wm. Bott, Geo. Fairburn and A. B. P. Wood, Esq., ceded back to the township all of the territory included in the four last named sections. Previous to this date Wm. Bott had served as president of the school board of the independent district. By this righteous re-transfer Wm. Bott, because he lived in the territory relinquished to the township, forfeited his place as a member of the town board and the honor of serving longer as its first president. These vacancies were filled by the election of C. D. Lucas, a member of the board, and Geo. Fairburn, its president. The present school grounds were purchased in 1882 and the first four rooms of the present brick school building (38x62 feet) were built in 1884. Since that date two additional rooms have been added on the north side of this building and a kindergarten has been erected a short distance from it.

During this last year an additional room has been rented on Main street and arrangements are now in progress for the erection of a portion of a fine building this year (1900) that will eventually replace the present one.

#### FONDA SCHOOL OFFICERS.

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** Wm. Bott, 1880; Geo. Fairburn, Geo. Sanborn '81, '89; J. N. McClellan, '82-83; J. N. McKee, '84-88; J. P. Robinson, '90-91; D. W. Edgar, M. D., J. B. Bollard, '93-94; Geo. Sanborn, '95-1900. Others who have served as members of this board are A. B. P. Wood, '80-87; C. D. Lucas, W. J. Busby, '81-84; J. D. Carpenter, '85-91; Fred Haffele, '89-91; W. F. Bridges, '90-92; A. W. Sargent, '92-93; A. Burson, '93-95, 1900; E. S. Hornaday, '93-94; Geo. H. Fitch, Charles A. Alexander, '94-00; Ed. R. Ellis, J. H. Coleman, '94-00; W. J. Redfield, '95-00; P. C. Toy, '96-98.

The board consisted of three members until 1889, when it was increased to six, but in 1898 under the new law, it was reduced to five. The board for the year 1900 consists of Geo. Sanborn, C. A. Alexander, J. H. Coleman, W. J. Redfield and Abram Burson.

**SECRETARIES:** A. B. P. Wood, '80-87; A. G. Wood, '88-90; J. D. Carpenter, '91; J. P. Robinson, '92-93; M. G. Coleman, '94-95; John Kennedy, '96-00.

**TREASURERS:** Geo. Fairburn, '80, Geo. L. Brower, '81-82; J. W. Gray, '82-86; A. S. Wood, '87-95; Geo. Hughes, John Forbes, '97-99; John Kennedy, 1900.

#### FONDA TEACHERS.

**PRINCIPALS:** Lois A. Wood, '80, '82; Louisa B. Pfeiffer, '81; J. M. Sprouls, H. E. Howe., Minnie F. Bryan, Anna E. Brown, '85-87; De Etta Ferron, '88-89; A. W. Sargent, Daniel Swindler, Alva Pressnell, Walker DeWitt, '93-94; Frank B. Kessling, Arthur W. Davis, '95-96; W. P. Johnson, R. B. Crone, '98; D. E. Barnes, '99-00.

The assistant teachers have been Belle Tucker, (Covey) '80-83; Louisa B.

Pfeiffer, Jennie Lucas, Minnie Reyrner, Cena Benton, Lou DeGraffe, Emma Pfeiffer, Mrs. Spitzbarth, Maude Fuller, '88-89, '91-95; Nellie R. Swingle, '88-91; Viola Booton, '89-91; Mabel Lucas, Jennie E. Crawford, (Robinson) Maude Carpenter, Franc DeGraffe, '93-94, '96-00; Mattie McCullom, A. Y. Copley, Effie Hawkins, Maude Sargent, Maude Ellis, Lillian Filmer, Mabel Creglow, Nellie Mercer, Edith M. Aldrich, Mary Young, '95-00; Sarah McDonald, '96-98; Olive Gruver, '96-97, '99-00; Stena Hansen, '96-00; Nellie Golder, Adda B. Detwiler, '97-00; Maude E. Beale, '97-00; Lulu Griffith, Margaret Berry, '99-00; Charlotte Davis.

Since 1896 several persons have been employed as supernumerary teachers, or assistants to the principal, namely, Lena Mercer, Mertie Eaton, Lulu Sanborn and D. B. Churchill; and in 1898, Miss Nellie Liscomb as instructor in vocal music.

#### PIONEER TEACHERS OF FONDA.

During the period that preceded the organization of the independent district the school year consisted of a summer term of three and a winter term of four months. The teachers that taught the school in the Fonda district during this period so far as can now be recalled, were as follows: Edward M. Calligan the winter term commencing about Dec. 1, 1870; Wm. W. Rathbun, J. P. Robinson, winter term '71-72; Naomi Herick (first wife of F. G. Thornton), Mrs. Rachel Hartwell, Agnes J. Fairburn (Mrs. M. Bell), winter term until February 1, 1874 and it was completed by Fred W. Swingle; George Sanborn, winter term 1874-75,—18 pupils enrolled; Mrs. Nellie R. Swingle, summer and winter terms of 1875, '76-77; Cyrus A. Bryant, summer of 1878 and had 22 pupils enrolled; Lois A. Wood (Hubbell) and Affa Wood; winter term 1878-79, there being two schools part of the time; Mrs. Nellie R. Swingle,



principal and Mrs. Mary E. Mallison, assistant, summer and winter terms 1879-80.

Prof. Charles Ellison, a graduate of the Missouri State Normal and his wife, Mrs. Susan Ellison, a graduate of the Normal School at Oswego, N. Y., located at Fonda in May 1877. The latter taught a term in the R. P. Thompson district and from Sept. 3 to Nov. 2 they conducted a normal training school at Fonda that was attended by 43 students.

From Nov. 5 to 14, 1877 inclusive, a teachers' institute was held that closed with a fine public exhibition on the evening of Nov. 14, 1877.

#### FONDA GRADUATES.

The graduates of the Fonda public schools are as follows:

CLASS OF 1894: Gus T. Swenson, L. R. Wright, Ada Hawkins, (Bond) Rena Carlton, (Harris) Lena Mercer and Minnie Haffele—6.

CLASS OF 1896: John C. Bridges, Roy Carpenter, Aaron Evans—3.

CLASS OF 1897: Jennie M. Eaton, Edith Busby, Myrtle Hawkins, Nellie Sargent, Flo Carpenter, Olive Martin, May Mercer, J. Weston Martin, Frank Whitney, Thomas Farrell, Will Horner and Charles Griffith—12.

CLASS OF 1898: Ernestine Langworthy, (Swearingen) Mamie Russell, Albert Burson and Roy Stafford—4.

CLASS OF 1899: Alta Brown, Grace D. Bradshaw, Cora Eaton, Delphia Gottfriedt, Alfhild Frykberg, Cora Mercer, Mae Fitch, Mabel Miller, Ethel Gilson, Dollie Neal, Vida Griffith, Abbie Davis, Janie Fitzgerald, Anna Murphy and Chester Moffitt—15. Total, 40.

#### THE FONDA HIGH SCHOOL.

The attendance of pupils in the public schools of Fonda has gradually increased, so that the enrollment for April, 1900, was 374. The course of study has been revised and enlarged from time to time so that those completing it now are admitted to mem-

bership in the freshman class in the various colleges of the state. In the last revision, published in 1899, more prominence than before was given to the elective system, which allows each pupil to choose the studies he desires to take, only a limited number of the common branches being compulsory. Under this system the development of the pupil is along those lines of study for which he has a special preference or capacity, and the privilege of graduation is not denied anyone because he fails to make a specified grade in any particular study.

The method of grading during the last four years, commonly called the High School Course of Study, is that of assigning to each branch or subject a certain number of credits, on the basis of two credits for the work of each term. When a pupil receives a hundred credits he is given an intelligible and honest diploma of graduation that contains a list of the particular subjects completed and their respective value.

In 1896 the school was the recipient of a collection of one hundred mineral specimens from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., and in November, 1899, a donation of fifty dollars was received from Geo. W. Schee, of Primghar, to be invested in new books for the library, which now contains 300 volumes.

In the four annual declamatory contests held in this county since March 21, 1897, the representatives of the Fonda High School have won the largest share of the medals, always securing at least one and on two occasions both of them. The successful contestants from Fonda have been, Jennie Eaton and J. Weston Martin at Fonda, in 1897; Abbie Davis at Rolfe, in 1898; Cora Mercer at Havelock, in 1899; Florence Conroy and Mae V. Wright at Pocahontas, in 1900.

#### LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL.

The early pioneers of Fonda recog-

nized the fact that a stable foundation was essential to the permanency of any institution, and if, at any time after some great achievement, there arose any doubt in regard to their ability to hold it, they did not hesitate to make it doubly sure by taking it before the General Assembly of Iowa and asking that honorable body to put upon it the stamp of its legislative approval.

The first instance of this sort occurred March 26, 1880, when an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved, that approved the action of the Cedar township school board of date March 9, 1880, establishing the Independent district of Fonda with eight full sections of land. This action of the school board had been reconsidered and reversed by it two days after it had been taken. By this legislative enactment the Independent district of Fonda was also declared "to have all the rights, powers and privileges of independent districts and all its acts are declared valid and in force."

On March 14, 1884, an act of the 20th General Assembly was approved, entitled "An act to legalize the incorporation of the town of Fonda." This act was as follows:

WHEREAS, in incorporating the town of Fonda, in the county of Pocahontas and state of Iowa, under and by virtue of Chapter Ten of Title Four of the code, a certified copy of all papers and record entries relating to the matter was not properly filed as required by said chapter, and

WHEREAS, The law in regard to the incorporation of towns was in all other respects fully complied with and officers were elected, ordinances passed and official acts done as though said incorporation was legal, now therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

SEC 1. That the incorporation of said town of Fonda be and the same is hereby legalized as fully and completely as if all the requirements of the law relating to the incorporation

of towns had been strictly complied with.

SEC. 2. That all elections held by said incorporated town, and all ordinances passed by the council of said incorporated town and all the official acts done by the several officers of said town are hereby legalized and declared to be as valid and binding as though the law had been strictly complied with in the incorporation of said town.

Approved March 14, 1884.

#### RAILWAY AGENTS.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL: When the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad track was laid it remained under the control of the construction company from July 4, to Oct. 1, 1870, and during this preliminary period the passenger and freight traffic, that was handled at Fonda by the daily construction trains, was managed by Capt. E. W. Stetsman, their agent at Newell, who served both stations by coming to Fonda on one train and returning to Newell on the next.

Since the establishment of the regular train service by the Illinois Central R. R. Co., the succession of the agents has been as follows: George Fairburn, Oct. 1, 1870 to Nov. 1, 1877, 7 years; John W. Gray, '77 to July 1, '79; R. M. Harrison, '79 to June 15, '82; A. S. Wood, '82 to Sept. 15, '84; Thomas J. Murphy, '84 to May 25, '86; E. T. Dyer, '86--Nov. 10, '86; C. J. Canterbury, '86--Feb. 25, '89; F. B. Deitrick, '89--May 1, '93; C. B. Woodward, '93--Jan. 10, '94; F. B. Deitrick, '94--May 15, '94; S. A. Metcalf, '94--Sept. 17, '97; R. M. Harrison, '97--00.

C. M. & ST. PAUL: This railroad was surveyed and constructed by the Des Moines & Northwestern Ry. Co., leased by the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Co. as soon as completed, in 1887 resumed its original name, in 1891 it was called the Des Moines, Northern & Western and on Jan. 1, 1899, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. The succession of the agents has been as follows: Renselaer Wright, Nov.

28, 1882-May 1, '84; O. D. Orton, one month; H. E. Jones, '84-Feb. 20, '86; J. F. Linthurst, '86-March 1, '88; Geo. W. Powers, '88-May 1, '90; E. S. Hornaday, '90-March 20, '91; P. E. Stewart, '91-Oct. 1, '92; E. S. Hornaday, '92-Jan. 29, '95; C. H. Crooks, '95-July 25-'98; R. F. Weeks, '98-00.

## FONDA POSTMASTERS.

W. S. Wright, Cedarville, Oct. 15, '70, to May 1, 1871.

John Hay, Cedarville; May 1, '71-73.

E. O. Wilder, Fonda, May '73-75.

J. W. Gray, Fonda, May, '75, to Apr. 1, 1883.

Ed. O'Donnell, Fonda, April 1 '83, to Oct. 15, '89.

Geo. Sanborn, Fonda, Oct. 15, '89, to Sept. 1, '96.

Wm. H. Healy, Sept. 1, '96, to Feb. 7, '98.

Joseph Mallison, Fonda, Feb. 7, 98—.

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Protestant minister located at Fonda was Rev. Henry Brown, who came early in the spring of 1871, and the only room he could find for himself and wife was in the depot, then in charge of Mr. Fairburn. This was his first appointment and he had to live on a very meager salary. He endeavored to supplement his salary by doing various kinds of work, such as mixing mortar, handling lumber, etc., and his wife co-operated by taking boarders. In 1885, this pioneer missionary of Fonda was the honored pastor of the M. E. charge at Odebolt and was growing in popularity in the church.

In the fall of 1871, religious services were conducted at Fonda by Rev. L. C. Woodward, who, locating at Newell the previous fall, erected a one-story building that served as a parsonage and postoffice for the town. As a pastor he served on alternate Sabbaths Fonda and Newell, the latter also as postmaster. In 1872, he was succeeded by Adam Holmes, who is remembered as a house to house

missionary, that usually traveled on foot. In 1873 he established religious services in the schoolhouse at Sunk Grove. He resigned this field that he might accept the principalship of the seminary at Epworth.

In 1873 he was succeeded by Rev. Charles W. Clifton, who is said to have been the first minister to serve Newell and Fonda an entire year. The grasshoppers had visited this section the previous year destroying everything within their reach, and he received only \$350 of the \$400 promised him on his entire circuit. He came to this field almost destitute of clothing and, having no overcoat, protected himself while driving across the country during the cold weather, with bed-quilts until the arrival of a box of clothing about the holidays from friends in the eastern part of the state. He found encouragement in the fact he was laying foundations for the church of the future and he was animated with the desire to lay them well even if they cost him considerable personal sacrifice. He established religious services at the Way (Prairie Creek) schoolhouse, and is now a resident of Sherman township.

He was succeeded by Rev. J. S. R. Field, Rev. Mr. Ely and Rev. O. S. Bryan. All of these ministers lived at Newell and served Fonda on alternate Sabbaths.

Rev. A. J. Whitfield, who was appointed by Bishop Stephen M. Merrill at the conference held at Fort Dodge, September, 1875, was their successor at Newell and Fonda<sup>a</sup> and he was reappointed to this field by Bishop Randolph S. Foster, at LeMars in October, 1876. The local records begin with his ministry and by reason of its greater length and the records left behind him, the impression made by him was deeper and more lasting than that of any of his predecessors, so that some have even accorded to this worthy man the credit of "founding

the Methodist Episcopal church in these parts."\*

The earliest local records are for the year 1876 and show that the following persons were then the officers of the church: A. J. Whitfield, preacher in charge; J. B. White, local preacher; Charles Ellison, Theo. Dodge, A. F. Hubbell, Thos. Reamer, C. M. Saylor, W. P. Bush and Orlando O. Brown, stewards; Theo. Dodge, A. F. Hubbell, C. M. Saylor, C. D. Lucas, Charles H. Whitney, Geo. Fairburn and Harvey W. Hay, trustees; A. F. Hubbell and C. M. Saylor, leaders; O. O. Brown and Prof. C. Ellison, Sunday school superintendents.

The charge at Fonda in 1877 consisted of four classes as follows:

No. 1. Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Aldrich, A. W. Dart, Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Dodge, Harriet Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellison, Leba Gorham, Mr. and Mrs. James Little and their daughter Mary, Mary Mallison, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Swingle, George, Evaline and Cyrus Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Whitney, Sarah and George Wilson, J. B., Nancy and Florence White and Mary Whitfield.

No. 2. Alexander F. Hubbell, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Omtvedt and Mr. and Mrs. David Terry.

No. 3. Mr. and Mrs. Herkimer L. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Saylor and Geo. W. Smith.

No. 4. Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Bush, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Baker, O. O. Brown, Mary Bennett, Orville and Louisa Barrett, Caleb Flint, Etta Johnson and Anna J. Thayer.

The church was incorporated Nov. 21, 1877, by J. B. White, Theodore Dodge, Charles Ellison, H. W. Hay, Geo. Fairburn, Fred Swingle and C. H. Whitney, trustees; and R. L. Kenyon, C. B. Thompson and A. W. Dart. The present church building, located on the corner of Main and Third streets, was completed and dedicated

\*Aid Society Cook Book page 9.

Nov. 14, 1880, by Presiding Elder J. C. R. Layton, assisted by P. E. Grippin, of Cedar Falls, and the new pastor in charge, Rev. J. S. Zeigler. The building cost \$1800, of which \$230 was raised by the Ladies' Aid Society. On the day following the dedication the district conference met in this building and continued in session three days. Until the erection of this building the services were held in the schoolhouse. The first parsonage was built in 1878 and it rendered service until 1896, when it was replaced by the erection of the present cozy and comfortable building.

The M. E. church in Fonda was the first church building erected in Pocahontas county, the Lizard Catholic church built in 1871, being just across the line in Webster county. It has been supplied by a succession of capable and efficient pastors, under whose faithful ministry the congregation has made a steady and substantial growth and exerted a wide influence for good.

The successors of Mr. Whitfield in the pastorate have been: Rev. R. L. Kenyon, commencing Oct. 1, 1877, and also residing at Newell; H. G. McBride, Oct. 1, 1878, second resident pastor; O. H. P. Faus, J. S. Ziegler, (child died Nov. 14, 1880), O. H. P. Faus, C. B. Winter, two years, 1882-83; J. G. Henderson, '84; J. H. Snow, G. H. Hastings, John Hamerson, two years, '88-89; W. H. Flint, A. A. Marcy, Z. C. Bradshaw, two years, '92-93; S. H. Middlekauff, S. G. Jones, two years, '95-96; J. J. Gardner, three years, Oct. 1, '97—Oct. 1, 1900.

At a baptismal service held June 9, 1876, at Cedar creek, Amos W. Dart, David and Emma Terry, Felix and Mary Parrish and Sarah Reamer were baptized by immersion, Rev. C. B. Winter officiating; and on Sept. 3 1876, Elder T. M. Williams baptized Mr. and Mrs. Christ M. Saylor, Thomas and Ritta Reamer, George W.



REV. THOS. M. LENIHAN,  
CATHOLIC.



REV. J. F. BRENNAN,  
CATHOLIC.



JOSEPH FUCHS.



MRS. JOSEPH FUCHS.

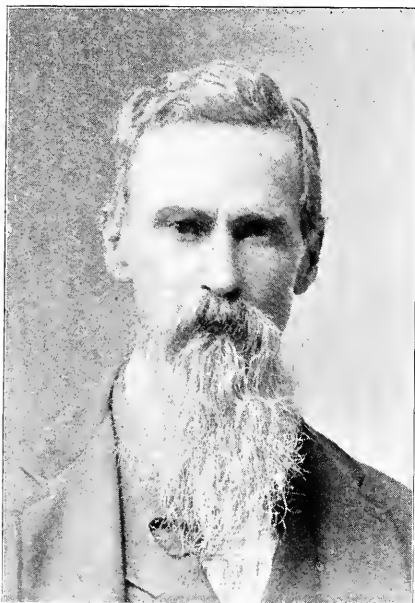
FONDA AND VICINITY.



REV. D. F. McCAFFREY.  
CATHOLIC.



DR. T. J. DOWER.



WILLIAM FITZGERALD.



MICHAEL W. LINNAN.

FONDA AND VICINITY.

Smith, Herkimer L. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jackson.

In 1879 a Ladies' Aid Society was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Joseph Mallison and Mrs. Geo. L. Brower, and they were chosen president and vice-president, respectively, for that year. The next year this order was reversed and Mrs. Brower served two years as president. Her successors in that office have been Mrs. Nellie R. Swingle, Mrs. G. W. Bothwell, Mrs. C. D. Lucas, Mrs. R. C. Potter and Mrs. Sarah A. Clarke. Mrs. Clarke has served in this capacity since 1892, and she is now assisted in the administration of its affairs by Mrs. Rebecca Burson, secretary, and Mrs. Anna Edgar, treasurer. From the time of its organization this society has been very helpful in the work of the church.

In January 1881, Rev. J. S. Zeigler resorted to an expedient that attracted public attention and aptly illustrated the resourcefulness of the circuit rider in the early days. When the deep snows came he neither had a sleigh nor money to buy one. Going to the lumber yard he obtained a board 1½ inches in thickness, and in a few hours cut and adjusted it to his buggy in such a way, with his own hands, as to take the place of wheels; and in this unpretentious vehicle met his appointments in the rural districts during the remainder of the sleighing season.

The circuit rider felt that he had an important work and must meet his engagements regardless of the biting winds and deep snows. When things went wrong he endeavored to right them cheerfully, and if from any cause his traveling outfit was rendered useless he immediately improvised another. No one ever saw these faithful, self-sacrificing servants of the church disconcerted. They were patient, persevering and always ready to assist a neighbor in every possible

way. Only a meager salary was promised them, they seldom received the full amount of it, and a considerable portion of what they did receive came in the form of donations of corn, potatoes, turkeys and other truck from the farm and garden. They were held in much higher esteem, however, as good judges of a horse, than many of the preachers of the present day. This was due to the fact they were dependent upon the horse for their locomotive power.

Preachers were not very numerous in those early days and that some of the frontier churches used a good deal of ingenuity to secure the best man for their particular field, appears in the following form of request for one, credited to a good old colored brother in the church at Alexandria Valley, Ga.: "Send us a bishop for a preacher. If you can't send us a bishop, then send a sliding elder; if you can't send us a sliding elder send us a stationary preacher; if you can't send him send us a circus rider; if you can't spare him send us a locus preacher; if you can't spare us a locus preacher, then send us an exhauster." That settled it, and he got a preacher.

#### FONDA AND DOVER CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

In the early settlement of this section a large number of Catholic families located a few miles north and others a few miles south of Fonda. In March, 1870, services were established for them by Rev. T. M. Lenahan, of Fort Dodge, first at the home of Wm. Lynch and, after its erection, at the McCartan schoolhouse, four miles north of Fonda. He continued in charge of this station until the fall of 1882, a period of twelve years. Under his nurturing care the congregation became too large for the schoolhouse, and his work closed with the dedication of the Dover church in October, 1882, when Rev. P. J. Carroll became his successor.

When they began to discuss the propriety of building a church, the Catholic families living south of Fonda very earnestly insisted that it should be located in Fonda, but they were outnumbered by those who lived in Dover township who preferred a location more convenient to their homes. During the next year after the erection of the Dover church the families living south of Fonda found that with the co-operation of the people in the town they were able to build another

house of worship and, commencing it in the fall of 1883, completed the church in Fonda early in 1884 at a cost of \$2,000. Regular services were established in it by Rev. P. J. Carroll, who then located in Fonda and served the two churches on alternate Sabbaths until Oct. 1, 1887, when he was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. D. F. McCaffrey, who remained in charge of them until Oct. 1, 1895. The parish was then divided, Rev. J. F. Brennan became pastor of St. Mary's church in Fonda, Rev. Stephen Butler pastor of St. Columba's church in Dover, and both of these men are still rendering a very acceptable service to their respective congregations. The parsonage in Dover was built in 1896 and in Fonda in 1885.

In 1896 the church in Fonda was enlarged by an addition of forty feet to the west end of it and the construction of a gallery in the east end, and these enlargements have doubled its seating capacity. It is now (32x80 ft.) one of the largest churches in the county. In 1898 the parsonage was also enlarged and greatly improved in its appearance. A brick pavement was laid in front and the grounds adjoining were graded and planted with evergreens. These buildings have a fine location fronting eastward on Main street, and their handsome appearance is very creditable to the pastor and people to whom they belong.

The pioneers who united to form the Catholic organization that built these two churches were principally those belonging to the families of Bernard McCartan, Wm. Lynch, Patrick Kearns, Louie and Joseph Fuchs, M. Byrne, Patrick, John, William, and Daniel Fitzgerald, Jeremiah Sullivan, Louisa Lieb, Theodore and Edward Lilly, Patrick Shea, John Garvey, Bernard and John Reilly, Frank Farrell, John Dooley, M. W. Linnan, Matthew and Timothy Carey, Ter-

rence and John Mullen, Terrence Murphy and T. H. McLaughlin.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church of Fonda was organized in McKee's Hall Sabbath morning, June 20, 1886. In response to the request of a number of the citizens of Fonda and vicinity for the organization of a Presbyterian church, a committee of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, consisting of Rev. T. S. Bailey, synodical missionary, and Rev. S. C. Head, of Pomeroy, met a congregation in the same place on the previous day and it was decided to effect an organization on the following day. The meeting on Sabbath was conducted by Rev. T. S. Bailey, and the following persons presenting themselves were duly organized as the First Presbyterian church of Fonda, namely: Mr. and Mrs. G. Pfeiffer and their daughter Emma, James Darling, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Darling, Alexander F., Miss F. M. and Mrs. F. M. Hubbell, Mr. and Mrs. Simon P. Boyd, Mrs. Esther O. Smeaton, Mrs. James Mercer, Mrs. Ursula Stevens and Wm. Bott. To these on the following Sabbath were added Mrs. Adele Curkeet and Miss Rebecca Pfeiffer.

The rotary system of the eldership was adopted and Messrs. James Darling, S. P. Boyd and Godfrey Pfeiffer were elected for one, two and three years respectively. Alex. F. Hubbell, and Charles S. Darling were chosen deacons for a term of three years, and a board of five trustees was elected, consisting of Geo. Fairburn, president; A. B. P. Wood, treasurer, and J. D. Carpenter, each for one year, in connection with the two deacons.

Rev. R. E. Flickinger, of Walnut on August 8 and 22, 1886, served this congregation in McKee's Hall, and locating at Fonda Oct. 1, 1886, entered upon the pastorate that has continued without interruption until the present time.



On March 18, 1888, the term of the ruling elders was increased from three to five years and four additional ones were elected. Those who have served as elders are James Darling, until his decease Nov. 19, 1887; Godfrey Pfeiffer, Dec. 7, 1894; Joseph Hawkins, 1888 to 1898; Alanson Post, 1838 to 1899; John B. Mackey, 1893 to 1895; C. S. Darling, 1893 to date; Hon. James Mercer and Samuel S. Martin, both from Oct. 2, 1897 to date.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FONDA.

until his removal to Parkston, S. D., Sept. 15, 1889; S. P. Boyd, until his removal to Pomeroy in 1895; Edward L. Beard, 1888 to 1890; Alex. F. Hubbell, 1888 until his decease at Cedar Falls, Only three persons have held the office of deacon, namely, Charles S. Darling, from the time of organization until the present time; Alex. F. Hubbell and Hon. James Mercer, the

last since August 10, 1897.

The succession of trustees has been A. B. P. Wood, treasurer, until the time of his decease Nov. 8, 1887; Geo. Fairburn, president, and J. D. Carpenter both until 1889; James Mercer, treasurer, 1887 to date; Wm. Bott, president, since 1890; Alanson Post, 1891 to 1897; S. S. Martin and Wm. F. Bridges, both from 1895 to date; R. F. Beswick and Harvey Eaton, 1899 to date.

The Sunday school was organized July 4, 1886, with thirty members and the officers for the first nine months were James Darling, superintendent; Godfrey Pfeiffer, assistant superintendent; Lois A. Wood, secretary; A. F. Hubbell, treasurer, and Rebecca Pfeiffer, librarian. Miss Emma Pfeiffer served as chorister and Mrs. A. Curkeet as organist, furnishing the organ. On Dec. 26, 1886, when the constitution and by-laws were adopted the term of office of all the officers of the Sunday school was increased from three months to one year and the last Sabbath of March was designated as the date for the annual election. A. F. Hubbell served as superintendent April 1, 1887 to 1894; Joseph Hawkins, 1894 to 1897, and Charles S. Darling since 1897.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized June 30, 1886, by the election of Mrs. Esther O. Smeaton, president; Mrs. G. Pfeiffer, vice-president; Lois A. Wood, secretary, and Mrs. Geo. Fairburn, treasurer. Mrs. Smeaton served two years as president, and her successors have been Mrs. G. Pfeiffer, Mrs. Frank P. McKee, Mrs. James Potter, Mrs. A. S. Wood, Mrs. A. R. Wolgamot, Mrs. Ed. Ellis, Mrs. John C. Stevens, Mrs. E. A. Fuller, '95-98, and Mrs. H. A. Chapman. This society contributed \$200 toward the erection of the church edifice, \$100 for its improvement in 1894, \$100 toward the erection of the parsonage and altogether, during the fourteen years of

its existence, about \$1650 to supplement the regular work of the church.

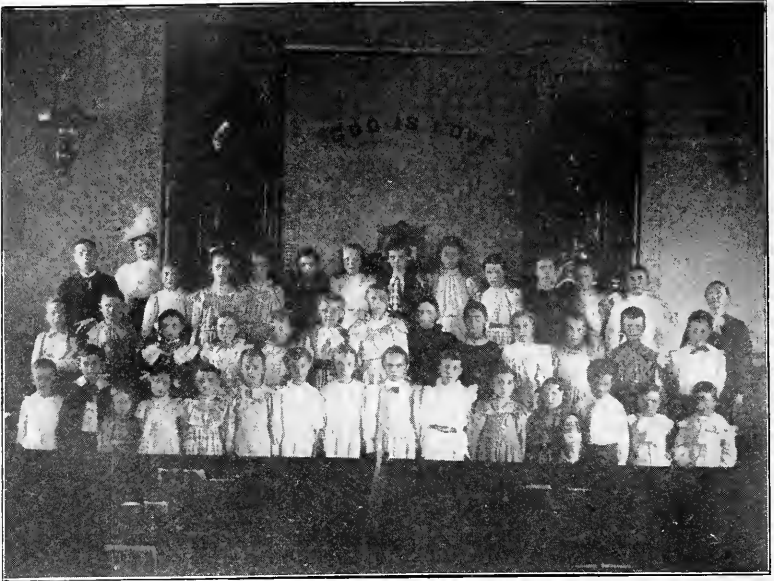
The Endeavor Society was organized January 2, 1894, when Miss Maude Sargent was chosen president; John Kennedy, vice-president; Maude Ellis, secretary, and Lovern Post, treasurer. During the two preceding years, though not formally organized, yet through leaders appointed each week by the pastor, the young people had regularly conducted a half-hour service each Sabbath evening. The officers are elected for a term of six months and those who have been chosen to serve as successors of its first president have been Louis A. Rothe, '95-96; Miss Alice Davis, '97; Louis A. Rothe, '98; R. B. Crone and Wm. H. Bridges in '99 and Miss Minnie Haffele in 1900. The first meeting of the Juniors was held Dec. 19, 1897, and they were organized on the following Sabbath, Miss Minnie Haffele serving as organist and as assistant for a few months and afterwards as superintendent, Mrs. Walter Forbes having resigned.

Mrs. A. Curkeet, Maude Ellis, Lourinda Haffele (Roberts) and Minnie Haffele (since 1891) as organists for the Church, and Lovern Post for the Sunday School have rendered a service so admirable and valuable as to be long and gratefully remembered.

The services were held in the public school building until Oct. 9, 1887, when a house of worship was completed and dedicated at a cost of \$3,600. It consists of a main part 32x52 feet with pulpit extension at the rear and a tower 64 feet in height, in front. The style of architecture is Gothic and all the windows are filled with cathedral or art glass. In 1894 it was repainted and tastefully decorated. It is a gem of beauty and very convenient for use. It was the first Presbyterian church built in Pocahontas county, although a Presbyterian organization had been effected in the



REPRESENTATIVES OF PIONEER FAMILIES, FONDA AND VICINITY.



CHILDREN'S CHORUS, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FONDA, JUNE 20, 1898.  
REV. R. E. FLICKINGER, PASTOR, MISS MINNIE HAFEFLE, ORGANIST.



MAY, CORA, EFFIE, CILENA AND NELLIE MERCER, TEACHERS, FONDA.

northeast part of the county as early as 1859, and the services regularly maintained from that date. The hot air furnace inserted in this building in August, 1887, is believed to have been the first one put in any church or private home in this county.

In 1893 a large and handsome manse was built on the lots adjoining the church, at a cost of \$2,200. These two buildings are located on an elevated plot of ground, on the west side of Main and north of Fourth streets, that is midway between the Methodist and Catholic churches, and, having a row of shade trees around them, they are certainly "beautiful for situation"

The organ was presented by Mrs. Geo. Fairburn, Christmas, 1887, and the communion set by Mrs. F. M. Hubbell in 1890. To the latter Miss F. M. Hubbell, her daughter, added two cups and plates in 1898. On July 4, 1896, a legacy of \$200 was received from the estate of Alex. F. Hubbell, that removed the last arrearages on the manse, and in 1899 a legacy of \$50 was received during the life of the testator. This was from Joseph Chapman, an aged and highly respected member of the church, who had made provision for its payment, in a will dated Jan. 26, 1897.

The Presbytery of Fort Dodge met in this church Sept. 10-12, 1895, and the Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Societies of the presbytery held their annual meeting at the same time, occupying the Methodist church. A local home and foreign missionary society among the ladies of this church was organized at this time by the election of Mrs. H. A. Chapman, president; Mrs. R. E. Flickinger, secretary and treasurer. During the last two years (1898-99) this Ladies' society has made an annual contribution of \$30 to the home and foreign missionary funds of the church.

In the spring of 1887 Mrs. Flickinger secured the attendance of a number of little children to form an infant class in the Sunday School, and she has continued in charge of this department of the Sunday School until the present time, a period of thirteen years. On the day of dedication the communion table was presented by this class.

The memory recalls many blessed associations in connection with the efforts to achieve what has been accomplished by this people. For a number of years the singing of the congregation was led by an efficient choir of more than a dozen good voices. The fine concerts annually held at the time of the pastor's anniversary, Easter, Children's Day and on the first Sabbath of the new year, became a special and very attractive feature of the services during this prosperous period. The work of preparation for them was highly educational and enabled the pastor to become intimately acquainted with the youngest of the children. The unusual crowds that have oftentimes vainly sought admission to the church on these occasions, have repeatedly illustrated the fact that the work of home talent properly trained, is more highly appreciated than that which comes from abroad. On these occasions the choir, young people and children have been arranged, each in a separate and also all in full choruses, that filled the sanctuary with their joyous outbursts of sacred song. A view of the children's chorus, as they appeared at one of their rehearsals in 1898, numbering thirty-five voices, may be seen on another page.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FONDA.

The organization of the Christian church, Fonda, was the result of the evangelistic labors of Rev. H. M. Elliott who effected it in McKee's hall Nov. 5, 1893 with eighteen mem-

bers as follows: Charles Alexander and his mother, Mrs. Abigail Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Squire F. Hornor, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bakker, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Tigner, Mrs. Jennie Langworthy, Mrs. J. D. Carpenter, Mrs. Lou Hornaday, Mrs. Elizabeth Fastle, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Hair, Anna P., Cora S., William and Ellis Hornor. Messrs. S. F. Hornor, Henry Bakker and A. C. Tigner were elected elders; Charles A. Alexander and Henry Bakker, deacons; Mrs. Lou Hornaday deaconess; Cora S. Hornor, clerk; S. F. Hornor, E. S. Hornaday and C. A. Alexander, trustees.

The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. H. M. Elliott from date of organization until August 1894; Rev. F. E. Butterfield from Nov. '94 to March '95; Rev. A. J. Marshall '95; Rev. G. L. Brokaw, in 1896; Rev. L. E. Huntley, 1897-98 and Rev. W. S. Lemmon, the present pastor, since February 1899.

In the spring of '95 a tabernacle, as a place for worship, was built on the east side of Franklin street and after the lapse of a year it was moved to its present location at the corner of Second and King streets. During the two preceding years the meetings were held successively in a room of THE TIMES building, the public school and kindergarten buildings.

On Jan. 5, 1894 a Christian Endeavor Society was organized by the election of Mrs. F. E. Bailey, president; E. S. Hornaday, vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Harding, recording and Anna Hornor, corresponding secretary and treasurer. Others that have served as president of the society have been Anna Hornor, Mrs. L. E. Huntley 1896-97, Mrs. Jennie Langworthy, William Hornor and Harry E. Hornor.

The Sunday School was organized in January 1894 and the succession of superintendents has been Rev. H. M. Elliott, Charles A. Alexander, E. S. Hornaday, Mrs. Hattie Brown, F.

W. Swearingen, Esq., Henry Bakker, Mrs. Lena Rolfe and Mrs. O. W. Dresser.

On Jan. 19, 1894 a Ladies' Auxiliary Society was organized by the election of Mrs. Jennie Langworthy president, Mrs. E. S. Hornaday vice-president, Mrs. A. S. Wood secretary and Mrs. G. Dorton treasurer. Mrs. Langworthy served four successive years as president and her successors have been Mrs. A. S. Wood and Mrs. M. O. Byland. The earnings of this society have been about \$750.

The succession of organists has been Anna Hornor, Ernestine Langworthy (Swearingen) and Anna Beardsley.

#### MEN'S CHRISTIAN UNION.

During the month of May 1897 the pastors of the three protestant churches in Fonda, Rev. S. G. Jones, L. E. Huntley and R. E. Flickinger and their respective congregations united in their mid-week and Sabbath evening services. On the 5th of June a large tent was erected on the public school grounds and evangelistic services were held every evening for a period of four weeks. During the first week the local pastors were providentially assisted by Evangelists P. G. Stevens and L. F. Burnett, who represented the colportage work of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. During the next three weeks the meetings were in charge of Evangelist W. A. Sunday and his assistant F. F. Oliver, who, on the Sabbath afternoons of June 20th and 27th, held special meetings for men only in the tent.

As a result of these meetings about one hundred persons were added to the membership of the churches and on Sabbath, July 4th, the next day after the departure of the evangelists, another men's meeting was held in the tent for the purpose of organizing an association similar to the Y. M. C. A. After devotional exercises conducted by Rev. S. G. Jones, J. B. Bollard was requested to

preside, C. A. Alexander to serve as secretary and thirty-seven persons signified their willingness to assist in the support of a men's organization. Odd Fellows' Hall was chosen as the place for subsequent meetings and three weeks later a more permanent organization was effected by the election of Wm. J. Redfield, president for six months and the appointment of A. W. Davis, L. A. Rothe and Wm. H. Bridges a committee who, on the following Sabbath submitted a constitution that was adopted. The object of this association was to promote the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual nature of men. During the summer of 1898 E. O. Ellis became secretary, the meetings were transferred to the Tabernacle and on Dec. 25th a new constitution was adopted and signed by twenty-one members. The Men's Christian Union was the name adopted at this time. The Sabbath afternoon meetings were maintained until Oct. 9, 1899 when, owing to the removal of a number of the leaders and a general lack of interest, they were discontinued.

#### BAPTIST SERVICES.

Rev. Charles Perkins, a Baptist minister, in 1870 came to the home of his son, Charles G. Perkins, soon after his settlement on section 32, Colfax, then a part of Cedar township, and that fall in a temporary schoolhouse on section 3, held the first public services in Rutler township. His first wife, Amazina Cushman, a lady of Puritan descent, died Dec. 22, 1872, and was buried at Pomeroy. Two years later he married Mrs. Elizabeth Blekwell and they lived in Fonda 1874 to 1876. During all these years he endeavored to maintain appointments in the schoolhouses in the vicinity of Fonda, and during the summer of 1878, while living again at the home of his son, held services on alternate Sabbath afternoons in the Fonda schoolhouse. The next year he re-

turned to Paris, Maine, where he died July 6, 1892, in his 78th year.

#### THE FONDA BIBLE SOCIETY.

When the Pocahontas County Bible Society held its 19th annual meeting at Rolfe, Feb. 5, 1889, Rev. R. E. Flickinger, who was present, and Rev. John Hamerson, pastor of the M. E. church, Fonda, were appointed a committee to organize an auxiliary society at Fonda. A union service having this object in view, was held in the Presbyterian church, Fonda, on Sabbath evening, Feb. 24, 1889, and the following persons, by the payment of the annual membership fee of one dollar each, were enrolled as prospective members, namely: Alex. F. Hubbell, Joseph Hawkins, C. H. Whitney, C. D. Lucas, Rev. John Hamerson, Rev. R. E. Flickinger, Amos Dart, Mrs. James Mercer, Mrs. Geo. Fairburn, Mrs. J. W. Southworth, Mrs. (Conductor) Henze, Mrs. John Stream, Ella Post, Augusta Ave, Geo. Sanborn, C. J. and W. H. Hutchinson, E. B. Deitrick and Wm. Watson. During the next few days the names of Mrs. Frank P. McKee, R. C. Potter, G. L. Reniff, A. R. Wolgamot, J. N. McKee, Geo. A. Powers, J. B. Bollard, Chas. H. Post and Joseph Chapman were added to this list, making 28 members and a fund of \$30.68 for the purchase of books.

On March 4, 1889, the organization was completed by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers as follows; Alex. F. Hubbell, president; Rev. John Hamerson, vice-president; Rev. R. E. Flickinger, secretary; and Charles H. Post, treasurer; the other members of the executive committee chosen at the close of the union service being C. D. Lucas, Amos Dart and Joseph Hawkins. On the recommendation of Rev. John Hood, state superintendent, the society became an auxiliary to the American Bible Society, and the latter added a grant of \$30 worth of Bibles when a

draft of that amount was sent with the first order for books. When the books were received they were placed for sale at the stores of Bollard & Brown and A. R. Wolgamot; and Joseph Hawkins and Amos Dart were appointed local agents to visit families and direct the distribution of Bibles and Testaments when needed.

This organization has been a source of great convenience and value to this community, by placing the various publications of the American Bible Society within easy reach of all; and all the religious organizations of the community have been the recipients of one or more donations of Bibles. The last annual report shows that the value of the books thus given to societies and individuals since its organization eleven years ago, amount to \$73.64 and that the balance of the grant of \$30.00 from the parent society in 1889 was returned to it in March 1900. The value of the bibles sold and distributed through this local agency amounts to \$281.20. The value of those on hand is \$48.00 and it has a credit of \$29.58 for books, in the book account of the parent society. The books are kept for sale at the Palace Pharmacy of H. A. Daubenberger, where bibles may be purchased in the English, German, Swedish and Danish languages.

In 1892 the constitution was amended so as to provide that the pastors of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Fonda shall be ex-officio members of executive committee and in 1895 this courtesy was extended to the Christian church. A. F. Hubbell served as president 1889-94, Hon. James Mercer '94-96, F. W. Swearingen Esq., 1897, Z. C. Bradshaw Esq., '98-99 and Samuel S. Martin 1900. Rev. R. E. Flickinger has served as secretary since the date of its organization and most of the time as treasurer also. Charles A. Alexander has been treasurer since 1898.

#### FONDA POST G. A. R.

The organization of a Post of the G. A. R. at Fonda is credited to the leadership of Capt. Jos. Mallison and Comrade F. Rubendall. At the suggestion of the latter the former visited the Post at Manson and became a member of it. He then circulated a petition for a Post at Fonda and, sending it to Des Moines, headquarters for this state, a charter was granted and a Post, No. 383, was established March 6, 1885, with twenty-one members. Of these original members four have died—B. F. Osburn, John W. Bailey, A. F. Hubbell and Wm. Gilson; four have been discharged by card, viz: A. J. Hamilton, W. P. Bush, A. F. Burdick and A. C. Blakelee; seven of them are members at present: S. H. Trude, J. H. Haven, Geo. Sanborn, Jos. Mallison, Wm. Fitzgerald, C. H. Whitney and D. M. Woodin; the others were Geo. W. Covey, E. M. Tollefsrude, Philander Pike, G. W. Bothwell, M. Carpenter and Sylvanus Hersom.

The first officers of the Post were: Capt. Jos. Mallison, commander; A. F. Hubbell, S. F.; Geo. W. Covey, T. V.; G. W. Bothwell, M. D., surgeon; E. M. Tollefsrude, Q. M.; M. Carpenter, O. D.; W. P. Bush, O. G.; J. H. Haven, chaplain; Geo. Sanborn, Adj't; Wm. Fitzgerald, Serg't Maj.; D. M. Woodin, Q. M. Sergt.

The Post was mustered by Captain Rothrock, of Manson, and the whole number enrolled has been 68. Other members who have died in addition to those already named are Martin V. B. Welsh, John Callahan, Thomas Higgins and John C. Nichols. The Post now consists of twenty-two members and meets on the second Tuesday and last Saturday of each month. The succession of commanders has been as follows: Capt. Jos. Mallison, '85; W. P. Bush, Geo. Sanborn, '87-88; J. R. Johnson, Wm. A. Henderson, Frank



Rubendall, J. W. Bailey, Capt. Jos. Mallison, '93-95; Alex. Dunn, '96-97; Charles G. Perkins, '98-1900.

The succession of adjutants has been: Geo. Sanborn, '85; Capt. Jos. Mallison, '86-87, '89-92; J. W. Bailey, '88; Alex. Dunn, '93-94; Hon. James Mercer, '95; Capt. Jos. Mallison, '97-1900. The other officers for 1900 are C. E. Hunter, Sr. V.; J. H. Haven, Jr. V.; Alex. Dunn, Q. M.; J. R. Johnson, O. D.; David Steiner, O. G.; P. R. Chamberlain, Serg't; C. H. Whitney, chaplain.

#### THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

The Woman's Relief Corps of Fonda was organized in December, 1891, with eighteen charter members as follows: Mesdames Lucy Johnson, Louresta E. Sanborn, Dora Craft, Elizabeth Bailey, Harriet Evans, Lou Hornaday, May Spielman, Annie Bush, Mary Haven, Mary Bailey, Mary Rubendall, Folena Wendell, Alma Vore, Louisa Whitney, S. H. Mallison, Laura Shaw, Miss Hattie Henderson and Miss Ina Newland.

The object of this organization is to assist the G. A. R. Post in the care of sick Union veterans, their widows and orphans and to perpetuate the memory of the unknown dead. In December 1896, this corps appropriated \$20 of their funds for the erection of a monument to the unknown dead. Later three lots were purchased in the Fonda cemetery, a substantial rock foundation was built and the ground neatly terraced around it. Many citizens have kindly donated labor and materials for this object and the expectation is indulged that a suitable monument will be erected in the near future.

The succession of those who have served as presidents of the Corps is as follows: Mrs. Lou Hornaday, '92; Mrs. Julia Wilkinson, three months; Mrs. Geo. Sanborn, April 1, '93-Dec. 31, '94;

Mrs. Jos. Mallison, '95-96; Mrs. Geo. Sanborn, Mrs. Mary Haven, (died May 2, 1900) Mrs. Lucy J. Johnson, '99-1900.

#### SONS OF VETERANS.

On May 2, 1888, a camp of the Sons of Veterans was mustered at Fonda by C. H. Knox, of Manson, and it was called Fairburn Camp, No. 147. The first officers were Wm. H. Henderson, Capt.; W. B. McClellan, 1st Lieut.; R. H. Robinson, 2d Lieut.; F. Bailey, Sergt.; Wallace Haven, Q. M. On the 30th of May following, Geo. Fairburn presented this camp with a large and beautiful flag, having their name and number inscribed upon it, and said "Boys, be as good citizens as your fathers were soldiers, and you will be as they were, an honor to your country." This organization was maintained for a number of years. At present they meet only on Memorial and Decoration days.

#### I. O. G. T. OF FONDA.

On Saturday evening Dec. 18, 1880, the first lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars was organized at Fonda by C. C. Coyle, District Deputy, with thirty-one charter members as follows: Capt. Jos. Mallison, W. C.; Mrs. Nellie R. Swingle, W. V.; A. M. Shellito, R. S.; Geo. Metcalf, F. S.; Miss Belle Tucker (Covey), Treas.; Rev. J. S. Zeigler, Chaplain; Wm. Hull, Marshall; Jennie Lucas, (Saylor) A. M.; Lois A. Wood, (Hubbell) R. H. S.; Mrs. R. F. Hull, L. H. S.; Affa Wood, Asst. Sec.; Minnie Tucker, (Weaver) I. G.; Lawrence Johnson, O. G.; C. W. Trusdale, Lodge Deputy; A. J. and Belinda Norem, Mrs. Theo. and Frank Dodge, S. S. and Gilbert Tucker, C. D. McCulloch, Thos. Kennedy, Roderick Guyett, R. F., Ellen (Brown) and Emma Hull (Wood), Abram G. Wood, Rebecca Busby, Olive Whitney and L. Trusdale.

This organization was started under very favorable auspices and the hope

was indulged that it would live, flourish and become one of the substantial lodges of the state, for there seemed to be as many more persons ready to join it as soon as their names could be acted upon. By the fire of Oct. 15, 1883, their hall, charter and records were burned and the lodge lapsed.

On March 10th and 11th, 1886, two meetings were held in the Methodist church and a new lodge, number 150, was organized with forty-one members as follows: Godfrey Pfeiffer, (C. T.), and daughter Emma (I. G.), Mrs. E. (V. T) and Nellie (A. S.) Hyatt, Harvey W. (chaplain) and Wm. Hay, Mrs. Fred Haffele (Sec.), Mrs. A. B. P. and Louis A (F. S.), Wood (Hubbell), Charles H. (Treas.), and Ella Post, C. D. and Mabel (D. M.) Lucas (Bush), James J. Trude (O. G.), Anna Brown (R. H. S.), Mr. (P. W. C. T.), and Mrs. Prince B. and Arthur Gifford, Mrs. L. A. (Geo.) Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Swingle, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Ellis, Dr. G. W. and Gertie Bothwell, Charles H., William and Mamie Whitney, A. W. Dart, S. W. Norton, W. A. Karr, Mabel McKee (Robinson), Kate Roberts (Plumb), Wm. H. and Susie Hutchinson, Mrs. Wm., Willie and Charles Hocking. One week later others were received who were also enrolled as charter members as follows: Francis Faus (W. M.), Frank Opperman, William Hocking, Jennie Lucas (Saylor), Becca Pfeiffer (Osburn), Nellie Hull (Newell), Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Boyd and Guy S. Robinson.

This organization has had its seasons of drought and refreshing, but has been maintained until the present time. It is worthy of notice that of these charter members Mrs. L. A. Sanborn is the only one identified with it at present. She has continued to attend the meetings and look after the interests of this organization with a punctuality and interest that has

never lagged. To her prudent counsel and unflinching enthusiasm in its work more than to any other may be attributed its stability and much of its excellent moral influence. She has filled nearly all the offices of the local lodge many times and during those periods when the attendance and membership were small she has been ready to take additional responsibilities in order to insure its maintenance. When the Juvenile Temple was organized Nov. 20, 1890, she became sponsor for its maintenance and success also. Every year her home has been the recognized headquarters for all necessary supplies for these two organizations, and the most popular place for their lawn socials, or social gatherings during the winter evenings.

The succession of Chief Templars has been Godfrey Pfeiffer and Harvey W. Hay in 1886; R. W. Russell and Mrs. B. F. Osburn in '87; N. M. Perry and L. R. Wright in '88; Frank Eaton, Rev. John Hamerson Oct.-Dec. '89; Oscar Eaton, J. B. Sargent Oct. '90-July '93; Irwin Davidson, Wm. H. Bridges, Oct.-Dec. '94; Robert Busby, L. R. Wright, Gus T. Swenson and Alice Davis, in '95; J. C. Slinker, in '96; Weston Martin, '97-98; Agnes McGeary, Josephine Maulsby and Bertha Neal in '99, and Harry Hornor, in 1900.

Those who have been elected to the office of secretary are Mrs. Fred Haffele, Mrs. R. Wright, in '86; Becca Pfeiffer, Mabel Lucas, Maggie Olkjer, in '87; Mrs. N. M. Perry and Matie L. Turner, in '88; Mrs. Matie Pruden and Heppie Tucker, in '89; Maude Carpenter, Ella Bollard and Maude Kay, in '90; Clara Cartlidge and Cora Shutt, in '91; Maggie Eaton, '92; Lulu Sanborn and Ed. C. Rathbun, in '93; Wm. Hunt and Gus T. Swenson, in '94; Edith Busby and Mamie Russell, in '95; Wm. Hornor, Nellie Sargent and Mae Fitch, in '96; Lulu Sanborn, in '97; Nellie Sargent and Bert Brown,

in '98; Mabel Miller, Eber Hornor and Albert Burson, in '99, and Agnes McGeary, in 1900.

The Lodge Deputy at present is Gus T. Swenson, and through the interest developed by him a lodge of 37 members was organized at Varina, March 10, 1900.

The Juvenile Temple was organized by Mrs. Lloyd, of Des Moines, Nov. 20, 1890, with about twenty members, and Mrs. L. A. Sanborn was chosen superintendent. With the exception of the year 1895, when Mrs. Maggie Eaton was superintendent, Mrs. Sanborn served in this capacity from the date of organization until the end of 1899—a period of eight years. Mrs. Mabel Bush is her successor. It meets in the I. O. G. T. hall every Friday afternoon at four o'clock.

FRATERNITY OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Symbol Lodge No. 432, A. F. & A. M., was established at Fonda by a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Nov. 10, 1882, and the first meeting under the dispensation was held Nov. 22, 1882. A charter was granted June 6, 1883, when there were twelve members from whom the first officers were chosen as follows: D. W. Edgar, W. M.; Wm. Marshall, S. W.; B. F. Osburn, J. W.; J. N. McKee, Treas.; Geo. Fairburn, Sec.; M. A. Haven, S. D.; J. N. McClellan, J. D.; C. G. Perkins, S. S. and Theron A. Snell, Tyler. The other charter members were Rev. Charles Perkins and J. N. McClellan. The first one made a Mason was J. H. Coleman, Jan. 17, 1883, and the first one raised was W. L. Haven, April 4, 1883. There have been 62 members initiated, 44 admitted on demit, 61 raised and the present membership is 57. Seven have died, viz: Rev. Charles Perkins, B. F. Osburn, O. A. Langworthy, Wm. Marshall, A. F. Hubbell, John Cartledge and Henry Zeigler. The succession of Worshipful Masters is as fol-

lows: D. W. Edgar, M. D., '82-84; J. N. McClellan, '85-86; M. A. Haven, D. W. Edgar, J. N. McClellan, M. A. Haven, J. N. McClellan, D. M. Woodin, '92-93; J. N. McClellan, A. G. Wood, M. G. Coleman, '96-98; A. S. Wood, '99-1900.

The officers for the year 1900 are as follows: A. S. Wood, W. M.; C. R. Whitney, S. W.; W. S. Adams, J. W.; R. F. Beswick, Treas.; J. H. Coleman, Sec.; J. B. Sargent, S. D.; Thomas Jackson, J. D.; A. L. Roberts, S. S.; J. J. McDermott, Tyler. The committee on finance is M. G. Coleman, Jos. Mallison and John Forbes. The lodge meets Wednesday evening on or before the full moon of each month.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR.

The Golden Cord chapter No. 187, of the Eastern Star was instituted at Fonda Jan. 7, 1896, with seventeen members, by Mrs. Jennie A. Rule, Grand Matron for the state of Iowa. The first officers chosen were Mrs. Susie H. Mallison, W. M.; M. G. Coleman, W. P.; Mrs. Heppie L. Toy, A. M.; Dr. C. H. Whitney, Sec.; Mrs. Anna Hughes, Treas.; Mrs. Jennie Robinson, Con.; Mrs. Camilla Metcalf, Asst. Con. The persons chosen to represent the five points of the star were Maude Hughes, Ada; Maude Marshall, Ruth; Mrs. Victoria Coleman, Martha; Mrs. Rose Beswick, Esther; Mrs. Ann Cartledge, Electa. Sixty-three persons have been enrolled as members and the present membership is forty-five. The succession of Worthy Matrons has been: Mrs. Mallison, '96-97; Mrs. Anna Edgar, '98; Mrs. Victoria Coleman, '99; Mrs. Jennie Robinson, 1900; and of secretaries, Dr. C. R. Whitney, '96; Mrs. Emma Coleman, '97-99; Mrs. Anna Edgar, 1900.

This organization is very closely related to the Masonic fraternity and its object is to co-operate with it in its beneficent efforts for the welfare

of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Master Masons.

#### ODD FELLOWS.

The Fonda Lodge I. O. O. F. No. 203, was instituted Dec. 14, 1885, and the first officers were: R. W. Russell, N. G.; J. W. Spitzbarth, V. G.; W. J. Redfield, Sec.; W. J. Busby, F. S.; G. R. Reniff, Treas. This organization has now about sixty members and is in an excellent financial condition. It meets every Monday evening and their hall is over the hardware store in the McKee brick block. The officers are elected for a term of six months and the succession of Noble Grands has been: R. W. Russell, J. W. Spitzbarth, W. J. Redfield, W. J. Busby, G. R. Reniff, J. D. Carpenter, J. B. Bollard, C. A. Reed, R. D. Bollard, J. B. Sargent, F. W. Kloxin, J. H. Stream, H. W. Heston, Frank P. McKee, John Kennedy, Wm. Wendell, Geo. Sanborn, Jos. Mallison, R. Wright, P. C. Toy, Wm. Wilde, Geo. S. Wendell, C. E. Mayo, J. F. Blair, El. Ibson, John Thompson, John Kennedy, Wm. Keneen and Rev. Z. C. Bradshaw. The secretaries have been: W. J. Redfield, W. J. Busby, R. Wright and Wm. Wilde, the last since 1895.

#### IOWA LEGION OF HONOR.

The Fonda Lodge of the Iowa Legion of Honor was organized February 24, 1880, with twelve members, and the officers were Geo. Fairburn, Pres.; James F. Mallison, V. P.; Ed B. Tabor, Sec.; C. G. Guyett, F. S.; Theo. Dunn, Treas.; Joseph Mallison, C. D. Lucas, W. H. Clemens, G. H. Thompson and P. G. Ibson. The trustees chosen were: G. W. Bothwell, C. D. Lucas and Joseph Mallison. This is the oldest fraternal insurance organization in Fonda, and it meets ordinarily only once a year. The present membership is twenty and the officers are Capt. Jos. Mallison, President; Geo. Sanborn, Secretary, G. R. Reniff, Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

The Cedar Lodge of the Knights of Pythias (No 311) was organized at Fonda, December 8, 1891, with fourteen members, by district deputy J. P. Lawton, of Newell, assisted by the Newell and Manson Lodges. The first officers according to their rank were; F. B. Deitrick, J. W. Redfield, E. A. Fuller, F. P. McKee, G. H. Fitch, J. H. Stream, J. D. Carpenter, Joseph Mallison, Geo. Selzer and J. Clancy. The Lodge meets in their hall every Thursday evening and the present officers are F. W. Fitch, J. M. Thorpe, G. C. Weber, R. Wright, L. S. Straight, S. W. Maulsby, W. J. Redfield, C. C. Stevens, F. B. Dunn and W. J. Busby.

#### MODERN WOODMEN.

The Fonda Camp No. 3242, of the Modern Woodmen of America was instituted September, 30, 1895, with twenty-three members. The first officers were Peter Kurvink, V. C.; W. J. Redfield, W. A.; G. A. Straight, Treas.; and C. A. Alexander, Clerk. The camp meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month, and it has now an enrollment of eighty-eight members. The officers are elected annually. The succession of venerable consuls has been, Peter Kurvink, '95; W. J. Redfield, L. S. Straight, J. D. Carpenter, H. C. Beardsley and J. D. Wurtsbaugh Esq. The secretaries have been C. A. Alexander, '95, R. Wright, '96-99, A. W. Sargent and C. A. Alexander, in 1900; and the treasurers, G. H. Straight, A. W. Phillips and Geo. H. Fitch.

#### KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES.

The Fonda Tent, No 81, of the Knights of the Maccabees was instituted March 4, 1898, with twenty members. The first officers were Roy Carpenter, Commander; A. Sauter, Lieut. Com.; E. J. Chingren, Sergt.; L. R. Wright, R. K. and F. K.; Paul Swenson, Chap.; W. M. Elliott, M. A. Charles Hardy, M. G.; Frank Barker,

Sec.; Geo. Elliott, Sent.; Wm. Henrichs, P.; and Dr. Charles Whitney, Med. Examiner. The tent has now about sixty members and meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. L. R. Wright continues to perform the duties of secretary and the succession of commanders has been, Roy Carpenter, '98, John W. Rock, '99, and P. D. Wilds, 1900.

#### MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA.

The Fonda Lodge No. 408, of the Modern Brotherhood of America, was organized January 23, 1899, With fifteen members and the first officers were T. A. Thompson, Pres.; W. S. Brown, V. P.; Grant Bayne, Sec.; and Treas.; W. E. Wykoff, Con.; M. Maulsby, Chap.; Elmer Adams and Claude Simpson. The enrollment at present is fifty-seven, which includes both men and women, T. A. Thompson is president and Matie L. Bailey is secretary and treasurer.

#### CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS.

St. Mary's Court, No 1071 of the Catholic Order of Foresters was instituted at Fonda, February 21, 1900, with thirty-two members. The officers chosen at this time were, J. R. Mullen, C. R.; J. F. Howe, V. C. R.; Arthur McCartan, P. C. R.; H. A. Daubenberger, R. Sec.; C. F. Linnan, F. S.; John McCafferty, John O'Brien, and Wm. Bradford, Trustees; Carl O'Donnell, I. S.; J. W. Clancy, O. S.; Dr. T. J. Dower, M. E.; John Tolan, Treas.; and Rev. J. F. Brennan, Chap. The object of this organization is to promote friendship, unity and christian charity among its members.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WATER WORKS

The Hose Company No. 1, of Fonda, was organized June 27, 1895 with twenty-three members as follows: G. R. Reniff (Chief), A. G. Wood (Asst. Chief), C. M. Carroll (Capt.), F. J. Kenning (Treas.), H. C. Dorton, A. J. Sauter, Wm. Dunn, George Wendell, Guy S. Robinson, George Kinney,

Grant and Ellwood Newland, Frank R. Judd, B. K. Hawkins, C. S. Nichols, Ed. O'Donnell, L. S. Straight, Al. Ehline, James Thompson, John Howe, Fred Spielman, Verne Harris, and B. Fox. Others that have become members since the organization are P. L. Shanley, George Sanborn, Jr., Wm. Roberts, Peter Murphey, Earl Ellis, George Fastle and F. H. Bond. The annual election of officers is held on the second Tuesday in May. Mr. Reniff continued to serve as chief until May 1900 when he was succeeded by Ed. O'Donnell, who became assistant chief in the spring of 1896 and captain also in May 1898, when these two offices were united. At present A. J. Sauter is captain, P. L. Shanley, secretary and Mr. Kenning is still serving as treasurer.

The first call to service was on Sept. 6, 1895 when the building of R. E. Rosa was on fire, the second was Kennedy's elevator Dec. 26, '95, and the third the fire in the Presbyterian church Jan. 6, 1896. The whole number of calls to which they have responded has been twenty-seven, of which the principal ones were the burning of the tile sheds of Straight Brothers' and Raymond's house in 1898, the corn cribs near the Kennedy elevator in 1899 and the Kelley restaurant at the corner of Main and Second streets in January and March 1900. The first engineer was Peter Kurvink and he was succeeded by G. C. Weber in April 1896.

The town well was sunk and the water tank erected in 1895. An additional well that serves the purpose of a reservoir or a supply tank was completed in March 1900. The city has now a very complete and satisfactory system of water works. The water is excellent and its supply is so abundant that it meets all the wants of the city and also of the two railways that intersect each other at this place.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

The establishment of the Big Four District Fair Association, at Fonda, was the outgrowth of a number of propositions and efforts to establish similar organizations in other parts of the county during the preceding decade.

As early as April, 1879, a proposition was made through the columns of the *TIMES* to organize an Agricultural society by the people of Pocahontas, Sac, Calhoun, and Buena Vista counties.

During January and February 1883 several articles appeared in the columns of the *TIMES* advocating the organization of a County Agricultural Society, and on March 17, 1883, a public meeting, attended by twenty-five persons, was held in the school house at Rolfe, for that purpose. Articles of incorporation were read and approved. James J. Bruce, who served as chairman of the meeting, tendered a donation of forty acres of land near Rolfe to the society, and then they adjourned to meet at Pocahontas Center on April 11th following.

On March 31, 1883, a similar meeting of the citizens in the vicinity was held at Pocahontas and the articles of incorporation adopted at this meeting were published in the next issue of the *TIMES* over the signatures of Oscar I. Strong, A. L. Thornton, O. A. Pease, J. H. Heaton, Noah Morrison, M. F. Patterson, M. D., W. J. Cullen, W. G. Bradley, Samuel Lyons, W. C. Ralston, Louis Brodsky, C. M. Hunt, W. H. Hodges, J. W. Wallace, E. M. Hastings and J. F. Harlan.

On April 10th, 1883, those representing this organization met again at the Bissell House, pursuant to previous adjournment, George Sanborn, serving as chairman and J. F. Harlan as secretary. At this meeting a letter from Warrick Price was read in which he offered to donate to this Society,

known as the Agricultural Society of Pocahontas county, ten acres of land at Pocahontas and to sell ten acres more for the same purpose at a very reasonable rate. An executive committee, consisting of one man from each township in the county, was appointed to solicit stock as follows: John Fraser, Powhatan; J. Hughes, Swan Lake; Peter Wendell, Bellville; D. C. Williams, Washington; W. J. O'Brien, Sherman; C. M. Saylor, Lincoln; J. P. Welch, Center; P. H. Bendixon, Clinton; A. F. Hubbell, Dover; A. L. Thornton and Rufus Green, Laurens; H. C. Tollefsrude, Grant; Carl Steinbrink, Lizard; A. G. Maxwell, Colfax; Robert Struthers, Des Moines; Horace Chipman, Lake, and Wm. Marshall, Cedar.

At the next meeting of this society, held in the Court House May 19, 1883, officers for the first year were elected as follows: C. M. Saylor, President; John Fraser, Vice President; George Sanborn, Secretary and J. F. Harlan, Treasurer. A board of directors, consisting of one member from each township, was elected, and a committee of four members was appointed to prepare a constitution and series of by-laws for adoption at the next meeting.

On November 10, 1883, this society held an annual meeting at Pocahontas, and elected officers for the ensuing year, which were the same as before, except that A. G. Maxwell became secretary in place of George Sanborn. The meeting adjourned until January 12, 1884 and then this society also went into "innocuous desuetude."

BIG FOUR DISTRICT FAIR.

In May 1888 the public agitation of a Fair Association was renewed by the businessmen of Fonda, and they issued a call for a meeting in McKee's Hall, on Saturday May 12, 1888, for the purpose of effecting an organization that should embrace Pocahontas

and the three other counties that are contiguous to Fonda.

In response to this call no meeting was held until Saturday afternoon, March 15, 1890. On this date there was a large attendance of representative farmers and stock raisers from Pocahontas and the three adjoining counties, and the meeting was organized by the selection of Wm. J. Busby, chairman, and A. G. Wood Esq., secretary. A committee was appointed to prepare articles of incorporation and by-laws, another to solicit stock at ten dollars a share and a third one to report the best site available for an agricultural fair.

On March 31, 1890 the first meeting of the stockholders was held in McKee's Hall, N. B. Post serving as chairman. The Big Four District Fair Association was organized by the adoption of articles of incorporation, and on April 8th, officers were elected for one year, as follows: J. N. McLellan, President; Hon. James Mercer, Vice President; A. G. Wood, Secretary, and A. S. Wood, Treasurer. Ten directors were chosen as follows; J. J. Allee (Newell), Foster Blackington (Pomeroy), Col. Phil Schaller (Sac City), Abram Burson, Wm. Bott, J. B. Bollard, J. N. McKee, E. Kay, M. W. Linnan and Charles A. Zeigler.

On April 17th, 37 acres of land, located west of Main street and south of the railroad, were purchased for \$1850 and on May 30th, stock to the amount of \$1,500 having been subscribed, arrangements were made for holding the first agricultural fair, in Pocahontas county, September 23 to 26, 1890.

The work of improvement advanced rapidly so that at the time of the first exhibition the grounds were enclosed with a good fence, floral hall and an amphitheater seating one thousand persons had been erected, a half mile track had been completed in the most approved style for the display of fast horses, and comfortable accommoda-

tions had been provided for a large number of all kinds of stock raised on the farm. The cost of these improvements was \$4,071.

At the first exhibition there were more than a hundred entries of horses and swine, and nearly as many of cattle. This liberal patronage was a source of gratification and encouragement to all who were interested in the enterprise and a similar exhibition has been held every year since that date. As indicated by its name and the representatives on its board of directors, this Big Four District Fair, has received the liberal patronage of the greater portion of the four counties that have Fonda as their geographical center and most convenient trading point. The track has proved to be one of the finest and most attractive in the state, so that a large number of the best trotting horses in it have participated in the races, at every exhibition. The grounds and buildings are very convenient of access both from the town and railway stations, and many that have had the opportunity of inspecting those in other localities have pronounced these as fine as any in northwest Iowa.

The following items relating to the finances of this association have been gleaned from the annual statements that have appeared in the local papers.

	1890	1895	1897	1899
Gate Rec'ts	\$1228	\$1295	\$1669	\$1988
Privegs. etc.	952	995	829	1605
State approps.		200	200	200
Total Rects.	2280	2390	2698	3793
Shares sold	3490			548
Premiums	1614	1794*	2103	2177
Attractions		75	265	206
Improv'mts.	3170		212	870
Expenses	518		341	504
Debt and Int.	453		296	781

\*Includes expenses

This exhibit shows that the association has added considerable improvements and made substantial financial

progress during the last five years. The amount due on the grounds has been reduced to \$1,100. Of the premiums the amount paid for speed during the last three years, 1897, '98 and '99, has been \$1,445, \$1,317 and \$1,565 respectively. The gate receipts on Thursday September 1, 1898, were over \$1,300 and it was estimated that nearly 7000 persons were present that day, which was the largest attendance until that date. The special attractions that day were an oratorical contest in which George M. Allee, of Newell won a two years' scholarship in the college at Streator, Ill., base ball games, bicycle races and a balloon ascension that owing to some unforeseen cause did not prove a success.

A special program of interest to the public has always been provided for the first day of the fair, and the second one has from the first been designated as "old soldier's day," because on that day free admission is accorded to every one of them. This is a recognition they have greatly appreciated and when they have formed and marched to the grounds in a body their numbers have surprised those who have witnessed the procession. In 1890 a campfire was held in the evening, and Col. Phil Schaller, of Sac County was master of ceremonies.

During the last few years there has been a growing tendency to attract the attention of the public to the county fairs in this section, by affording the people the opportunity to witness abnormal feats, such as a man leaping from an ascending balloon or a horse diving from an elevated platform into a tank filled with water, etc. This suggests a demand for sensation or something to awaken astonishment rather than that education which should be the aim and object of an agricultural fair. The fact that our most successful farmers almost with-

out exception, the agricultural press of this state and all good people in every community now boldly express their disapproval of spending money for these sensational and foolhardy performances, and protest against all midway attractions at our county fairs, because of their immoral tendencies, is one of the better signs of the times, and indicates that a reactionary movement has already commenced that has for its object, the promotion of the educational idea that tends to enrich and the suppression of the sensational and immoral that always impoverishes.

The succession of officers of the Big Four District Fair Association has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS: J. N. McLellan, 1890, M. F. Patterson M. D. '91-92, Emmet Kay '93-97, Thomas L. Kennedy '98-1900.

VICE PRESIDENTS: Hon. James Mercer 1890, N. B. Post '91, Elias Shutt '92, Capt. Jos. Mallison '93, Wm. Bott '94-96, Dr. D. W. Edgar '97, A. S. Wood '98-1900.

SECRETARIES: A. G. Wood Esq 1890 and '93, Capt Jos. Mallison '91-92 and '94-96, R. Wright '97-00; F. Thornton.

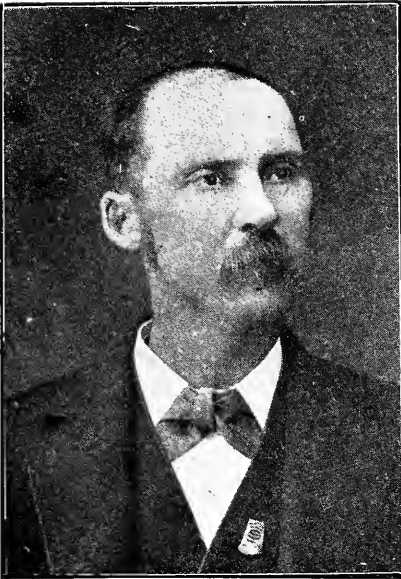
TREASURERS: A. S. Wood 1890-92, Geo. E. Hughes '93-94, P. C. Toy '95-96, G. R. Reniff '97-98, Geo. E. Hughes '99-1900.

The present board of directors (1900) consists of Harvey Eaton, D. W. Edgar M. D., Charles S. Darling, Hon. James Mercer, G. R. Reniff, E. Kay, J. P. Mullen, Charles G. Perkins, Jos. Fuchs and Wm. Bott.

#### FONDA BRICK AND TILE WORKS.

The most important manufacturing establishment at Fonda, is the Brick and Tile Factory, of the Straight Bros., located west of the city water works. Early in the summer of 1894, Lee S. Straight and his father, both of El Paso, Ill., visited this section of the state in search of a suitable loca-





JOHN D. CARPENTER, MERCHANT.

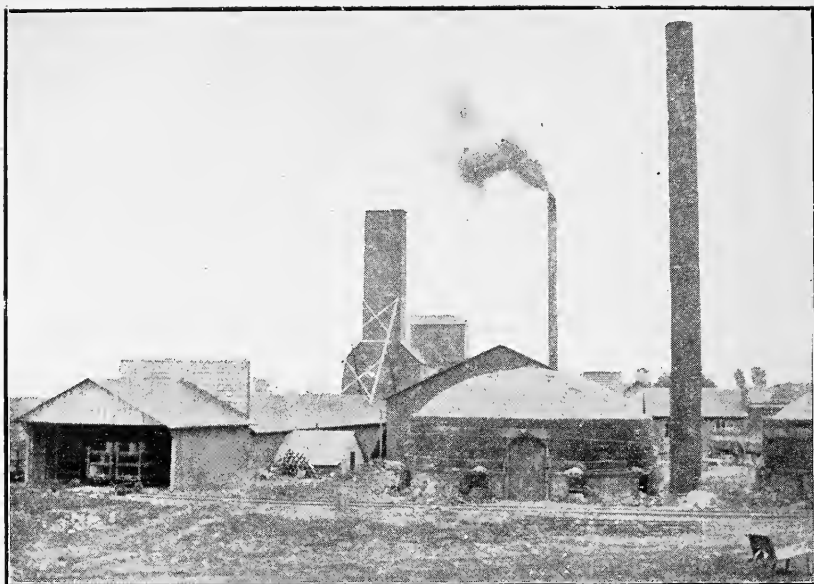


FRANK WHITE, COUNTY SUPERVISOR.

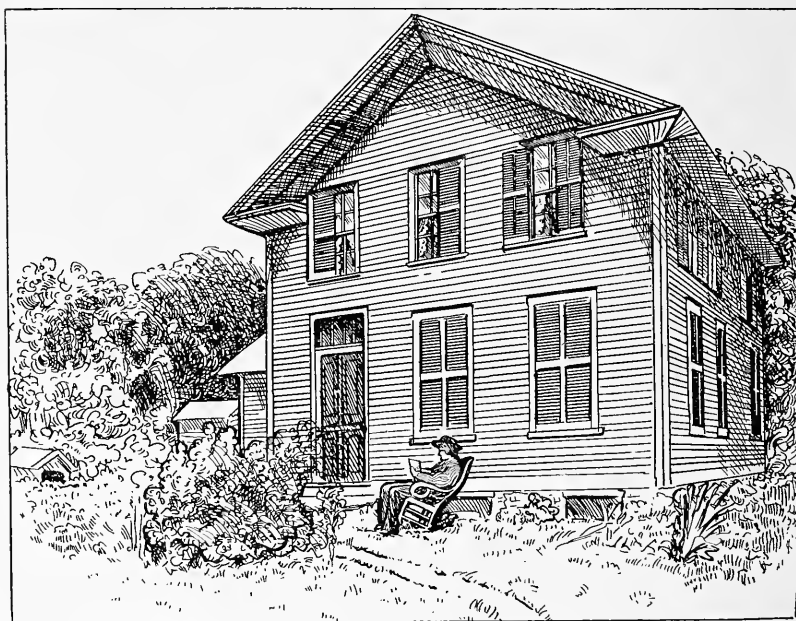


MR. AND MRS. DAVID C. LUCAS, MABEL (BUSH), EBEN,  
JENNIE (SAYLOR), AND HOWARD.

FONDA AND VICINITY.



FONDA BRICK AND TILE WORKS, STRAIGHT BROS., PROPERS. 1895.



RESIDENCE OF WM. H. HAIT, OLD ROLFE, IN 1900.

This building, erected by Mr. Hait in 1867, is believed to be the first frame dwelling built in Pocahontas County. He sawed the frame lumber and sheathing at Old Rolfe, and hauled the siding, flooring and shingles from Fort Dodge. The carpenters were Thomas L. MacVey and W. D. McEwen. Mr. Hait, who appears in the rocker in front of it, still (1904) occupies it.

tion for such a plant. They examined the clay at Fonda, and in several other localities. Two months later Lee S. Straight and Guy H. Straight, his brother, the two men who compose the present firm, returned to Fonda, and receiving from the town council the promise of a certain concession relating to the payment of taxes during the first ten years and another from the Town Lot and Land Company, consisting of a grant of five acres of land valued at \$500, on the purchase of as many more by them, they decided to locate at this place and signed an agreement to erect a brick and tile factory that should cost not less than \$8,000 and manufacture 50,000 brick or tile the first year and afterwards one million annually.

About November 1, 1894, these two men, accompanied with their families, located in Fonda and began the work of constructing the buildings. The first kiln, containing 15,000 tile was burned April 1, 1895. The buildings erected together with their machinery, all of which is of the latest and most improved style, cost \$16,000, or double the amount that was at first contemplated.

The buildings consist of an engine room 28x30 feet, a clay house 40x60 feet, an inclined track from it to the clay pit, a press room, 28x30 feet, three dry houses, one 18x170 feet, one two stories 36x120 feet and a third one three stories 36x150 feet, three kilns and an office.

The engine is of 100 horse power, the boiler 125 horse power and they are firmly set in solid masonry. An inexhaustible supply of water is furnished by a well 220 feet deep.

All the work, as far as possible is done by machinery and the amount of manual labor required is small when compared with the old style of manufacture, nevertheless profitable employment is now given to as many as twenty-five workmen. The raw ma-

terial in the form of crude clay entering at one end of the factory and passing through the processes of drying, grinding, screening, mixing, pressing, and cutting comes forth at the other end of it a perfect brick or tile. It is an interesting operation to all who witness it because, from the time the clay in the pit is lodged upon the car on the inclined track, all the various processes are accomplished with uniform effect by machinery that is admirably adapted for that special purpose.

The car on the inclined track when loaded ascends to the top of the clay-house in response to the movement of a small lever and there, striking a trip, the bottom of the car opens and the clay falls upon a carrier that conveys it to the grinding machines.

These are so constructed as to throw out all large gravel and the ground clay, after passing through two screens with very fine meshes, is carried to the mixers. For these processes the clay must be so dry it will not stick to the machinery. In the mixer the clay is moistened with water according to the judgment of the man in charge of this operation. The wet mixed clay drops into the press on the ground floor and there it is forced into smooth, shiny strips for brick, or long, hollow tubes for tile.

The smooth glossy surface is produced by a jet of steam as it emerges from the mouth of the huge press. The long strips or tubes then pass over the cutting table where they are automatically cut into exact lengths for brick or tile.

Four men are required to receive the product as it comes from the cutting table and place it on the little trucks that convey it to the dry houses. In one of the dry houses there are five tracks supplied with eighty trucks that hold each 630 brick or altogether enough of brick or tile for one kiln. When a dry house has

been filled the building is closed and the exhaust steam from the engine being turned in through 17,000 feet of gas pipe laid underneath the floor, the temperature within is raised to 130 or 140 degrees, and in forty-eight hours the brick or tile are ready for the kiln. They are conveyed thither by the little trucks and these when empty return on a side track to the cutting machine for another load. When a kiln has been filled its doors are sealed, the fire is applied and in three to four days the finished product is brought forth and placed, either on the railroad cars that await their load on a special side track, or in tiers within the yards to supply the local trade.

A spur from the main track of the C. M. & St. P. R. R. extends into the yards, and on it the cars of coal for the engine are run to the coal shed and those for shipment are loaded with the products of the factory. The brick and tile manufactured are of the best quality and they are shipped in every direction within a radius of seventy-five miles. The effort to supply the demand hitherto has kept the works running at their full capacity.

All the buildings of this plant were erected and all of its machinery was selected and put in position by the Straight Bros., themselves. These facts show that they are expert machinists and builders as well as manufacturers. During the five years the factory has been in operation they have manufactured fifty to seventy-five kilns of brick (45,000 each) or tile (10,000 to 20,000 each.) annually and given employment to twenty-five workmen. On October 20, 1898 one of the dry houses was destroyed by fire but it was immediately rebuilt. The proprietors have given this enterprise their undivided attention and have spared no pains or expense necessary to make their goods of the best quality. The confidence they have won

and the success they have achieved have been well merited.

#### THE FONDA CREAMERY COMPANY.

If we consider the number of men employed, the people interested and the amount of money put in circulation, the manufacturing interest at Fonda, next in importance to the Brick and Tile works, is the one represented by the Fonda Creamery Co., of which R. F. Beswick has been the principal proprietor and manager since the fall of 1889, when the company was organized. The task this company undertook at that date was to make a success of an industry of great importance to this community but which had proven very unprofitable to its predecessors. The accomplishment of this difficult task for more than ten years, has revealed a business sagacity and courage that have been able to meet and successfully cope with difficulties previously insurmountable.

The Fonda Creamery was built in 1881 by Sampson and French, of Storm Lake, who leased it when completed to Geo. L. Brower, a general merchant at Fonda. As this was the first creamery built in this section, as many as ten teams were employed to collect the milk for it and they were distributed as follows: Two in the country around Pocahontas, three around Pomeroy, and five in the vicinity of Fonda. During the first year of its operation Mr. Brower sustained a loss of \$6,600, and it was attributed to the fact there was a continuous decline in the price of butter throughout that entire year. During the previous year there had been a constant advance in its price and this long continued upward tendency had the effect of stimulating not only the erection of many new creameries in different parts of the country, but the manufacture in the cities of cheap imitations of butter called butterine and oleomargarine. The ex-

tensive sale of these bogus articles, before they were properly restrained by law, had the effect of demoralizing the market for the genuine product.

During the next three years this creamery was operated with serious loss by Michael Crahan, who in 1882 became the successor to all the business interests of Geo. L. Brower at Fonda. During this period the fact was realized that the method of testing the cream was very defective, worked constant injustice to the proprietors of creameries and in many instances involved them in heavy losses.

The creamery after remaining closed for two years was reopened in the spring of 1887 by Edward L. Beard who continued to operate it until Nov. 1, 1889 when it was again abandoned as an unprofitable enterprise.

The Fonda Creamery Company took possession of the Fonda creamery in the fall of 1889, on a lease for five years. Under this lease the old machinery was replaced by that which was new and improved, and a centrifugal separator was introduced to separate the cream from the milk. Soon after it was opened in the spring of 1890 another creamery was established and put in successful operation in Williams township, Calhoun county. About that same time a butter factory and storage plant for butter, eggs and dressed poultry was established in connection with the office which is in Fonda. In the fall of that year the Fonda Creamery, together with ten acres of land on which the buildings are located, was purchased and in 1891 another separator was inserted. In 1897 the business of this firm was further extended by the establishment of a creamery at Sulphur Springs, and in 1898 by the purchase of the creamery in Douglas township, Sac county. These various industries have afforded constant employment

to sixteen men during the summer and twenty-five during the winter.

It is a well established fact that the creameries conducted on the Cooley cream gathering system once proved the most successful of any in the country and paid the largest net profit to the dairymen. The introduction of the separator however was an improvement that increased their profit from 25 to 40 per cent.

In 1891 Iowa's dairy products were \$33,746,100, which is \$500,000 more than all the gold produced in the United States that year. In 1892 the railroad earnings in the state of Iowa were \$37,405,171, and the dairy products of the state that year rivaled that amount. In 1896 the dairy product of Iowa was \$42,000,000, which was twice the amount of the silver product of the entire country that year.

The fact that this is a great dairy country is becoming clearer every decade. All agree that the soil is unrivaled either in richness or the variety of the grains and grasses it will produce, but all have not realized its great value and importance as a dairy district. The following facts connected with the development of the business of the Fonda Creamery Company serve to illustrate this truth and also the great value of the creamery industry to this community.

On balancing their books for their first eight months, May 1 to Dec. 31, 1890, they found they had paid the patrons of the Fonda Creamery \$9,011 for milk. During the year 1895, the first one after the period of long continued drought the amounts paid to some of their patrons by this company for milk was as follows:

Henry Rix	\$460
Mrs. B. McCartan	290
Henry Meyer	354
H. Helmbrecht	272
D. Focke	332
W. S. Young	260

Christ Meyer	312	tion had already won the enviable
A. Samuelson	258	reputation of having achieved success
S. Barron	265	in all his previous business under-
Henry Becker	252	takings. As year after year has pass-
Pat Duffie	250	ed the people of this community have
John Holyer	246	had ample opportunity of witnessing

John Lemp during the six months preceding January 31, 1896, delivered at the creamery from fifteen cows 49, 159 pounds of milk and received \$260. Deducting the cost of hauling it four miles, \$48, his net receipts were \$212 or an average of more than \$14 for each cow for the six months.

Many others received amounts very nearly as large. The money realized from the dairy interest is not only put into immediate circulation at home but is distributed over the whole year and thus affords the patrons of the creamery a constant income, one that is not dependent on special crops or the grain market.

During the year 1898 the shipments of this firm from Fonda were forty car loads, an average of one car load a week for most of the time. When it is known that the value of a single car load is often \$1,500 the aggregate of the business done in a single year is perceived. During that winter the amount paid for live turkeys alone delivered at their office in one week was \$3,000. The business done in eggs has also at times been immense, larger than that of any firm in the neighboring counties. The prices paid for eggs and live poultry have attracted shipments to this place from many points within a radius of fifty miles and two places in South Dakota.

When R. F. Beswick came as a stranger from Manchester to Fonda, in 1889, by persons occupying positions of great honor in this state, he was commended to the confidence of the people of this community as a man whose word was as good as his bond, honest and honorable in all his dealings, and one who by close applica-

tion had already won the enviable reputation of having achieved success in all his previous business undertakings. As year after year has passed the people of this community have had ample opportunity of witnessing how well, as a man of affairs, he has sustained these high elements of character. The task before him has been a hard one, but by close application and a constant effort to make the industry he represents a source of financial profit to every one of his patrons, he has proven equal to it. Determined to do a safe rather than a large business, so that neither he nor his patrons should suffer by sudden reverses, he has studiously avoided engaging in any local rivalries and maintained his business month after month and year after year, on the principles of economy, justice and honor; and by so doing has developed the dairy and poultry industries in this community to such an extent that they have become of leading importance to the people of a large section of country.

THE NORTHERN TELEPHONE COMPANY.

In January 1899, a few public spirited men in Fonda formed an association for precuniary profit and the promotion of the public welfare, and they have already accomplished a work that has made Fonda the center of another important business interest that embraces Pocahontas and the neighboring counties. This association consists of Geo. Sanborn, A. L. Roberts, A. S. Wood, R. F. Beswick, M. G. Coleman, Lee S. Straight, John Forbes, Thos. L. Kennedy and Geo. H. Fitch, all of Fonda, Iowa, who became a corporate body April 3, 1899, as the Northern Telephone Company.

The objects of this corporation are to obtain telephone exchange franchises, to build, purchase, acquire and operate telephone exchanges and lines in Iowa.

About July 1, 1886, the Iowa and

Minnesota Telephone Company established the first telephone connection between Newell, Fonda, Pomeroy, Manson, Rockwell City and Pocahontas with a central office at Pomeroy; on November 20, 1897, the Jefferson Telephone Company established an office at the Anderson Drug Company's store, Fonda and located three local instruments; and in 1899 the Central Telephone Company extended a line from Fonda to Rusk and Pocahontas. It remained, however for the Northern Telephone Company to popularize the use of the telephone as a great public convenience in the offices and homes of the people in Fonda and in several of the towns in this section.

The invention of the telephone is of recent date and its great value to the commercial world is suggested by the rapidity with which it has come into popular use. In 1861 Philip Reis, of Germany, found that variations in an electric current, caused by a vibrating membrane, could be reproduced, and in this way transmitted musical sounds and even words, but his apparatus was very imperfect. At the Centennial in 1876 A. Graham Bell first presented at a public exposition, a practical telephone in which the vibrations were received and communicated by means of an iron diaphragm in the field of a magnet. Later Thomas A. Edison produced a vibratory current by means of an induction coil and a block of carbon; and Blake, a platinum transmitter. In 1892 a long distance telephone was erected between Chicago and the principal cities of the east.

At the regular annual municipal election, held in Fonda, March 27, 1899, a telephone exchange franchise was granted this company for a period of twenty-five years. Under this franchise the telephone company was accorded the right to erect, maintain and operate upon such streets, alleys and public highways of Fonda, as may be necessary to furnish commu-

nication to the public, the poles, wires and fixtures necessary to supply to the citizens thereof communication by telephone or other electric signals. And in consideration of this franchise the telephone company grants to the town of Fonda, the free use of its poles for the purpose of fire alarm connections and the free use of two phones in such places as the Town Council may designate.

This company was organized by the election of Geo. Sanborn, President; A. S. Wood, Vice President; M. G. Coleman, Secretary; and R. F. Beswick, Treasurer. Before the close of the year 1899 the force of workmen employed by this company had located ninety-five instruments in Fonda and extended their lines to Varina, Laurens, Lilly, Rusk, Newell, Sulphur Springs, Storm Lake, Alta and Nemaha.

At Storm Lake the automatic exchange and instruments connected with it, that were not entirely satisfactory, have been replaced by a more serviceable switch board and 125 local instruments. Other towns that have since been reached are Rolfe, Gilmore City, Havelock, Plover, Palmer, Pocahontas and Rockwell City.

It is the aim and purpose of this company to reach every point of interest in each township of this county, connect them with each other and with the towns in the neighboring counties, either by means of their own lines or those of other independent companies.

The instruments used by this company are the best manufactured and give universal satisfaction. On all the toll lines a metallic circuit is used and no expense is spared in the effort to secure the best of materials and service in every department of their work.

At their annual meeting, held on the first Monday in May, 1900, the directors chosen for the ensuing year

were: A. S. Roberts, John Forbes, L. S. Straight, Geo. Sanborn and A. S. Wood, who organized by the election of A. L. Roberts, president; L. S. Straight, vice president; M. G. Coleman, secretary, and R. F. Beswick, treasurer. Lee S. Straight was appointed manager and superintendent of construction and the original capital stock of \$10,000, divided into shares of \$50 each, was increased to \$20,000.

#### THE NORTHWESTERN HAWKEYE.

A copy of the Northwestern Hawkeye was recently handed us by Thos. Slater, of Cedar township. This seems to be the only copy of that paper that has been preserved and it is therefore an interesting relic. It is dated Fonda, Iowa, Thursday, May 27, 1875, and is No. 11 of the third volume, which indicates that this paper was established about March 20, 1873. It was published by J. D. White & Son and it was the official paper of this county for the year 1875. It was designed to be a local republican paper devoted to the interests of Pocahontas county and the benefit of its inhabitants.

The particular item of interest that led to the preservation of this copy is the account it contains of the marriage of Thomas Slater and Mrs. Mary McFadden on May 26, 1875, when the senior editor of the paper, who was a local preacher of the M. E. church, at his own home in Fonda, "started these two young people on the journey of life together with the express wish that peace and prosperity may be their portion."

Of the other items of interest in this old paper we note the following: A Sunday School was organized at the Osburn schoolhouse, two miles east of Fonda, May 23, 1875, by the election of O. F. Wilson, Supt.; Mrs. David Spielman, Asst. Supt.; George Garlock, Sec.; Mrs. B. F. Osburn, Lib.; B. F. Osburn, Treas. and Mrs. E. Garlock, chorister.

The grasshoppers in Kansas, reinforced by a horde of buffalognats that attacked the cattle, were making sad havoc of every green thing in Kansas. They had penetrated to the heart of Kansas City and though millions of them had been destroyed by means of trenches they were moving northward like a vast army.

The advertisements indicate that the following persons were doing business at Fonda at this time: Remtsma & Swingle, lumber and coal; Wm. Snell, cheese factory; E. Mullen, proprietor of Fonda Hotel; E. J. Griffin and T. J. Curtis are contractors and builders; Joseph Mallison has a collecting agency and sells farm machinery; Wm. Marshall and C. E. Brown are real estate agents; Hughes & Son (S. & G. E.) and John W. Gray are general merchants and Dr. C. F. Wilson is a veterinary surgeon.

At this date the town lots in this county were assessed as follows: In Lombard, a new town platted on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32 Laurens (now Marshall) township, \$1 each; in (old) Rolfe and Pocahontas \$2.50 to \$10; and in Fonda (still listed as Marvin), \$30 to \$75.

#### HISTORIC INCIDENTS.

Fonda is charmingly located in a section of country that is rich in good farming lands which are cultivated by a class of thrifty farmers who are rapidly accumulating money and making improvements in the way of comfortable homes. It is the oldest and largest town in the county and has now a population of 1200 enterprising inhabitants. Among its special advantages are its fine churches, schools, excellent facilities for trade, good water, healthful climate and highly productive soil all around it.

In 1876 Cedar township for the first time took the lead in the county by casting the largest republican vote which was 70 for Hayes and 34 for Tilden.

In 1880, ten years after the town



was founded, the population of Fonda was 168. In 1885 it was 433, in 1890, 625 and in 1895, 942.

The first wedding in Fonda was the marriage of Marion D. Skinner and Clara Hawkins July 25, 1873 at the hotel kept by her father where the Toy bank now stands and Rev. R. J. Griffin was the officiating clergyman.

The first sidewalk in Fonda was laid in May 1876 and it extended from the depot to Ibson's blacksmith shop on the northwest corner of Main and Second streets.

In 1888 Main street was established and opened south of the I. C. R. R. and in 1892 it was extended from the Catholic church to the north line of the section.

On Oct. 15, 1883 a fire destroyed some of the best business blocks on the east side of Main street including the Ellis hotel, Times building, Guyett store buildings, then owned by J. N. McKee & Co., and others representing a loss of \$33,000, but in a short time the former wooden structures were replaced by splendid brick buildings that have been an ornament to the town and a credit to her enterprising citizens.

On Aug. 25, 1891 another fire destroyed the drug store of J. B. Bollard, the clothing store of Malloy & Redden, the new brick building of F. M. Conroy and a number of smaller ones on the west side of Main street that involved a loss of \$17,000. These also have been replaced with larger and more substantial buildings.

On June 15, 1897, a curfew ordinance was adopted for the purpose of keeping the children under seventeen years of age from the streets, alleys and public grounds of the city after certain hours of the night. This ordinance has been enforced since its adoption and with excellent results.

On March 6, 1900, twenty-six women cast their ballots at the school election held in Fonda. This was the

first time they voted in Fonda and, casting 18 ballots for the proposition to bond the town for the erection of a new schoolhouse and ten against it, their vote gave a majority of four for the bond proposition that otherwise by reason of a slight misunderstanding, would have been lost by four votes.

The first Sunday school in the Thompson school district was organized in 1876, by Harvey W. Hay and Charles E. Whitney. In 1885 and '86, it was reorganized and John Carlidge and Wm. H. Henderson were elected successively superintendents. In 1897 it was reorganized by the election of William M. Cathcart superintendent and he has maintained it until the present time.

#### TORNADO OF 1882.

On Saturday June 17, 1882, the citizens of Fonda, had a magnificent view of one of those whirlwinds, or funnel shaped clouds called a tornado or cyclone. It formed near the western line of Cedar Township, at the close of a sultry day, and moving eastward completely destroyed the vacant house and other buildings on the homestead of J. P. Robinson on  $\frac{1}{4}$  sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 20. The houses and furniture of Harry and Adelbert Bailey and of Renselaer Wright on the same section were also destroyed. At the home of Joseph Kennedy, on section 21, the house was carried from its foundation and the barn destroyed. It passed thence northeastward to the home of Louis Fuchs, on section 12, where its appetite was satisfied by the almost total destruction of his house, barn, stable and granary, and the snapping of the trees in the grove, some of which were one foot thick, as if they were pipestems.

The only one injured was Adelbert Bailey, who was struck on the foot by a piece of flying timber. At the home of R. Wright the building occupied had been provided with only a tempo-

rary floor, and on this the family was left unhurt when the building was carried away.

The destructive part of this, the second tornado to visit this county, was about five miles in length, all within Cedar township. As the whirling, seething cloud passed over the open prairie north of Fonda and less than a mile from it, all who dared venture out beheld a sight so sublime and awe inspiring as never to be forgotten. Virgil had in mind such a scene when he wrote:

Aeolus hurled his spear against the mountainous surface,  
And the wild howling winds rush forth pell mell at the orifice,-  
The east wind, the north wind and stormy northwest together  
Scour over the earth and inaugurate dreadful bad weather.

That same evening heavy storms prevailed in several portions of this and other states, the most destructive one passing through Grinnell, where a large number of buildings were destroyed and many lives lost.

#### SUNK GROVE.

Sunk Grove, an island of eighty acres, principally on the ne  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 7 and covered with a fine grove of timber that previous to the arrival of the I. C. railway was the only supply of fuel and building material in this section, was the first place of interest and attracted near it the first settlers in Cedar township, in 1868.

At this early date there were many trees growing around its outer edge that during most of the year stood in water to the depth of one or more feet. The appearance of large oak trees standing in the water, gave the impression that the ground where they stood had sunk after they began to grow, and for this reason it was called "Sunk Grove."

In the spring of the year the island is surrounded by a lake, that on the south and east sides of it is from 30 to 50 rods wide, and on the north and

west is from 100 to 200 rods in width. This depression is lowest at the north west corner of the island where it is widest. At this place it was never known to become dry until the latter part of 1894. During recent years the entire depression around the island, embracing nearly three hundred acres of land, has been covered with an unusually luxuriant growth of native grasses, beautiful to the eye but of no real value to the owners, either for hay or pasture, by reason of the marshy condition of the ground. The outlet for this lake or marsh is eastward to the Cedar, and when it is drained several hundreds of acres of the richest and most productive land in the county will be redeemed.

This grove was the only one of natural timber in the west half of this county. The water around it protected the timber from the prairie fires and it had a fine growth of oak, hackberry, basswood, cottonwood, and other trees of which the last large ones were removed in 1870. The island is now owned and occupied by J. M. Borders, whose cozy cottage, surrounded by young timber, is located on its highest point.

#### FONDA IN 1900.

The leading business interests at Fonda and those now representing them may be briefly summarized as follows:

ATTORNEYS: Z. C. Bradshaw since '94; F. Hamilton Bond, since '95; J. D. Wurtzbaugh, since '98; Edward Fairburn since '99, Wm. H. Healy since '85.

BANKS: The Pocahontas County Bank was established by Geo. Fairburn, its present proprietor, in 1870; the first brick building was erected in '81 and in '85 it was enlarged. It is the oldest bank in the county. A. S. Wood is cashier, C. A. Alexander and Edward H. Fairburn, assistants. The Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. was established in 1886 by James F.

Toy, of Storm Lake. L. A. Rothe is cashier, Chas. Harrold assistant.

**BARBERS:** Geo. G. Craft since 1887; also an auctioneer and proprietor of a dog and pony show since 1891. Maulsby Bros., (I. W. and M. S.) since 1894. Mitchell & Elliott successors of W. A. Elliott.

**BOOK-KEEPERS:** Walter S. Adams, since 1895, Charles A. Alexander, since 1891; Melvin Royer and Ray E. Wilde.

**BLACKSMITHS:** Garrett R. Reniff, since September 1, 1885 when his shop was built. He was a partner with J. W. Spitzbarth 1886-88, and purchased an additional shop in 1896 of Arthur Hamilton and placed it in care of A. W. Jones, one of his workmen since 1895. Edward Ibson, since 1896 and as a partner with his brother, Peter G. Ibson, since 1873. Ackley Bros. successors to Fagan Bros. in 1900.

**BRICK AND TILE WORKS:** Straight Bros. (Lee S. and Guy H.)

**BUTTER MANUFACTURER:** Fonda Creamery Company, R. F. Beswick, proprietor since 1889.

**CARPET WEAVER:** Alphonso O. Brown since 1887.

**CITY ENGINEER:** G. C. Weber.

**CIGAR MANUFACTURER:** Frank L. Covey, since 1877.

**CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS:** A. J. Sauter, James Thompson, Charles Nichols, J. E. Brown, H. W. Bailey Calvin Brackney.

**CLERKS;** Geo. Bush, since 1887; J. B. Sargent, since 1892; Eli P. Griffith, since 1895; Vernon Harris, since 1893; Lucius Langworthy, Jos. M. Thorpe and George Fastle.

**CLOTHING:** Woodhouse & Blizzard since '95, in Eaton block (built in '98) since '99, H. A. Blizzard, manager.

**CHOPHOUSES;** F. O. and S. H. Van-Hoosier, since 1893; and J. W. Sargent.

**DRESS MAKERS:** Mrs. Mark Haven, Lily and Rose Steiner, Mrs. Marion Young, Sara Morton, Hannah Olkjer, Ina Gilson, Dollie and Mamie Wykoff.

**DRAYMEN:** Wm. B. Neal, since 18-

85, Fred Spielman, since '94, Mrs. M. Doyle, since '91, Jackson Howe, manager; Claude Simpson and Marion Young.

**DRUGGISTS:** C. C. Patty since 1894; Anderson (Elijah) Drug Co., since 18-96; and H. A. Daubenberger, successor of J. B. Bollard, in the Bott brick block in 1899.

**FURNITURE DEALERS:** R. Wright & Co. successors of Geo. Fairburn, in his brick block in '87. (2) Albert R. Maulsby since '99.

**GENERAL MERCHANTS:** J. P. Robinson since 1886, now in TIMES building. J. D. Carpenter since '93 in McKee block built in '84; and in hardware '83-89 as a member of the firm of Carpenter & Russell, Roy, his son, a partner in 1900. John Forbes since '94, successor of Borman & Sargent in Hughes building. The Thornton (Frank G.) Mercantile Co. in '98 successors to Crahan & Linnan. J. W. Rock since '98, and in his own brick block in '99. Tolen Bros., John and James.

**GRAIN DEALERS:** Kennedy Bros. (Thomas, John and Alexander) since '97 and as Redfield & Kennedy, since '93. Elevator first built by N. B. Post in 1890. They also deal in live stock, buggies and implements. (2) Warren Grain Co. D. V. Righdenour, manager since 1895. (3) Frank J. Turner, successor to Rolfe Bros. since 1897, elevator built in 1894 by N. B. Post.

**HARDWARE AND HARNESS DEALERS:** A. L. Roberts & F. L. Kenning, successors of Fred Haffele in 1893, erected present brick block in 1899, Wm. D. Carroll harness maker. Fitch Bros. (Geo. H. and Fred W.) successors of J. H. Potter & Son in McKee block in 1893.

**HOTELS:** Curley (Ewing) House, built in 1885, by Mrs. R. F. Hull, C. A. Ladd & J. E. Odiet, managers since 1898; Washington house, built by G. W. Sargent in 1892, Robert B. Robbins, manager, since 1899. Fonda ho-

tel, Thomas Murphy proprietor since 1893. Central house, Mrs. Engelbert Keeler, proprietor and manager since 1893.

**IMPLEMENTS:** Mullen, Mayo & Co. successors in 1899 of Turner (Frank) & Charles Mayo; and Kennedy Bros.

**INSURANCE:** M. G. Coleman, since 1892, also '77-78; city recorder and secretary of Northern Telephone Co., Capt. Joseph Mallison since 1875. Wm H. Healy Esq., Ed. R. Ellis, L. A. Rothe and Z. C. Bradshaw.

**JANITOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** John Dooley since 1889.

**LUMBER DEALERS:** J. & W. C. Shull, successors of Geo. Fairburn in 1887, J. J. McCartan, manager. (2) Woodford & Wheeler successors of N. B. Post in 1890, since which date Wm. Wilde has been the manager. (3) Lee & Jameson who in '95 became the successors of Henry Dorton, the present manager.

**LIVERYMEN.** A. J. Hamilton, in '94 successor of A. E. Sargent who erected buildings in 1893; Frank Mullen, since 1898; and John Mackey in 1900, successor to Geo. P. Selzer at the Kay barn.

**MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS:** L. A. Raymond, since 1898.

**MASONS AND PLASTERERS.** Jacob Spielman, E. O. Ellis, Wm. E. Wykoff and Frank Ceperly.

**MEAT MARKETS:** W. J. Redfield at the "Palace," since 1898; Henry Travis, successor of Wendell Bros. in 1900.

**MILKMAN:** Seth F. Tucker since 1888.

**MILLINERS:** Mrs. Charles Sayres since 1891; Mrs. D. J. Barkalow, since 1899; Miss Katie Kearns, Mrs. E. Kay.

**MUSIC TEACHERS:** Minnie Haffele, Mrs. C. R. Whitney, Anna Zerwas and Olive Myers.

**NEWSPAPERS:** The Fonda Times, called Pocahontas Times, until June 14, 1894, Geo. Sanborn editor and proprietor since 1879, brick building

erected in 1884. The Fonda Review, W. S. Clark editor, since May 1, 1900.

**PAINTERS.** Wallace Haven, H. E. Sargent, A. W. Sargent, Albert and Everett L. Gilson, P. R. Chamberlin and Howard Lockie.

**PASTORS OF THE CHURCHES:** Methodist (built 1880) Rev. J. J. Gardner since 1897, Catholic (1884) Rev. J. F. Brennan since 1895; Presbyterian (1887) Rev. R. E. Flickinger since 1886; Christian (1900) Rev. W. S. Lemmon.

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** M. J. Silvers, successor of B. K. Hawkins, in 1898.

**POST MASTER:** Capt. Joseph Mallison.

**PHYSICIANS:** D. W. Edgar, since '81; C. R. Whitney, since '94; T. J. Dower, and D. J. Barkalow since '99; and M. G. Simpson, veterinary since '97.

**RAILWAY AGENTS:** R. M. Harrison I. C.; E. E. Nance, and R. Wright, C. M. & S. P.

**REAL ESTATE.** Mallison & Ellis (Joseph and Ed R.) since 1894; Kay & Hughes (Emmet and Geo. E.) since 1898; Jordan & Linnan (John E. and C. F.) since 1899; and Bradshaw & Chingren (Rev. Z. C. and E. J.) in 1900.

**RESTAURANTS;** J. R. Johnson since 1897; E. J. Maulsby; and Joseph Hudson.

**STREET SPRINKLER;** Ed O'Donnell.  
**SHOEMAKERS.** Hart Roberts, since 1883 making fine shoes a specialty; Wm. W. Rathbun since 1886.

**TAILORS:** Swen J. Swenson since '92 and Al Ehline since '89, both employing from two to four tailors.

**TELEPHONE OPERATOR.** Louise Spelling.

**TRAVELING SALESMEN:** Geo. Riley and F. M. Conroy.

**WAGON MAKER:** Abram F. DeGraff since 1891.

**WELL DRILLERS:** W. H. Osterman, since 1894; Elmer and William Evans.

#### PERSONAL SKETCHES.

Of the residents of Cedar township there seems a special propriety that

the sketches of the following persons be included in this chapter.

Beard Edward L., who had charge of the Fonda creamery 1887 to '89, is a native of Indiana (b. 1848), came to Winnesheik county, Iowa, in 1853, and married there Mary S. Adams, in 1878. During their residence in Fonda, he rendered efficient service as an elder of the Presbyterian church. After his return to Decorah, he continued in the creamery business with the Beard Bros., until 1896, when he became proprietor of the creamery at Coster, Butler Co., and in 1898 also of the Colfax and Star creameries in Grundy Co. His estimable wife after three years of poor health died in 1891 leaving three children, Gertrude, Bessie and William Edward.

Beswick Robert Frederick, manager and principal proprietor of the interests represented by the Fonda Creamery Co., was born in the city of York, England, September 11, 1854. After pursuing an elementary course of study in the public schools of Leeds, he spent two years, in an academy, and one year as a teacher, in one of the government schools.

In 1876, at the age of twenty two, he came to America, bought a farm at Newell, Iowa, and engaged in farming. Two years later he learned the creamery business, and finally located at Manchester, where, on September 11, 1887, he married Rosetta J. daughter of W. B. Ellis, a successful and prosperous farmer of that place. He has been a resident of Fonda and proprietor of the creamery since Nov. 1, 1889.

In the management of his business interests he is thoroughly systematic and methodical. He reposes implicit confidence in his workmen and gives them to understand that he expects them to do all their work in the best manner whether he is present or absent. He studiously endeavors to avoid the use of borrowed capital and

prefers to do a safe rather than a large business. All his business transactions are kept on a cash basis. By careful observance of these principles he was enabled to continue with a small margin of profit during the hard years preceding 1896, and to enlarge his business considerably in 1897. He has been an active and an influential member of the city council since 1893. Unselfish, conservative and farseeing, he is regarded as "one of the best workers for the town that ever occupied a chair on the council." His wife died July 25, 1897, leaving two children, Robbie and Bessie.

Bott William, a resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1870, was born in Stratton, Rutland county, England, December 18, 1827, and he was the son of Robert and Charlotte (Bains) Bott. His father was the overseer of the estate of Sir Gilbert Ethcort. In 1850 he came to America and spent the first two years on a farm at Syracuse, New York. He then engaged as foreman in laying railroad track and resided successively at Danville, (Canada), Cincinnati, Terra Haute, and Shelbyville (Ill.). At this place, April 17, 1859, he married Susan, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Sapp, and soon afterwards moved to Lichfield. In 1869, he located at Iowa Falls, and superintended the laying of the I. C. railroad from Iowa Falls to Storm Lake. As the railroad advanced his family moved to Webster City, Fort Dodge and Fonda, arriving at Fonda, in August 1870. He found a home for his family at first in the unfinished depot, and when he was compelled to leave it about the middle of October, some of his workmen built him a house in one day. He continued in the employ of the railroad company until 1879 and among others laid the track on the road from Judd to Lehigh and on the Webster City and Crooked creek railway. As late as July 1886 this veteran track-layer was

called to Webster City, to superintend the laying of ten miles of new track for a mining company.

His farm of 240 acres on section 21, Cedar township was purchased in 1870 for \$5 an acre. In 1874 he moved upon it and began the work of its improvement. During a residence of twenty years on the farm he improved it with fine buildings, fences and groves. In 1894 he returned to Fonda, where his wife died, May 13, 1895, in her 74th year. Their family consisted of five children three of whom died young. Jennie, wife of Joseph B. Bollard, and Lizzie reside in Fonda, the latter with her father.

Wm. Bott is one of the few men, still living, who have had the opportunity of witnessing the growth of Fonda and of taking an active part in promoting the best interests of the town and community. When he came to this place in the spring of 1870, the town site was a wild prairie without roads, houses or trees. Only two small temporary buildings had been erected, one a blacksmith shop, by Peter Ibson and the other a grocery by Jacob Silbar. Intoxicating liquors were kept in the latter, and Mr. Bott having about seventy-five men in his employ, notified Silbar not to sell any of them to his men. Silbar, affirming his right to sell to who ever paid him for the drinks, was advised to be careful or the men would carry his outfit away. That evening a number of the men gathered about his building, lifted it and were in the act of carrying it to Cedar creek, when Mr. Bott interfered and prevailed upon them to desist from their purpose.

Wm. Bott was a member of the board of county supervisors, six years, 1880-82 and 1886-88, and served as its chairman in 1881 and '87. He has been president of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church, of Fonda, since 1890. Although of a happy and contented state of mind he has never

been a loiterer, but always an industrious and hard worker. His long experience as a foreman is suggestive of his superior tact and ability in managing others. He has been a successful farmer. On the farm he was careful neither to go in debt nor sell a bushel of grain. He raised hogs and cattle successfully by providing for them suitable buildings and giving them his constant, personal attention. He endeavored to keep the fences and buildings in the very best shape and enjoyed what some are pleased to call "good luck." In addition to his farm and home he also owns a valuable brick block in the business portion of Fonda.

Bothwell George W., M. D. now a resident of Fairbanks, was a resident of Fonda, from November 1, 1877, until 1888. He practiced medicine and, during the latter part of this period, had an interest in a drug store. His mother Mariah A. (Muir) and son George H. began to reside with him in Fonda in 1878, and on October 22nd that year, he married Ida Dodge, of Fonda. This ceremony was performed by Rev. H. G. McBride, and it seems to have been the first one in Fonda, by a resident pastor of the M. E. church. His son, a very exemplary young man, after preparing himself for college in the Guthrie county high school at Panora, received a serious stroke on his head while at work during the summer vacation, that caused a slight derangement of his mind, and he was killed by a freight train one mile east of Fonda, September 10, 1887, in his 19th year. Both of his parents were natives of Scotland, and in 1843 came to Toronto Canada, where his father (John) died a few years later. In 1860 his mother and family moved to Fondulac, Wis., and three of her sons enlisted in the civil war. She was one of God's noble women and passed to her

reward at Fairbanks, August 27, 1893, in her 81st year.

Bradshaw Zenas Condit Rev., a resident of Fonda, since Oct. 1, 1892, was born near Grandville, Indiana, September, 26, 1840. In March 1846 he came with his parents to a farm in Cedar county, Iowa, making the journey in a two horse wagon. In the fall of 1859 his father was elected sheriff, and in January 1860 moved to Tipton. At the age of nineteen, Zenas that year entered the Tipton Union School, and after two years Cornell College, where he remained until the close of the fall term of 1865. March 27, 1866, he married Angeline Spitler, and continued in the work of teaching most of the time until November 1870, when he moved to Webster City and began the study of law. In 1872 he began the practice of law at Belmond, Wright county. In the fall of 1879 he was elected auditor of that county and moved to Clarion, where their first and only child, Grace DeEtte, was born March 9, 1881. He continued to reside there until Oct. 1 1886. He became a member of the M. E. church in February 1858, was ordained a deacon at Spirit Lake, September 28, 1884, and an elder at Algona, September 29, 1886. He was pastor of the M. E. church in Luverne and Goldfield, each one year; in Lake Mills, Sioux Rapids, Ashton and Fonda, each two years. Since the close of his pastorate at Fonda, October 1, 1894, he has been engaged in the practice of law. His aim in life has been to be a faithful citizen and a devoted christian.

Brower George L. was a resident of Fonda from January 1, 1878, until the spring of 1883, when he moved to Rockwell City, where he established the Security bank. At the time he located in Fonda, he opened a general store and, one month later, purchased the entire stock of general mer-

chandise owned by W. H. Clemens. January 1, 1881, he opened a branch store and restaurant at Pocahontas, in charge of W. Hodges, and leased the Fonda creamery when it was completed that spring. All of these business interests at Fonda and Pocahontas were relinquished in the spring of 1883. He took an active part in all the arrangements connected with the incorporation of Fonda. He was appointed one of the commissioners to hold the first municipal election, was the first to hold the office of town treasurer, was a member of the first town council and continued to serve in that capacity five years, 1879 to 1882.

He married Ella J. daughter of James and Jean Busby, and their family consisted of five children two of whom died in childhood, and Harry, in his tenth year, December 15, 1895. For several years he and his family have resided in Des Moines and Chicago, in order to secure the best educational advantages for their two daughters, Aileen and Imogene, and in July 1899 they went to Paris, that Aileen, who possesses a voice of unusual sweetness and power, and who has already become a very accomplished singer, might pursue advanced studies in music for a couple of years.

As a man he is gentle and good natured, never in a hurry but always planning some new venture and carrying to a successful issue large business interests. At Rockwell City there has been accorded to him the honorable title, "Brower the Builder," because, "he has built more houses and large business blocks in that city than any other man." He has also been the inventor of a set of building blocks that are greatly coveted by the children all over the land. He is a man well equipped for business, has the faculty of developing large results from small beginnings, knows how to make a profitable use of every thing that comes into his possession and

seems to be uniformly successful in all his enterprises.

Busby(Plunkett)Jean Mrs. who died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Peter Kiene, in Dubuque, May. 1, 1898, was a pioneer resident of Fonda, and a beautiful monument in this cemetery marks her last earthly resting place. She was a native of Scotland, and after her marriage to James Busby, came to America and located first in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., and afterwards in Chicago, where he died, July 6, 1855, at the age of 55 years. That fall, with a family of seven children, she moved to Dubuque, remained there until the spring of 1872, when, accompanied by four children, she moved to Fonda. Her two sons, William J. and Ebenezer, had preceded her and they had erected, as a home for herself and family, the house now owned and occupied by Geo. H. Ellis, on the northeast corner of block ten. Ebenezer, on his arrival in the fall of 1870, engaged in the mercantile business in which he was joined by his brother William J. in the spring of 1871, and this partnership continued until the accidental death of the former August 23, 1873. After the settlement of her children in homes of their own, Jean resided most of the time with her daughter Mrs. Geo. L. Brower. Her family consisted of Elizabeth J. married to George Butterfield, Plumas Co. Cal.; Matilda, married to C. D. Lucas, Cherokee, Robert A. married to Elizabeth Borland who survives him at Dubuque; Mary A. married to Prof. C. Bayless, Dubuque; William J. married to Louisa A. Price, Fonda; Carrie A. married to Peter Kiene, Dubuque; Ebenezer M. who was the first one interred in the Fonda cemetery; Ella J. married to George L. Brower, Rockwell City; and Rebecca who resides with her sister, Mary A. at Dubuque. The true nobility of motherhood has seldom been better illustra-

ted than in the patient, beautiful life of Jean Busby. It can be truly said of her, that her children arise up and call her blessed.

Busby William J. came to Fonda, in the spring of 1871 and first engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with his brother Ebenezer. He entered, as a homestead, the n $\frac{1}{2}$  n $\frac{1}{2}$  section 8, Williams township, but sold his interest in it to C. D. Lucas. After the death of his brother in 1873, he bought a farm of 280 acres on the east half of section 34, Cedar township, on which he has continued to reside since 1875. He was the first to occupy this farm and has made all the improvements upon it.

He usually keeps a flock of sheep and in the fall of 1899, received three head from the herd at Ontario, Can., that was accorded the highest award at the World's Fair in 1893. They are of the Lincolnshire breed and one of them, weighing 276 pounds, yielded a clip of twenty pounds in 1900. It is believed that these are the finest sheep in Pocahontas county.

In 1876 and 1894-98 he kept a meat market in Fonda. On Nov. 1, 1877, in partnership with Edward Price, as the firm of Price & Busby, he opened a general store at Pomeroy, known as the "Cheap Corner." These business enterprises were carried on in connection with the work on the farm. By his uniform courtesy and honesty he won the favor of the public and secured the patronage of the best people. He has taken a considerable interest in the progress and development of Fonda. At the first municipal election in 1879 he was chosen a member of the first town council. He was a member of the township school board from 1881 to 1884, and a trustee 1881-96. His brother, Ebenezer, was treasurer of the township school fund in 1873, until the time of his death.

May 20, 1874, he married Louisa A., daughter of Edward and Elizabeth



Price. Their family has consisted of ten children, namely: Robert A., who graduated at the Bayless Business College, Dubuque, in 1897, and has since been in the employ of the I. C. R. R. Co. at Fort Dodge; Theophilus Price, who is in the employ of the same company on the Omaha division; Edith May, who graduated from the Fonda High School in 1897 and has since been engaged in teaching; George E., Elizabeth Jean, a Fonda High School graduate in 1900; Carrie Mann, Willeben E., who died in childhood; Lourena L., Harrison W., and Charlotte.

Chase Elijah, his wife Elizabeth and five children, Marquis, Alfretta, Converse, Frederick and Thomas, the last about two and the first about seventeen years of age, located on Sec. 6, Cedar township Aug. 9, 1868. They came from Buchanan county with an outfit that consisted of four loaded wagons drawn by fourteen yoke of oxen, and ten head of cattle. They were accompanied from the same place by Geo. Spragg, a brother of Mrs. Chase, whose outfit consisted of two wagons drawn by four yoke of oxen, and four head of cattle. These were the first settlers in Cedar township and they located on the same section. Their experience in making the trip from Independence to Sunk Grove was one that was not uncommon in those days, especially in wet seasons. At this date the railroad extended only to Iowa Falls and the trails west of Fort Dodge extended only to the settlements along Lizard creek. The sloughs were full of water and so soft that frequently the mud would be seen shoving in front of the wagon. All of the oxen, eighteen yoke, were sometimes required to draw a single wagon across a bad slough and, in such cases, a half day would be consumed in crossing it. During the first two years of their residence at Sunk Grove all their sup-

plies were obtained from Carroll, Jefferson and Fort Dodge. In the spring of 1869 Marquis Chase made a trip to Fort Dodge for a load of supplies, and while there was overtaken by a heavy rain. The wagon was drawn by four yoke of oxen, and on his return, in the effort to cross the head of Purgatory slough a short distance northeast of the place where Pomeroy is now located, the front yoke of oxen mired in the mud and the others, moving on them, the entire eight head of cattle were lost by drowning. The youthful driver, then only eighteen years of age, was compelled to stay over night with the load and the next day walked home, a distance of eighteen miles, to obtain a larger number of oxen and assistance to extricate the wagon with its load.

Elijah and his family in 1878 moved to Buena Vista county, but returned in 1881. He died in 1895 and his wife, Jan. 15, 1898, the latter at the home of her son William, near Wadena, Minnesota. His family consisted of ten children, namely: Marquis, in Dover township; Alfretta, wife of Joseph Logan; Converse, Frederick, Thomas, Eunice, wife of Thompson Gilman; Frank, Joseph, Adrian and William.

Geo. Spragg married Miss Osburn, a niece of J. W. Wallace, and, after a residence of twelve years in the county, moved to Nebraska.

Bridges William Franklin, a resident of Fonda since 1888, was born near Brighton, Canada, August 14, 1847. He is a son of Rev. John (d. 1883) and Sarah (Hazlewood, d. 1879) Bridges both of whom were natives of Buckinghamshire, near London England, where they married and lived until 1826, when, with a family of four children, they came to Canada, making the trip across the ocean in forty-four days. His father spent forty years in the ministry of the Baptist church and, while visiting his

son on the farm, held services at the Prairie Creek school house, and at other places in the vicinity in Sac and Calhoun counties. In 1852 the family moved to Bristol, Dane county, Wis., a settlement on the frontier that afforded very few facilities for an education. Here William F. grew to manhood and, on March 7, 1871, married Elvira M. Wood, of York, Wis. In 1872, by purchasing the right of another, who had held it four years, for \$1000, and making a new entry he secured a homestead of eighty acres on the nw  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 6 Williams township, four miles south west of Fonda, and located on it. A little later he made additional purchases on the same section that increased his farm to 240 acres. The improvements put on this farm were for many years the finest in all that section. The large bank barn built in 1885 at a cost of \$1500, was lifted from its foundation and badly wrecked by the great hail storm of May 27, 1899. From 1891 to '93 he owned the Central House and, from 1893 to '95, was engaged in the implement business at Fonda. About this date he purchased another farm of 110 acres in Dallas county. He also owns one vacant lot and two good residences in Fonda.

Commencing with a capital of \$300, which he possessed at the time he located on the homestead, his accumulations indicate he has been a successful farmer and that farming is profitable. During all the years that he lived on the farm he kept all the hogs and cattle the farm would support and did not haul over 200 bushels of grain to town. When the grasshoppers robbed him of his crops during the seventies, he did not become discouraged but practiced a closer economy and sought other means of income. In Williams township he was a school director four years and treasurer of the school fund, seven. He was a member of the Fonda school board three

years, 1890-92, and has been a trustee of the Presbyterian church since 1895.

His family consists of two sons; William Henry, a graduate of the Iowa State Normal, at Cedar Falls, in 1899, and principal of the public schools at Bagley; and John Clinton, who graduated at the State Normal in 1900.

Brown Elisha C., resident of Fonda and vicinity from 1875 to 1888, on September 27, 1864 entered the s $\frac{1}{2}$  se $\frac{1}{2}$  section 34, Des Moines township, as a homestead, and occupied it until his removal to Fonda. He served one term as county recorder, 1867-68, having been elected without opposition. He was a mormon, or latter day saint, and frequently held religious services in the community where he resided. In 1878, assisted by a man called Lambert he held a series of special services at (old) Rolfe, Pocahontas and Fonda. During his last year at Fonda, he was janitor of the public school.

Brown Orlando (b. June 8, 1821) is one of the earliest settlers in this section, having located on a homestead of eighty acres on the n $\frac{1}{2}$  se $\frac{1}{4}$  section 8, Williams township, in 1869. He came from the farm to Fonda in 1888. He is a native of Washington Co., N. Y., and his parents were Nathan and Laura (Babcock) Brown. In 1840 he located at Prairieville, now Waukesha, Wis., where on August 24, 1845, he married Rcana Bacon (b. June 15 1829) and they continued to reside there until 1853, when they moved to Fondulac; fifteen years later, or in 1868, they moved to Alden, Iowa, and the next year to the homestead on the frontier. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their wedding, August 24, 1895, he and his faithful wife were pleasantly surprised by the appropriateness and completeness of the arrangements made at the home of their daughter, Mrs. G. R. Renitt, for the celebration of that



John C.                      William H.  
WM. F. BRIDGES AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD ELLIS AND THEIR DAUGHTER MAUDE  
Fonda and Vicinity.



MR. AND MRS. GARRITT R. RENIFF AND THEIR PARENTS  
Fonda and Vicinity.

event, and they received the congratulations of many of their former neighbors and friends. During all the years of their pioneer life they have been highly respected for their useful and beautiful lives.

Their family has consisted of seven children: Lyman W. in 1871 married Charlotte Carman and now resides at Camp Douglass, Wis. Nathan Lorenzo, in December 1871, married Emma Norton, who with four children, survives him in South Dakota. The third died in childhood. James Edwin, July 30, 1879, married Hattie Young, of Wis. and in 1883 they located in Fonda, where he has since been engaged as a carpenter; their family consists of three children, Alta who graduated from the Fonda high school in 1899, Orley and Valma. Alphonso O. a carpet weaver in Fonda, in 1896 married Mrs. Matie Hinman and they have one child, George Garrett, she two by her former husband. Addison E., a teacher, Grant City, on September 27, 1888, married Emma Everhart and they have two children, Allie E. and Ethel May. Ella, the youngest, December 22, 1891, became the wife of Garrett R. Reniff, Fonda.

Byrne Matthew (b. 1847), resident of Fonda, is a native of Roscommon Co., Ireland, and in May 1867 came to Baltimore, Md., where, in Dec. 1868 he married Mary Lynch, of Dubuque. They continued to reside there until Feb. 15, 1870, when he entered and began to occupy as a homestead the  $w\frac{1}{2}$   $nw\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Cedar township. He received the patent for the land May 15, 1876 and, improving it with good buildings and groves, has purchased, from time to time, additional tracts so that he is now the owner of 600 acres in that vicinity. He is recognized as one of the leading and most successful raisers of fat cattle in Cedar township. He has been a trustee of the township, and served as treasurer of the school fund three years,

1887-89. He continued to reside on the farm until 1894, when he moved to Fonda in order to secure better facilities for the education of his family, but has continued to give his personal attention to the care of the stock on that portion of the farm that is now devoted to the feeding of cattle.

The success achieved on the farm by Matthew Byrne is very suggestive and encouraging. He came to the homestead empty handed, never received a dollar from the old country, experienced all the hardships of pioneer life during the 70's but, possessing a genius for hard work, like the instinct of the quiet beaver, he has given a splendid practical answer to the question, "Does the farm pay?" His policy has been to raise and feed all the stock, especially cattle, for which he had pasturage in the summer and protection in winter, and to invest the profits in more land. This is exhibited in the record of his purchases which were as follows: the homestead of 80 acres in 1870; 80 acres more in '78; 40 acres in '80; 80 acres in '88; 80 acres in '89; 80 acres in '90; 160 acres in '91; and the home in Fonda in 1894. His sales of stock in 1899 amounted to \$16,000 and he has now 170 head of fine cattle fattening in his large pasture of 240 acres, 160 of which is hog-tight. The old adage "patience and perseverance will perform great wonders," has its fulfillment in these facts.

His first wife died July 28, 1889, leaving a family of ten children. James, in 1899, married Mary Carey and resides in Omaha; Katie graduated at the Iowa Business College, Des Moines in 1898 and has since lived in that city; William died in 1898 at the age of 23 years; the others are Thomas, Alice, Mary, Elizabeth, a teacher, Parnell, Maggie and Matthias. On May 3, 1894 he married Mary, daughter of William and Margaret Lynch, no

relative of his first wife, and their family consists of two children, Emmet and Leroy, the latter born Jan. 1, 1900.

Carpenter John Daniel, senior member of the firm of Carpenter & Son, Fonda, was born May 10, 1852, at Goshen, Ind. Here he received his education and grew to manhood. In 1864 he located at Panora, Iowa, where he found employment as a tinner. October 15, 1873, he married Minnie, a daughter of William and Maria Townsend, of that place, and they continued to reside there until 1883, when the firm of which he was a member, Dockstader & Carpenter, brought their stock of hardware to Fonda and began to occupy a room in the new brick block erected by J. N. McKee & Co. After the lapse of a year, Robert W. Russell, of Jones County, purchased the interest of his partner and the new firm of Carpenter & Russell continued until 1889. During the next two years he was manager of the lumber yard of Woodford & Wheeler Co.

In 1893, after a residence of six months in Bancroft, he resumed business in Fonda as a grocer, and while he dealt in groceries exclusively he was favored with the largest patronage of any one in that line of business. With the increase of trade dry-goods were added in 1897, and in 1900 the business was still further enlarged under the name of Carpenter & Son, by the additional use of an adjoining store room. His beautiful residence on Second street was built in 1895. By careful attention to all the details of his business and his manifest integrity of purpose he has gained the respect and confidence of all who have ever dealt with him. He is a representative of our best citizenship and lends a helping hand to everything that is calculated to promote the welfare of Fonda and vicinity.

He was a member of the city coun-

cil during the two years 1888-89, a member of the city school board seven years, 1885-91 and secretary of it during 1891.

His family consists of three children: Maude, June 6, 1894 became the wife of William Finnicum, who, since 1884 has been a conductor on the railroad from Fonda to Des Moines; they now reside at Des Moines and have two children, Ross and Ruth. Roy, a Fonda graduate in 1896, on Jan. 4, 1900 married Mae Flint, of Fairfield, Neb., and at the same date became a partner in the general store of his father. Florence, the youngest, graduated at Fonda, with the class of 1897.

Carlidge John, president of the Cedar township school board during 1894-95, was a native of England and at the age of twenty came to Vinton, Iowa, where on February 14, 1873, he married Anna Eliza Goodwin. He engaged in farming in that vicinity for a few years and in the spring of 1884, came to Cedar township, where he died September 9, 1897, in his 46th year, and his wife, October 31, 1899, in her 63rd year. They left one daughter, Clara, who, July 26, 1896, married William McIntyre; and an adopted daughter Mary, who resides in Fonda with her aunt Sarah Morton, who made her home with this family during their residence in this county. He was a good farmer, a highly respected citizen and, while living on the farms of non-resident owners, enjoyed their confidence to such an extent as to be appointed their local agent.

Conroy Frank Marion, (b. Oct. 30, 1861), resident of Fonda, is a native of Tyrone, Ireland, and came to America in 1867, with his parents, Thomas and Bridget, who located first in Wisconsin but six months later on a farm in Black Hawk county, Iowa. In the fall of 1871 they located on a farm near Pomeroy and a few years later on another one near Jolley where Thomas died October 14, 1890. On Septem-

ber 5, 1882, Frank M. married Jennie M. Cahill of Fort Dodge, and they resided near Jolley, until March 1891, when they moved to Fonda, erected a two story brick block on the west side of Main Street and established a fine meat market and restaurant. When this building was destroyed by the fire of '91, they moved to their farm on section 30 Dover township, but after two years returned to Fonda, kept a general store for two years and during this period built the fine residence on Franklin street that he has since occupied. He is the owner of several farms in this and Calhoun counties, and is now engaged as a traveling salesman for the manufacturers of the Champion mowers and harvesters. His family consists of two daughters, Florence M., who received a medal in the county declamatory contest at Pocahontas in 1900; and Cecil, who is now nine years of age.

Covey Frank Holley, cigar maker and retailer, Fonda, was born in Duches county, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1851. He grew to manhood at Hudson, where he learned the cigar manufacturing business, and, afterwards for several years, found employment in the principal cities of the east, as a cigar maker. In 1877 he came to Fonda and continued to manufacture cigars until 1898 when his retail trade, commenced in 1894, began to occupy his whole time and attention. April 22, 1884 he married Mary Belle Tucker and they have one son living, Harry, now in his 11th year.

At an early age he began to participate in various amateur plays on the stage and soon after his location in Fonda, he had thirteen of the "old timers" join with him in rendering, "Among the Breakers." It was the principal event of that season and by reason of the admirable manner in which he represented a negro character called "Scud" he has been generally known by that name ever since.

His elder brother, George Covey, a carpenter and his wife came to Fonda in 1876 and remained until 1887 when they returned to New York.

Dart Amos Wilson, in February 1871, became one of the pioneer homesteaders of Cedar township, (e½ ne¼ section 8) and was a resident of Fonda from 1876 to 1896, when he married Amy Smith and moved to Rolfe. He assisted in the organization of Cedar township, was the first of its citizens to perform the duties of constable and held that office for twenty years. In 1884 he was appointed deputy collector of this county, and held that office for eleven years. He was a native of Vermont and at the age of fifteen, in 1830, went to Cresscott, Canada, and four years later to Rochester, N. Y. Here he learned the painters' art in a chair factory. In 1850 he went to California, eleven years later to Boise City, returned to Vermont in 1869 and two years later came to Pocahontas county. His first wife Caroline Hays died in 1849, leaving two daughters, both of whom married and had children, but are now dead. In 1871 he married Mercy, widow of James Logan and she, as an invalid, died in 1895. He died September 29, 1899 in his 85th year. During his early life he became addicted to intemperate habits and they greatly annoyed him in his later years. During his residence on the homestead he became an active member of the M. E. church and a few years later was appointed the local agent of the Pocahontas county Bible society. His exhortations in religious meetings were earnest and often deeply impressive. One who heard him conduct a service in the Warner school house in May 1881 was induced to express his remarks in poetic form and the opening lines are as follows:

"I am the door; come knock and I will  
open,  
None ever sought for entrance here

in vain;  
Come boldly forward, this shall be thy  
token,  
The Lamb was slain.

I am the vine; come and I will engraft  
thee,  
A faithful off-shoot from the pa-  
rent tree;  
I'll nourish, cherish and at last re-  
ceive thee  
To bloom eternally."  
—Shabbona, in THE TIMES, June 9,  
1881.

Davis Arthur W. came to this county in the fall of 1895 and served two years as principal of the public schools in Fonda. His excellent work in the school room and in the teachers' institutes brought him into such favorable notice over the county that in the fall of 1897, he was elected to fill the office of County Superintendent. At this election he received 121 votes more than any other candidate on the winning ticket in this county, and a majority of 373 over his opponent. His administration of the educational interests of this county was vigorous, impartial and exceptionally fine. Although he is still pursuing his education, he has already developed considerable ease and grace as an orator and, on several important public occasions, addressed large assemblages of the people in different parts of this county. He possesses the genius of tireless energy, the genius that achieves, and has a bright future before him.

He was born in Fayette county, in the early seventies, received his preparatory education in the high school at Fayette, and, as a Bachelor of Science, graduated at the college in that place in 1893. During his college course he worked on the farm and taught school to meet his expenses. At the time of his graduation he was elected principal of the public schools at Montour, and a little later accepted a similar position at Rock Rapids, where he continued until he located at Fonda in 1895. He is now pursuing

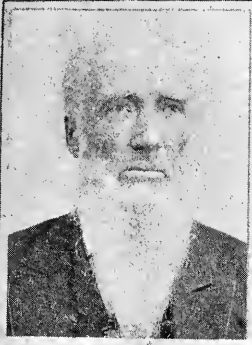
a two years' course of legal studies in the Iowa State University at Iowa City.

Dunn Alexander, a justice of the peace in Cedar township since 1895, was born in Manahan county, Ireland, in May 1832, and in 1857 married there Margaret Mills. In March 1860, with wife and two children, he came to this country and located on a farm near Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1864 he enlisted as a member of Co. D. 153rd Ohio Volunteers and participated in several skirmishes with the confederates along the railroads in Virginia and at Chambersburg, Pa. In 1872 he located in Cass Co., Iowa, in 1882 on section 20 Williams township, and in 1893 on his present farm in Cedar township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. Few men have been more highly honored by their reelection to the office of Justice of the Peace than Squire Dunn. He filled this office three terms, or six years, in Cass county, two terms in Calhoun county, and is now serving his third term in Cedar township.

His first wife died near Cincinnati, November 20, 1870, leaving three children: Mary Elizabeth, proprietor of a hotel at Elkhorn, Colorado; Alexander, who is engaged in the Cripple Creek gold region; and John, who in 1897 graduated in the law department of the Colorado State University at Denver. In 1871 he married Mrs. Josephine Crozier, of Claremont, Ohio, and the children of this union still living are, Mary, wife of Charles Wood, Frank, Thomas, Arthur, Charles and Clarence.

Dorton George Madison (b. July 4, 1836—d. September 2, 1880) in the spring of 1871, accompanied by wife and seven children, located on a homestead of eighty acres n $\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{2}$  section 32, known later as the Smeaton farm, in Cedar township. He planted the beautiful maple grove, that now surrounds the buildings, and remained





JOHN B. MACKEY



MRS. J. B. MACKEY.



JOSEPH HAWKINS.



ED. L. BEARD.



—MR. & MRS. GODFREY PFEIFFER—



SAMUEL S. MARTIN.



JAMES A. CARROLL.



GEO. M. DORTON.



JOHN DETWILLER.

FONDA AND VICINITY.



Harvey Eaton

James B. Weaver

D.M. Woodin

Peter G. Ibsen

J.R. Johnson

Amos Dart

Henry Schoentahl

Wm Lynch

Mrs. Wm Lynch

FONDA AND VICINITY.

there until December 1878, when he moved to Fonda and conducted a flour and feed store in connection with a collection agency, until the time of his decease. He taught school in his youth and two terms in the Hersom district. He was elected Justice of the Peace in the fall of 1872, and held that office three successive terms. He was one of the census enumerators in 1880 and a member of the town council in 1879-80.

After the death of his father in Indiana, he came with his mother to Ottumwa, Iowa, and on April 19, 1859, married Mary Kerlin, of Chillicothe. After two years they moved to Adams county, and three years later, to Marshall county, where they remained until the time of settlement on the homestead. His family consisted of seven children all of whom, and their mother, are still living except Alice F. who Sept. 12, 1889, married John W. Willis, a hardwareman, of Chadron, Neb., and died Nov. '93; Perry, in 1892, married Dora Hughes, resides in the State of Washington, and has one child, Guy; Anna, in 1888, married Clarence Harding, a general agent for the D. M. Osborne Implement Co., resides at Dubuque, and has three children, Chauncey, Fern and Marie. Donna, in 1885, married Charles Roberts, a blacksmith, lives at Jolley, and has four children, Frank, Haydee, Charles and George; Henry, manager of the Lee & Jenkins lumber yard, at Fonda, married Catherine Fitzgerald and has one child, Veronica; Theresa, in 1887 married Charles Nichols, a carpenter Fonda, and has three children, Gladis, Glenwood and Clark; John, the youngest, is an employee of the Northern Telephone Co.

**Eaton** Harvey (b. Dec. 6, 1846), owner and occupant of the se $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 28, Cedar township, came to Pocahontas county with wife and one child June 1, 1871, and secured a homestead on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 36, Dover township.

The first improvements consisted of a board shanty, 12x14 feet, a stable and some breaking; and these were located according to some breaking previously done by one who was a practical surveyor. Wishing to know exactly where his homestead was, he then had it surveyed by the county surveyor and was surprised to find that his buildings were along the center of the highway and that a considerable portion of his breaking was on three adjoining farms, two of which were in Grant township.

He has been very successful as a farmer, and is now the owner of 640 acres of land (160 acres in Nebraska) and a two story brick block in Fonda. He believes he worked harder and endured more hardships to secure the homestead than any of the subsequent purchases. In 1873, when the grasshoppers robbed him of everything on the homestead, he took his family in a prairie schooner to Sac City, erected a cabin for their comfort, worked on the railroad till spring and then traded the cabin for a cow.

Both of his farms are finely improved and the buildings are kept neatly painted. The house on the homestead was built in 1887 and he continued to live there until 1893 when he bought and moved to the farm of A. B. P. Wood, near Fonda, for the better education of his large and industrious family.

In 1898, he built a two story brick building on the West side of Main street, Fonda, known as the Eaton block and later bought another store on the same street. Few men have met with better success on the farm and it has been achieved by attending strictly to it.

He has been the owner of some of the finest specimens of cattle, hogs and horses ever brought to this vicinity and has paid fancy prices for some of them. He has shown a pref-

erence for the Shorthorn and Gallo-way cattle, and for the English draught horses.

He is a native of Cataaugus Co., N. Y., where his father, Hamilton Eaton, died in 1847, the next year after his birth, leaving four sons and one daughter, namely: Henry, resident of Ripon, Wis.; Mary and Albert, both dead; William and Harvey, residents of Fonda. In 1848 his mother, Ruth, became the wife of Warner Gorton who died in Green Lake county, Wis., in 1886 leaving two children, Nancy married to William Sweet, and Amos H. Gorton whose wife and two children were killed in the cyclone of '93, also a resident of Fonda. After the death of her second husband she made her home with Harvey and died in 1893 in her 78th year. Harvey came to Buchanan county, Iowa, in 1867, the next year married Mary B. Thompson, of Independence, and three years later came to Pocahontas county. His family consists of eleven children: Almira, a teacher, and Adelia together had charge of a grocery store in Sioux City two years and in Fonda one year; Jennie, married to John W. McCulloch, Pomeroy; Amos, Cora, a graduate from the Fonda schools in '99 and a teacher; Jessie, Martha, Wallace, Pearl, Gertie S. and Harry.

**Eaton** William H. (b. Jan. 19, 1841, N. Y.) in 1859 married Hannah Barrett in Green Lake county, Wis., and engaged in farming there until 1880 when, with a family of eight children he came to Dover township, and eight years later to Fonda. His family consists of eight children: Francis H. Fonda, married Alma Cullen who died in 1888 leaving one son, Roy; and in 1893 he married Maggie Olkjer, who has one child, Lee. William Oscar married Anna Olkjer, lives at Sioux Rapids and has two children, Cecil and Ray. Lucy died in her 23rd year. Ruth Viola married Stephen

W. Norton and died in 1896 leaving two children, Ray and Viola. Mary Jeanette married George Dickson, Superintendent of the Boone Co. coal mines at Incline, and has five children, Pearl, Irene, Alpheus, Leveta and Royal. Minnie Myrtle married in 1896 Charles Cheney, a farmer near Newell, and has one child, Ethel. Jennie M. a Fonda graduate in 1897, and Ezra Albert are at home.

**Edgar** David William, M. D. (b. August 24, 1845), resident of Fonda since April 2, 1881, is the oldest resident physician in Pocahontas county. He is a native of Wisconsin and the son of William and Charlotte (Tibbals) Edgar, with whom he remained on the farm until he was 23 years of age. In September 1868, he came to Waverly, Iowa, where he taught school and studied medicine two and one half years under Dr. J. G. Smith. In the fall of 1871, he entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, and graduated March 17, 1874, having spent a portion of the intervening time on the farm and in teaching select school. He located first at Monroe, Wisconsin, but after six months went to Dayton, where he remained until November 1, 1889, when he came to Gowrie, Iowa, and five months later to Fonda.

He came to this community very highly commended, and during his long residence in it, he has been held in high esteem as a physician, has enjoyed a very lucrative practice and proved himself a public spirited citizen. He was an efficient member of the town council eleven years, '87-'97, a member of the school board a number of years and president of it in 1892. He is now the owner of an improved farm of 100 acres in Calhoun County, and several valuable properties in Fonda.

September 1, 1890 he married Anna Lourinda Dixon, then teaching school in this vicinity; and their family con-

sists of two children, David Dixon, and Mary Charlotte.

**Ellis** Gilbert H. (b. Sept. 21, 1821), resident of Fonda since 1879, is a native of Canton, Oxford county, Maine. In 1843 he married Phoebe W. Griffith, (b. March 20, 1819) and lived there until 1851, when he moved to Boone Co., Ill., where he remained until 1879. The period of his active life was spent on the farm and he owned a good one, near Fonda, until 1890. He has been a total abstainer, an earnest advocate of prohibition and was a member of the Fonda town council, in 1881. His estimable wife died December 16, 1888.

He raised a family of four sons and one daughter, three of whom were born in Maine and the others in Illinois. 1. Elisha Osro (b. Feb. 4, 1845), a mason and plasterer, on July 3, 1867, married Elvira Leach, of Manchester, Ill., came to Fonda, in 1879, and raised a family consisting of Frederick, a printer, resident of Los Angeles, Cal., where October 11, 1896, he married Kittie Griffen; Lulu, June 19, 1896, married Fred J. Kenning a hardware man, Fonda, and they have two children Grace and Mabel; Earl, Jesse, Glenn, Florence and Mazie. 2. Edward R. (b. June 14, 1848) resident of Fonda since 1875 and Mayor two years 1898-99, on Nov. 15, 1871, married Sophia Riford (b. Aug. 8, 1848) at Waukesha, Wis., and she died Jan. 15, 1898, leaving one daughter, Maude, a teacher. 3. Frank R. a farmer, in 1879 married Alice Comstock, resides in California and has three children. 4. George R. a farmer, in 1891, married Mary Murray and has three children, Gilbert, Rozella, and Frank. 5. Augusta Leon Nov. 11, 1882, married William Chiquet, a printer of Fort Dodge, where she died January 8, 1900, leaving three children, Luzerne, Flossie and Gilbert.

**Evans** Orange C. (b. 1826) with wife and six children came to Cedar township in 1872 and, in view of the fact he

had been a soldier in the civil war, secured a homestead of 160 acres on the northeast section 8. He was a native of New York, where in 1849, he married Harriet Graham, who is still a resident of Fonda. In 1862 he enlisted for three years as a member of Co. K. 85th, New York Infantry, to render service as a musician. He belonged to the army of the Potomac under McLellan, lost his health in the swamps along the Chicamauga, and after the lapse of fifteen months, was honorably discharged for disability. In February 1865 he moved to Floyd county, Iowa, and seven years later to the homestead in Pocahontas county, where he died September 30, 1874. He was serving as one of the trustees of Cedar township at the time of his death. His family consisted of six children: 1. Frank in 1874 married Jennie Ferguson, resides in Webster county, and has a family of eight children, Olgie, Mina, Richard, Arthur, Frank, Jennie, Ralph and Guy; 2. Eugene in 1876 married Nora Sayeres, who died in 1894 from the effect of being enveloped in the flames of the gas that filled the room, while she was cleaning grease spots on the carpet with gasoline near a hot stove; she left four children, Aaron, a Fonda graduate in 1896, Emmet a graduate in 1900, Ray and Jay. 3. Alice in 1877, married Fillmore Miller, a book-keeper, lived at Webster City, and died in 1889 leaving two children Harriet and Benjamin. 4. Elmer, a well driller, lives with his mother. 5. Mary in 1883, married Harry Bailey a carpenter at Fonda, and has three children, Augusta, Charles and William. 6. William, a well driller, in 1893 married Mary McGrevey and has one child, Max.

**Fairburn** George. The early settlement of north-west Iowa, meant not only the development of a country of inexhaustible resources, but also the development of men who were

ready to enter this new field of effort, take advantage of its manifold opportunities and grow up with the country. One of those who have achieved a high degree of success, as financiers, is George Fairburn, whose settlement at Fonda was co-incident with the establishment of regular train service by the Illinois Central R. R. Co., in October 1870.

He began his career April 19, 1850, near Kelso, Scotland, and is the son of Archibald and Janet (Aitchison) Fairburn. In 1860, at the age of ten, he came with his parents to America, and located at Dubuque, Iowa, where he remained during the next ten years. Here he worked on the farm in summer and attended the Academy at Cascade in winter, for several years; and then became an assistant in the office of his uncle, D. A. McKinlay, secretary and treasurer of the Dubuque and Sioux City R. R. Co. His uncle was remarkable for his methodical manner and business sagacity; and under him he received an excellent business training.

During this early period of his life he endeavored to make a profitable investment of a part of each month's earnings, and made himself so useful to his employers that his meager wages were increased annually. During the last two years his spare moments were occupied in reading law, Senator Wm. B. Allison, whose office was in the same building and opposite that of his uncle, having accorded to him the courtesy of the use of his library for that purpose.

At this early date, and by reason of the facts just stated, he gave promise of his subsequent, successful business career. It was not the amount he earned, but what he saved and judiciously invested that became the basis of his present wealth; and the results of his youthful efforts at self improvement make him a good illustration of one who did not "sow wild oats this

year," because he believed a crop of that sort would prove a disastrous, rather than a profitable investment.

While in the general railroad office at Dubuque, he was afforded the opportunity either to remain there or to take charge of one of the new stations established between Fort Dodge and Sioux City, except LeMars. After making a tour of inspection over the entire line and signifying a preference for Marvin, now called Fonda, he was appointed the station agent for this place and at the age of twenty, Oct. 15, 1870, located at Marvin making his home in the depot. The town had been platted only a few days previous and a few little shanties, promiscuously located on the prairie near the depot, were the visible indications of the future city. On November 1, 1877, after a serious illness of three months and seven years of continuous service as station agent, he resigned that position in order that he might give his undivided attention to his own rapidly developing business interests, having proved himself one of the most competent and trustworthy agents the I. C. R. R. ever employed.

He began his business career at Fonda, by ordering, soon after his arrival, a car load of soft coal, ten tons, and storing it for sale in the west end of the depot. That load of coal supplied the local demand during all that winter and, as it was sold, it was weighed on the little scales in the depot. This was the beginning of the coal business at Fonda. He also sold that season a number of twisters for twisting hay so it could be used for fuel.

The first act of public charity by the citizens of Fonda and vicinity was made in response to his personal appeal. It consisted of a lot of flour and clothing sent to Chicago the next day after he received the message, announcing the great fire there in October 1871, accompanied with an

appeal for supplies. During one of the snow blockades of 1880 the supply of flour in Fonda became exhausted. On this occasion he got a horse, rode to the home of James Mercer and obtained a part of a sack of flour to supply the pressing needs of his own family.

In the spring of 1871 he ordered several car loads of lumber and established the coal and lumber yard northwest of the depot. The furniture business was started about the same time by storing the goods in the east end of the depot, which was then used as a private room for the family of the agent. The furniture business was continued there as long as he remained in charge of the station. In 1871 he began to invest in town lots and was appointed the local agent for their sale by the Town Lot Co. He also erected a small house, 14x24 and 14 feet high. This, the third house built in Marvin, was increased by a large front addition in 1881, and was the residence of the Fairburn family until 1889. Soon after his arrival he began to act as an agent for the sale of lands and the negotiation of loans, and to do the banking business for this community. The original bank building built in 1877, is the one story frame structure in which the Fonda creamery Co., has had its office since its organization. In 1881 a brick bank was built on the corner of First and Main streets, that in 1885 was made a double two story brick block and it has since been known as the Pocahontas County Bank, the oldest one in the county and having now a paid up capital of \$100,000. In 1887 he was instrumental in organizing the Fonda Town Lot Co., that effected the purchase of nearly 400 acres of land around the townsite, and he has since served as president of that organization. Each of these new lines of business was undertaken as the demand for them arose in connection

with the development of this new settlement. He is at present the owner of nearly 3,000 acres of land in Pocahontas and adjoining counties.

In 1889 he purchased a fine residence in Des Moines and moved to that city for the better education of his family, having disposed of his interests in the furniture, coal and lumber business the previous year. Accompanied by some of his intimate friends, or the members of his own family, he has made a number of tours to California, Mexico, the great lakes and other interesting localities in this country, and in 1899 visited his native heath in Scotland.

In the spring of 1900, he began the erection of a new residence for himself and family, on the north-east corner of block 35 and fronting on King and sixth streets, Fonda. This is a four story frame building 65x55 feet, with a porch 12 feet wide extending half way around it and built several feet above the floor with masonry having a facing of pressed brick and Bedford stone. It will be provided with a complete gas plant, an electric light outfit and be heated by a combined hot water and hot air plant. When completed in 1901 at a cost of \$20,000, it will be the finest residence in Pocahontas county.

As a citizen he has never taken very much interest in politics nor been a candidate for political honors, yet no one in Fonda and vicinity, has exerted a public influence so potent over the entire period of the history of Fonda as he has done. He was a member of the first town council and was elected to that office four times, '79-80 and '84; served as Mayor of Fonda, four years, '82-83 and '87-88. He was a member of the first Fonda school board in 1880, president of it in '81, and was the first treasurer of the school funds, in 1880.

He received his early education in Scotland where among other things,

he learned the Shorter Catechism and many chapters in the Bible. As a result he never forgets that "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." He has been a liberal contributor to all the churches in Fonda and was president of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church from the time of its organization in 1886 until 1890, the year after his removal to Des Moines. During his residence in Des Moines he became one of the most liberal supporters and a trustee of the Central Presbyterian church there, and continued to support the churches in Fonda.

"Be sure you are right, then go ahead," is a maxim he never knowingly violates. His decision of character is in some measure the result of self training, but more largely an inheritance from his Scottish ancestry. His father, for twenty years, was an elder in the Presbyterian church before he left the old country and was a man of reverent and very positive convictions. His success in business may be attributed to his sagacity, assiduity and strict integrity. His word has always been as good as his bond, and his "yes" or "no" indicates that the matter under discussion has been decided. He has attended strictly to his own business and managed it with all possible energy that he might make it a success. He has never taken that interest in politics, that might naturally be expected of one in his station, but when called upon to render local public service he has done so with marked efficiency. By reason of his personal knowledge of the law and its impartial enforcement he proved himself one of the best mayors that Fonda has ever had.

On December 5, 1871 he married Susan Olive, daughter of Judge Wm. Wilson and Olive (Dean b. 1817, d. '45) Hamilton (b. 1810 d. 1865) of Dubuque. Their family consists of three child-

ren, the first-born, George, having died at Marvin in childhood. Edward H. and Frank A., after graduating from the high schools of Des Moines, spent one year in the Iowa College of Law, Des Moines, and then took a full course in the law department of the University at Ann Arbor, Mich. In October 1899, after a very creditable examination at Des Moines, they were both admitted to the bar. Edward has found a place in the Pocahontas County Bank, where he intends to utilize his legal knowledge in the transaction of business rather than as a practitioner, and Frank has connected himself with the law firm of Carr and Parker, Des Moines. Nellie, the youngest, is at home and pursuing her studies.

His father (b. 1823), on May 14, 1896, died at Cascade, Iowa, where his farm was located; and his mother (b. 1825) died at Marion, January 10, 1898. **Garlock** Ephraim (b. Dec. 25, 1820), who died on his homestead, near Fonda, September 19, 1895, was the head of a family whose history has become one of the most prominent in Pocahontas county. He was a native of Montgomery county, N. Y., where on October 10, 1841, he married Harriet, daughter of Folonan and Jane Doty, and lived there until 1857, when he and his family moved to DeKalb Co., Ill. In March 1869, accompanied by Abram O. his oldest son who was destined to hold high official position in this county, he came to Cedar township, where both entered adjoining homesteads on the set section 24, and erected two houses near each other for their respective families. Two months later William E. and family and George arrived in wagons, bringing their own and their father's cattle with them, the former securing as a homestead the  $n \frac{1}{2}$  ne  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section. The other members of the family arrived about the same time by rail to Webster City.





**A. O. GARLOCK, DES MOINES.**

COUNTY AUDITOR, 1874-81.  
STATE SENATOR, 1888-89.



MRS. A. O. GARLOCK.



MRS. WM. D. McEWEN.



REV. GEO. H. DUTY.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROLFE, 1887-90.



REV. GEO. H. AINSLIE.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROLFE, 1893-97.

Ephraim Garlock was a carpenter as well as a farmer and assisted many of his neighbors in the erection of their pioneer houses. His own home is commonly regarded as the oldest landmark in Cedar township and it certainly is in all that part of it that is east of Sunk Grove, in which he also turned the first furrow. In the early days many a weary traveler was made welcome at his home and none seeking food and shelter were ever turned away until they were first fed and rested.

Those of his family that survived him are Abram O. and William E. Des Moines; Joseph W. at Independence; Levi, Walnut Grove, Minn.; George at Marathon; Ida, a teacher, and Anna who still live with their mother on the old homestead. Abram, William and Joseph were soldiers during the civil war, the first two having enlisted as members of Co. K. 42d Ill. infantry, A. O. being a 2d Lieut. and W. E. sergeant at the time of their discharge. Levi, Feb. 27, 1872, secured the homestead of Noah Woolsey  $e\frac{1}{2}$   $se\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 12, 80 acres, and later married Ella Porter his grand-daughter. He lived a few years at Gilmore City, is now engaged in the real estate business and has a family of eight children. George married Josephine Warwick and has a family of three children. It has been a source of pride that no member of this family was ever addicted to the use of tobacco or strong drink in any form.

**Garlock** William Erastus (b. 1844) married Martha, daughter of Rev. R. Persons, of DeKalb Co., Ill. In the spring of 1886 he left his homestead and lived for a few years at Gilmore City, and now owns a fruit farm at Des Moines. In Cedar township he was a trustee in 1875 and president of the school board in 1885. He has one son, Ephraim G., who is still at home.

**Garlock** Abram Oscar. That this is a country where the honest, ir-

dustrious and ambitious youth may secure recognition and rise to positions of honor, has its practical illustration in the record of the subject of this sketch, who did not hesitate to locate on the frontier of the "wild and woolly west," and work out his own destiny with those who might be associated with him in the effort to convert a vast, wild prairie into green pastures, fruitful fields and beautiful homes.

Abram O. Garlock was born December, 4, 1842 at Coopertown, N. Y., and in 1857 moved with his parents to DeKalb Co., Ill. He received his education in the public school, learned carpentry by working with his father and acquired a practical knowledge of book-keeping and commercial law by clerking in a store. On December 4, 1864, he married Amanda M. daughter of Charles S. and Mary Ann (Woodward) Hunt, of DeKalb Co., Ill., and engaged in farming there until March 23, 1869, when he located on his own homestead,  $w\frac{1}{2}$   $se\frac{1}{2}$  section 24, Cedar township.

His knowledge of carpentry was of great advantage to him on the frontier, for when he was not engaged on the homestead, he found profitable employment as a contractor and builder. He became the pioneer school-house builder by the erection of more buildings of that kind than any other man in this settlement in the early days. He built the first one in Fonda, in Marshall and Butler townships, the first two in Dover, the first three in Williams and the first four in Colfax townships, and three others in the south east part of Calhoun county, all before the close of the year 1873.

He took an active part in the organization of Cedar township, served as the first secretary of the school board two years, 1871-72, as township clerk in 1873, and as postmaster at Pocahontas one year in 1877-78.

In the fall of 1873 he was elected

auditor of Pocahontas county and performed the duties of that public office in a manner so efficient and acceptable to the people, that he was continued in it eight years, 1874-1881, having been twice re-elected without any opposition. During the first three years of this period he lived at old Rolfe and moved to Pocahontas at the time of the change of the county seat.

The duties of the auditor's office were not so onerous as at present and, utilizing his spare moments by reading law, he was examined at Pocahontas and admitted to the practice of law by Edward R. Duffie, Judge of the District Court, September 21, 1880. He also engaged in the sale of real estate, especially, the lands of non-resident owners, purchasing in 1874 a set of abstracts from J. J. Bruce. In 1883, in partnership with W. D. McEwen, he erected a stone building on the west side of Main street, Pocahontas, for an office and bank. The Pocahontas Savings Bank, founded at this time and place, was the second one established in this county. In 1886 they established the Exchange Bank of Rolfe, known since 1892 as the State Savings Bank, and in the fall of 1891, the Bank of Plover, at Plover.

In 1888-89, as state senator he enjoyed the honor of representing this, the 50th district in the 22d General Assembly of Iowa.

In 1889 he moved to Rolfe and two years later to Des Moines, where he still resides, except in mid-summer when he usually occupies his cottage at Point Pocahontas, at the southwest corner of Lake Okoboji.

He has retained his interest in the banks at Rolfe, Plover and Pocahontas, and when the education of his children has been completed it is expected that he will return to Pocahontas county, the arena for twenty two years of his most successful achievements.

His family consists of Mary E. fa-

miliarly called Birdie, and for two years, '90-91, an assistant in the Exchange Bank, who, in November 1892, married S. H. Kerr, and resides at Rolfe; Agnes O.; Cora B., who graduated from Des Moines College in '99 and on Dec. 4, '99, the 57th birthday and 35th wedding anniversary of her father, married Guy Barker, and resides at Macksburg; Mabel, Abie and Elwood.

He has always advocated the principles of the republican party, and as a public officer, proved himself worthy the confidence of his constituents. His good judgment and business tact were recognized in his constant development of the permanent school fund of the county which, at the end of his last term as auditor, amounted to \$30,000. He has been strictly temperate and economical in his habits, and while giving liberal local support to the preaching of the gospel, has made large contributions towards the erection of all the earlier church buildings in this county.

When it is remembered that he went forth from the parental roof at fourteen to learn early how "to paddle his own canoe," rendered loyal and patriotic service as a soldier, in the hour of the nation's peril, and experienced the hardships of pioneer life as a homesteader on the frontier, it is perceived that he began at the lowest round of the ladder that leads to success. He has been a hard worker and, possessing a clear head and strong hands, whatever he undertook was done, and whatever he touched prospered. His ideas have been practical and his methods well suited for the accomplishment of his plans. His affable manner and strict integrity have caused him to be held in high esteem by all who know him, he keeps well posted in regard to the business and politics of the country and the success that has crowned his efforts has made him one of the leading and most influential men of northwest Iowa.

**Fuchs** (Fox) Louis, Joseph and Frank, accompanied by their parents, John and Helen (Wickel), in the spring of 1871 came, to Cedar township. Louis entered the w $\frac{1}{2}$  se $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 12, 80 acres, as a homestead on April 22, '71 and received the patent for it December 29, '79. Joseph, finding that he was not needed by his brother on the homestead nor by the other settlers of this new community, soon afterward sought and found employment in the copper mines of Michigan south of Lake Superior. He remained there about six years and, sending his earnings to his brother Louis, the latter secured for him a homestead of 80 acres on the s $\frac{1}{2}$  nw $\frac{1}{4}$  section 12. The entry for this homestead was made by his father March 10, '74, and he received the patent for it September 10, '80; it having been first entered in 1870 by Henry Pallersels and in 1872 by Geo. F. Symmonds. After his return in 1876 he and his brother lived and worked together until 1880 when he married and began to occupy his own homestead.

Their parents were natives of Germany where they raised a large family. In 1870, after the marriage of their eldest daughter, Johanna, who remained there and of Anna, whose husband, John Hoffman, died there leaving one son, Paul, now in Dubuque, they came to America and located in the timber districts of northern Wisconsin, and the next spring on the prairies of Pochontas county. They died, John in January 1881, Helen in June 1878, and were buried in the Dover Catholic cemetery.

Louis Fuchs possessed \$400 when he came to Fonda, and after expending \$270 for his homestead had \$130 left for its improvement, and the temporary support of his father and family. The homestead of Joseph in 1874 cost \$400. These brothers had an ambition to raise fat cattle and made preparation to engage in this employ-

ment as soon as it was possible. It required a few years to get a start but during the period of their partnership they were recognized as the pioneer cattle feeders of Cedar township. Their shipments of cattle in the early days surpassed others in the vicinity not only in their aggregate value but in the superiority of their condition which commanded the highest market price. For a quarter of a century these men have maintained the enviable reputation of being the largest and most successful feeders in the township. As the years have passed they have become the owners of large farms, and have proportionately enlarged their barns, sheds and feed lots. Each has now a capacity for feeding 250 head of fat cattle and, during recent years, they have made their annual shipment about the month of September. Each of them keeps about 400 head of cattle and the sales of each in 1899 amounted to \$18,000.

Louis Fuchs acquired his farm as follows: In 1871, the homestead, 80 acres; in 1880, 80 acres; in '83, 80 acres; in '85, 160 acres; in '86, 80 acres; in '88 160 acres; total 640 acres; all of it upland. In 1899 he raised 7,000 bushels of corn and bought 20,000 bushels more. His present house was built in 1892. He was born July 23, 1839, and on December 21, 1873, married Mary Magdalene Lieb, of Cedar township.

His family consists of Anna Ida, a Franciscan sister, Dubuque; Martha Elizabeth, (Mary Josephine died in her 17th year, in 1894), Helen Antonia, (Matilda died young), John Leo, Cecilia, Agnes Angeline and Agatha Alice, twins, Vincent Leo, Florence Josephine and Florian Joseph, twins, and Leona. He was a trustee of Cedar township five years, 1878-82, and has been treasurer of the school funds since 1890.

Joseph Fuchs acquired his farm as follows: In 1874, the homestead, 80

acres; in 1885, 160 acres; in '87, 160 acres; in '92, 560 acres; total 960 acres. His present house was built in 1893. He was born in 1841 and in 1880 married Stephana Rainier, of Dubuque. His family consists of three children, Matilda, Francis and Mary; Anna the first born having died in childhood. In the spring of 1900 he moved temporarily to Des Moines to secure better facilities for the education of his children. He is a man that appreciates the enjoyment of good health, the peace and gladness of the home and has the happy faculty of anticipating the needs of every part of the work on the farm.

Frank Fuchs, his oldest brother and owner of 206 acres of land in Cedar township, and Martha, a younger sister who also came to Cedar township in 1871, make their home with Joseph.

**Gilson** John William (b. June 3, 1833), who died in Fonda, May 14, 1896, was the son of George and Bessie (Hurst) Gilson, and a native of Manchester, England. He came with his parents to this country, grew to manhood in Winnebago county, Ill., where, on Dec. 9, 1858, he married Elvira Sayre and engaged in farming. Aug. 9, 1862 he enlisted as a member of Co. D., 74th Ill. infantry and was honorably discharged at Nashville, June 10, 1865. He belonged to the army of the Cumberland, marched with Sherman to the sea and participated in fifteen battles, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Chicamauga, Nashville, etc., and in seventeen skirmishes. On June 8, 1872 he entered as a soldier's claim, the n $\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, 80 acres, in Dover township, improved and occupied it until 1892 when he moved to Fonda. In Dover township he was a trustee in 1875, assessor in 1876 and justice of the peace ten years, 1881-90.

His family consisted of Clara, married to Oscar Samsel, a resident of Fonda and has three children, Ed-

ward, Everett and Ruth; Eliza, a milliner, married to Charles Sayre, Fonda, and has one daughter, Zola; George, a carpenter, married Jessie Ross and lives at Laurens; Albert, a painter, Fonda, married Clara Evenson and has one child, William Glenwood; Everett, a painter. Ina, a dressmaker and Ethel, a Fonda graduate in 1899, are at home.

**Gottfried** Gustav H. (b. Aug. 24, 1843) resident of Fonda since March 1899, has been a resident of Cedar township since June 1871, when he secured as a homestead, the n $\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{4}$  section 36, 80 acres. He is a native of Prussia, and coming to America with his parents in July 1847, lived at Jefferson, Wis., until the time of his settlement in Cedar township. He improved his homestead and occupied it until his removal to Fonda. He has been the most popular assessor of Cedar township, having performed the duties of that office fourteen years, 1877-78, '83-86, '89-90 and '95-1900. He has been a member of the school board several years, was treasurer of it in 1876 and president of it in 1888.

On April 8, 1877, he married Dora Spielman and his family consists of three children, Ernest, Delphia Ava, a Fonda graduate in 1899 and a teacher, and Frederick.

**Guyett** C. G. a general merchant at Fonda from March 1878 to 1881, was a native of Vermont. He was a soldier in the civil war and was married in 1864 while at home on a furlough. After the close of the war he lived at Montpelier until he came to Fonda. He bought two lots on the east side of Main street, Fonda, erected thereon a two story, double, frame building with basement, arranged it for store rooms and other purposes including a town hall, and engaged in general merchandize. He continued in business until the spring of 1881 when he sold all his interests to J. N. McKee, and on April 25th following,

his wife, Maggie, died of consumption in her 39th year, leaving two children.

**Haffele** Fred (b. 1851) hardwareman, Fonda, is a native of Germany and at two years of age came with his parents to Monticello, Wis., where December 17, 1873, he married Clara Breckenwagon. In 1881 he located at Newell, Iowa, and in 1884 at Fonda, where he engaged in the hardware business until 1893, when he became an assistant to the firm of Roberts & Kenning, his successors. He was a member of the town council in 1886 and of the school board three years 1889-91. His family consists of three daughters; Lourinda, who November 15 1894 married A. L. Roberts, hardwareman, Fonda, and has three children Hazel, Homer and Lowell; Minnie, a Fonda graduate in 1894 and a music teacher, and Edith.

**Hathaway** George W., County Superintendent in 1872-73, was a native of Ohio, and on March 23, 1869, the day when the first four homesteads in Cedar township were entered on section 24, entered the e  $\frac{1}{2}$  nw  $\frac{1}{4}$  of that section, known later as the farm of Miss Lydia Stephens, now of Wm. McIntyre. He was accompanied by A. W. Creed, who that same day entered the s  $\frac{1}{2}$  sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section known later as a part of the farm of William Taylor, now of John Holyer. On Jan. 22, '70, Austin G. a brother, of A. W. Creed entered a homestead on section 12, and on December 7, '70, Mrs. Caroline Creed, widow of their brother, entered the n  $\frac{1}{2}$  sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 24. Some time afterwards she became the wife of Geo. W. Hathaway and secured the title to her homestead by purchase. He secured his title in 1875. Soon afterwards he moved to Webster City, but in the early 80's bought a farm of 200 acres on section 29, Washington township, and for a few years engaged in raising fruit and

cattle. He is now a resident of Arkansas.

**Hartwell** Rachel Mrs., one of the pioneer teachers of Fonda and vicinity, entered as a homestead the n  $\frac{1}{2}$  se  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 6, Cedar township, Nov. 20, 1869, and received the patent for it August 1, 1877. She was a widow, a sister of Robert J. Griffin who taught a term of school in her home in 1870-71. In 1878 she sold her homestead to W. H. Burnett and left the county.

**Hawkins** Joseph (b. March 22, 1847), owner and occupant of sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 35, 240 acres, from 1878 to 1898 was, a native of Somerset county, England. In his third year he came with his parents to New York State and in 1853 to Cascade, Iowa, where his parents spent the remainder of their days. May 5, 1873, he married Eliza, a sister, of James Mercer, and in the spring of 1878, with wife and two children, located on the farm in Cedar township. At the time of his removal to Nebraska the improvements made upon this farm consisted of a good house, a new barn, a large cave built of rock, a fruit bearing orchard of three acres and a beautiful grove of five acres.

His faithful wife who shared with him the pleasures and privations of pioneer life, died October 20, 1893, in her 49th year, leaving a family of four daughters. Effie a graduate of the Normal Department of Highland Park College, October 12, '98, married Frank B. Burns and lives in Woodbury county; Ada, wife of F. Hamilton Bond Esq., lives at Fonda; Myrtle a Fonda graduate in 1897, and a teacher; and Marie. Roy, now in his 15th year was adopted in the spring of 1892.

In Cedar township he was assessor in 1880-81, and president of the school board in '82 and '93. He was ready to render public service as a citizen when called upon to do so, but he was always engaged in a loyal endeavor to develop or promote the moral

and spiritual interests of the community. He was not only a regular attendant of the services at the church and Sunday school, but also at the mid-week service whenever it was possible. He was an humble and thorough student of the Bible and was never happier than when communicating its sacred truths to others. He was chosen superintendent of the union Sunday school in Fonda, the next year after his arrival. During subsequent years he was either a superintendent, a teacher, or both. When the Presbyterian Sunday school was organized June 20, 1886 he became a teacher in it, and on January 1, 1894 superintendent also and, serving in this two fold capacity until the time of his removal, was absent only three Sabbaths in a period of twelve years. On March 18, 1888, he was elected an elder of the church and rendered efficient service in that capacity until his removal, a period of ten years. When his uniform punctuality, faithfulness and efficiency, extending over a period of twenty years, are recalled, it is readily perceived that the service he rendered in this respect is without a rival in this community.

**Healy** William H. (b. 1850), the oldest resident attorney of Fonda, is a native of Ireland. His father was a public school teacher, and died when he was twelve years of age. In 1875 he came to America, and located first in Clinton county, Iowa, where he read law. In 1884 he located in Sac City, and was admitted to the bar. In the spring of 1885 he came to Fonda, and has since been engaged in the practice of law, the sale of real estate and as an agent for some of the best insurance companies and loan agencies. He was post master from Sep, 1, '96 to February 7, '98. By reason of his general good nature, or uniformly sunny disposition, his familiar friends often call him "Colonel" Healy.

On August 12, '96 he married Sarah Connelly, of Ogden, and she died Dec. 8, 1898 in her 26th year, leaving two children, Eleanor and Joseph.

**Hersom** Samuel Thomas (b. Feb. 11, 1849) owner and occupant of the s  $\frac{1}{2}$  se  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 30, Cedar township since October 26, 1871, is the son of Samuel and Margaret Hersom, and a native of Mercer county, Ill. April 4, 1868, he married Lucinda Littrell, and after three years located on the homestead for which he made the entry the next day after his arrival. Coming to this section empty handed none felt the hard times during the 70's more than he, or put forth a more plucky endeavor to hold the homestead through them. In later years he has made purchases of adjoining tracts of land and is now the happy owner of a good farm of 360 acres, on which he has erected good improvements. His buildings, grove and orchard happened to be in the destructive path of the tornado of 1893 and were completely destroyed. His family were greatly frightened but, with the exception of a few scratches, escaped uninjured. In December 1898, his wife successfully sustained the removal of a tumor that weighed 56 pounds. He was a trustee of the township in 1878, and '97-1900; president of the school board in 1878, and secretary of it in 1879 and '83-85.

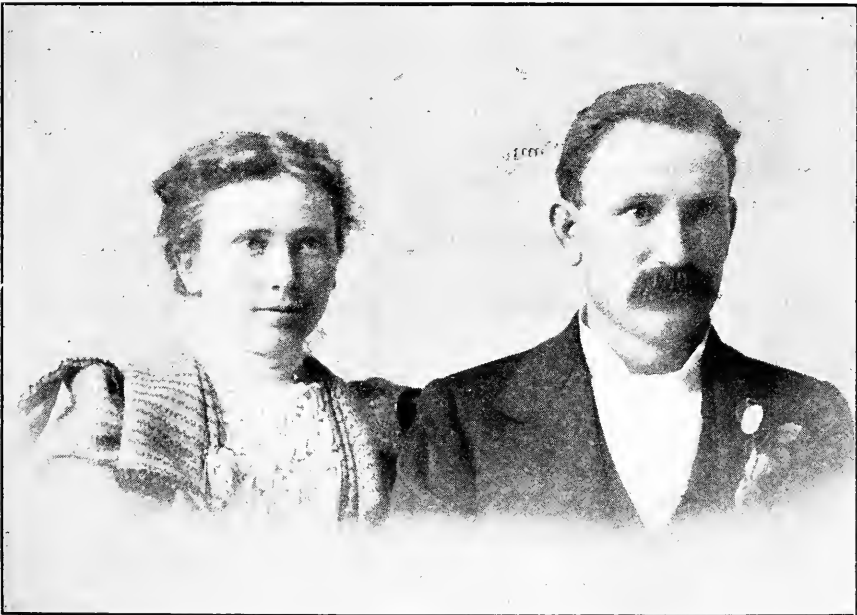
His family consists of eight children. Harry S. married Rose Pomeroy, lives near the old home and has a family of three children, Lee, Hazel and Richard; William E. married Laura Larson, and has two children, Glenn and Roy; Effie married Marion Hersom, lives in Ringgold county, and has three children; Lily M., Daisy a teacher, George, Josephine and Lewis are at home.

**Hersom** Sylvainus (b. July 10, 1842), an elder brother of Samuel T., is a native of Maine, and coming to Pocahontas county, May, 20, 1871, on Oct.

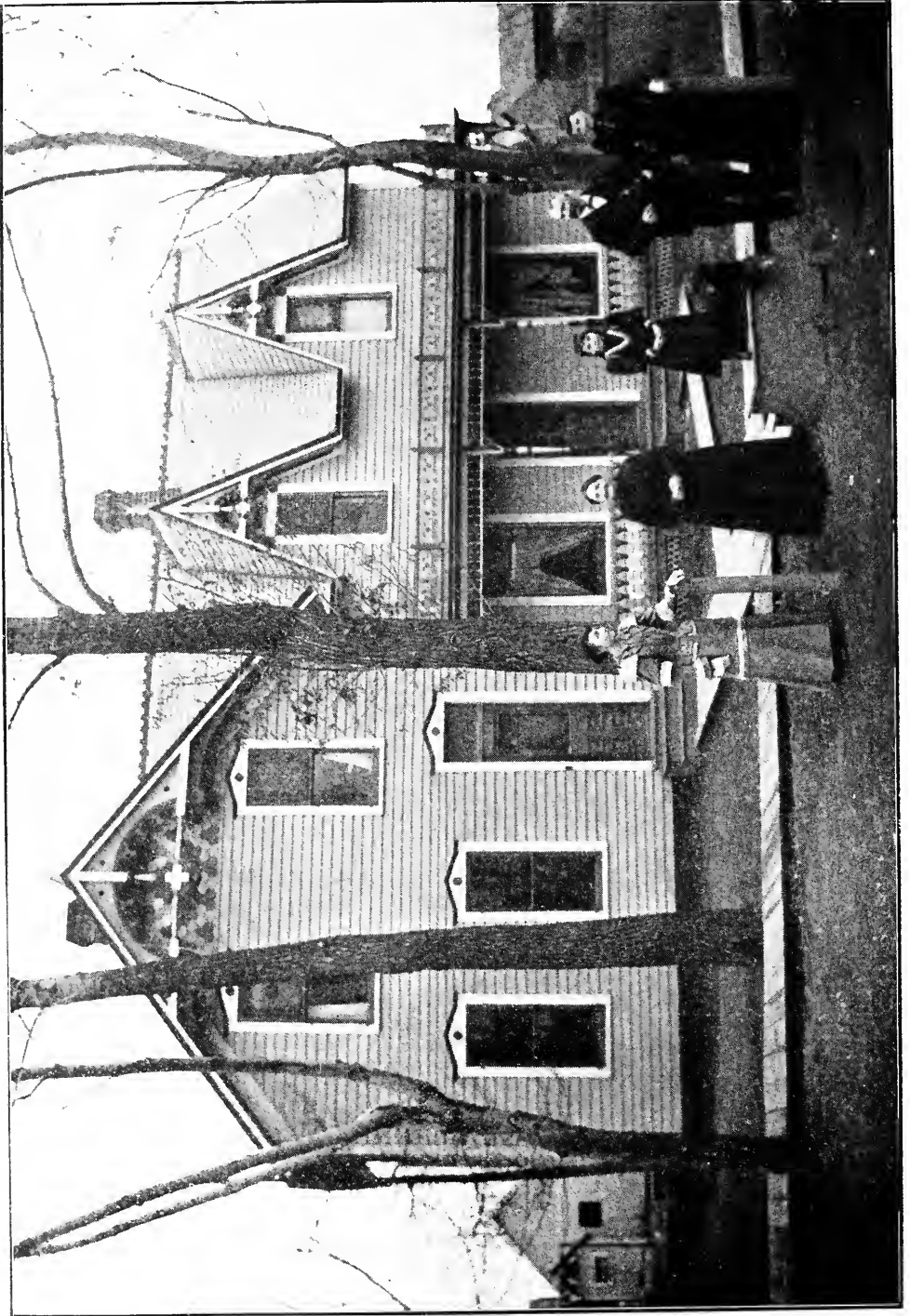




MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL T. HERSOM, FONDA.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN P. MULLEN, FONDA.



Manol. Photo. Mrs. Hughes.  
RESIDENCE OF GEO. E. HUGHES, FONDA.

Geo. E. Mrs. Hughes.

23rd following entered as a homestead the w  $\frac{1}{2}$  sw  $\frac{1}{2}$  section 32, Cedar township, which he continued to hold and most of the time occupied until 1892 when he moved to Williams township, and in 1899 to Armstrong, Nebraska. He grew to manhood in Mercer Co., Ill., where in 1863, he enlisted as a member of Co. K. 107th, Ill. Infantry. He belonged to the 20th, Army Corps under Hooker, marched with Sherman from Nashville to the Sea, and then to Richmond. He was honorably discharged at Louisville, after two years and eleven months of service.

In 1865 he married Elizabeth Jackson and after her death, or in 1877, Etta Henthorne who has been an invalid nearly twenty years. They have one child, Frank, who is at home, and she had one, Charles, three years older, by her first husband.

**Hughes** George Edward (b. June 26, 1854,) for many years a prosperous merchant of Fonda, is a native of Boone Co. Ill., and the son of Samuel and Phoebe (Johnson) Hughes, with whom at six years of age, he came to Jones County, Iowa. He received a limited education in the public school but a thorough training in the practical affairs of life from his father, who was both a successful farmer and merchant. His early instinct for business is illustrated by the following incidents that occurred in his boyhood. He was disposed to be industrious and careful of his earnings. When the latter amounted to one dollar he was ready for business. After a few small exchanges he gained possession of a shot gun that was soon afterwards exchanged for a buggy. He traded the buggy for two calves. These were kept until they were three years old when they were traded for a horse. A little later instead of the horse he had a lot of other animals and farm implements. These were sold and the money thus realized formed the nucleus of the comfortable fortune he has since accumulated.

His father, who died September 7, 1894, came to Fonda, in 1871, and established a general store. He came in the fall of 1874, and after his marriage September 2, 1874, to Anna Gdmer, of Fonda, a lady of German descent, he became a partner with his father in the mercantile business of which later he was the sole proprietor. His wife discovered such an unusual business ability that she was very soon able to assume the entire management of the store; and he never refers to her without a gleam of pride in his eye, for he attributes a large measure of his success to her counsel and executive ability. In 1888 he began to invest in land; in January 1893, he sold his stock of goods and store, and erected a comfortable residence. In 1894 he resumed the mercantile business taking J. P. Steinfort in 1895 into a partnership that lasted three years. Since that time he has been engaged in the real estate and loan business.

For many years he has been widely known as one of the best marksmen in Iowa. On June 1, 1893, at Clear Lake, he won the State trophy, consisting of a beautifully engraved, gold lined, silver cup, for which he had been a contestant for several years. It was won and held by him on this occasion jointly with Mr. Budd, of Des Moines on a tie, both having made a straight score. He engaged in shooting as he did in business, to win; and at different times he has won the various trophies and individual medals in this state.

He has one daughter, Madge, now in her twelfth year. Two children, Bertha and Maude, are dead; the former dying in infancy, the latter, a beautiful and accomplished young lady, in her 20th year, May 3, 1896.

His mother still lives with him.

**Ibson** Peter G. (b. Nov. 3, 1849), the first resident of Fonda, was a native

of Norway and a blacksmith. In 1869 at Webster City he found employment as a smith for the bridge builders of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad, and moved his shop to suit the movements of the gang. In February 1870, when they commenced the construction of the bridge across the Cedar, he located his shop south of the grade on the present site of the city water-works. This was the first building on section 27, in the center of which Fonda is located. Inasmuch as the railroad was completed about the time this bridge was done and the patronage of the settlers gave him constant employment, he decided to remain at this place, and in the fall of 1871 built a larger shop south of second street near the Ellis residence. Two years later this building was moved to the northeast corner of Main and Second streets, where for many years he enjoyed the reputation of being the best workman in this section. At this time his two brothers, Edward and Charles, arrived and joined him in the same shop. Edward is still engaged in the business having a shop of his own in the Busby addition to Fonda and Charles is an engineer in the yards of the Milwaukee railroad. In 1890 Peter moved his shop one block further west and continued to work at his trade until 1896. He was a superior workman and kept his shop supplied with the best available machinery.

On November 25, 1875, he married Frances L. Buswell, who died August 7, 1891, in her 33d year, leaving two children, Clara and Andrew, both in their teens.

**Kearns** Patrick (b. Ireland, March 17, 1818) in March 1873 became the owner and occupant of the ne ¼ section 2, Cedar township, and of eighty acres more on the adjoining section (35) in Dover township, all of which he improved and occupied until 1899, when he moved to Fonda. His wife and

family of nine children, came one month after his arrival, and they lived that summer in the school house first built in the McCartan district, which he bought for that purpose. In the fall of that year he built a house, 16x28 two stories that was enlarged to its present size in 1893.

He came to America alone in Sept. 1847, and locating at West Point, N. Y., found employment on the railroad. November 19, 1848, he married Catherine Lynch, a native also of Ireland, and the next year, moved to St. Louis, stopping a few months at Cincinnati and Rockford on the way. Three years later he moved to Dubuque and the next year to Jackson Co., Iowa, where he bought a farm of 100 acres and occupied it twenty years, or until the time of his settlement in this county.

He acquired such facility in the use of tools and such knowledge of building that he and his two sons were able to build his house in the fall of 1873. He has been very successful in raising vegetables and during the last fourteen years of his residence on the farm raised them for the local market.

He has never used tobacco, and has been a total abstainer since 1839. He has never seen the face of a mortgage and has never given his note to any man in Pocahontas county, except on one occasion. He has been a trustee of the township eight years, 1883-90.

His family consists of nine children, as follows: 1. Michael J. (b. Feb. 2, 1851), owner and occupant of a farm of 240 acres on section 35, Dover township, on November 19, '76, married Maggie McCartan and has a family consisting of John, Katie, Marie, Mary, Michael, James and Joseph twins, Maggie, Theresa, William and Alice. 2. Mary, on Nov. 19, '76, married John Kelly, lives on a farm near Pocahontas, and has a family consisting of James, Patrick, Katie, Mary, Eliza, John, Josie, Florence and Roy.

3. John (b. 1855.), owner and occupant of a farm of eighty acres in Dover township, in 1882 married Mary Murray and has four children, Patrick, Jennie, Henry and Ray. 4. Julia, in 1877, married Michael Lynch.\* 5. Margaret, in 1878, married William Kelly (a brother of John), the owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres on section 35, Dover township, until 1900, now a resident of South Dakota, and has a family of six children, John, Francis, Thomas, Edward, Stephen and Albert. 6. Katie, a dress maker, Bridget and Elizabeth, teachers, are at home.

For some years past it has been his custom to have all his children and grandchildren, numbering 49, assemble at his home on the evening of all saints' day or hallow e'en; and he has the happy faculty of making these family re-unions occasions of great joy and gladness to the little folks.

**Kelleher** John (b. 1817, Ireland), the pioneer occupant of the w $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 7, Cedar township, after his marriage in 1854 lived one year at Lawrence, Mass., and twelve in Boston. He then located on a farm near Iowa City, and in 1884 in Cedar township, where he died in 1888. He put fine improvements on this farm, kept everything in the best of order and his wife, Josie and James continue to occupy it.

His family consisted of eight children, all of whom are still living. Thomas F., M. D. Des Moines, (see below); Kate, who in 1892 married D. S. McCarville and lives in Oklahoma; John, who in 1891 married Mary McCarville and lives at Marysville, Mo.; Elizabeth, who in 1890 married M. W. Linnan, of Dover; Nellie, who in 1893 married S. A. Dunn and lives in Webster City; Denis M., who graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1893 and has since been engaged in the practice of law at Pomeroy; Josie and James, who are at home.

**Kelleher** Thomas F., M. D., oldest son of John Kelleher, was born in the city of Lawrence, Mass., in 1855. That year his parents moved to Boston and remained twelve years. In 1867 they moved upon a farm near Iowa City. Here Thomas received his education, walking to Iowa city each day during the fall and winter, and working on the farm during the summer. At the age of sixteen he taught his first term of school at Iowa City and when nineteen took charge of the grammar department in the schools of Sidney, Iowa. He began the study of medicine in 1875, in the office of Elmer F. Clapp, professor of anatomy in the Iowa State University and received his diploma in 1878. After practicing medicine four years at Bevington, Iowa, and one year in Des Moines, he located in Fonda. Here he became one of the leaders in the organization of the democratic party in Pocahontas county and in 1885, being nominated as the democratic candidate for the legislature in this district then composed of Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, received 785 votes against 445 in this county, lacking only 88 votes of being elected representative. His popularity was due to his independence in thought, tact for organization and enthusiasm as a leader. He was frank and honest in politics the same as in business.

In 1886 he married Annie Cunningham, of Patterson, Iowa, and returned to Des Moines where he has since been engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1895 he graduated from the New York Post-graduate School and Hospital. He has a family of three boys and two girls.

**Kennedy** Joseph (b. 1838), resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1874, is a native of Tyrone, Ireland, where he married and raised a family of seven children. In 1874 he came to this country and located in Fonda, his

\* See Lynch.

brother William, in 1869, having settled on a homestead in Williams township. In 1876 his wife and family arrived and, after a residence of two years in Fonda, they moved to the Fairburn farm west of town. In 1880 he bought 240 acres on section 21, Cedar township, and began to improve it. He also sought other employment as his sons became able to look after the farm, and for five years, with a one horse power, did the pumping of the water for the I. C. R. R. at the Fonda tank. In 1890 he bought the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section that increased his farm to 400 acres. In 1893 he bought the residence, elevator and office of N. B. Post and moved to Fonda.

Two business firms were then organized, namely; J. Kennedy & Co., consisting of himself and sons, dealers in grain, stock and implements; and Redfield, Kennedy & Co., consisting of W. J. Redfield and J. Kennedy & Co., dealers in stock and implements only. In 1897 W. J. Redfield withdrew from this firm and established the Palace Meat Market, the finest in this or any neighboring town; and in 1898 Joseph Kennedy withdrew from the first named firm and left as its successor, Kennedy Bros., consisting of Thomas, John and Alexander; of whom, Thomas looks after the interests of the farm, John the business of the office and Alexander all matters relating to the care of the stock.

In 1895, to increase their facilities for handling stock, they leased a tract of eighty acres south of the I. C. R. R. track. They feed principally cattle and usually have from 150 to 200 head in process of preparation for the city market. In 1897, owing to the ravages of cholera among the native hogs, they imported a car load of razor backs from Arkansas, and the experiment proved a profitable one.

The firm of Kennedy Bros. have

had long acquaintance with the people of this community, have learned how to work intelligently for the accomplishment of results and are in business to stay. "No compromise with competitors and honest dealings with all customers," are their business principles. The large share of the trade that has come to them has been well merited and highly appreciated.

On Oct. 8, 1877 Joseph's wife died in her 48th year leaving a family of eight children. Thomas (b. 1862), a telegraph operator 1882-93, a member of the firm of J. Kennedy & Co., in 1897 became a member of the city council and in 1898 president of the Big Four District Fair Association; Bessie, Nov. 2, 1884 married William J., son of Rev. Henry S. Redfield, then a dealer in stock and now proprietor of the Palace Meat Market, and has a family of three children, five having died in childhood; John (b. 1866), a teacher, secretary of the city school board and business manager of the firm of Kennedy Bros.; Sarah, Dec. 25, 1890, married F. M. Hall, resides at El Dorado, Kansas, and has four children; Alexander, in 1899 married Myrtle Hardman and has one child; Mary Jane, Rachel, who died March 21, 1892 in her 17th year, and Ina, a native of Pocahontas county.

**Lemp** John (b. March 3, 1835), who entered his homestead on w $\frac{1}{2}$  sw $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, Cedar township, Nov. 4, 1869, is a native of Germany, came to America in 1854, and, after spending one year in Pennsylvania and another one in Ohio, located in Kent Co., Michigan, where he found employment on a saw mill. Nov. 24, 1861 he married Idda A. Bowers and in 1866 moved to Sac county, Iowa. During his first year on the homestead he broke about forty acres of raw prairie and built a house, hauling the lumber for it and the coal for fuel from Fort Dodge. The next year he broke more prairie

and planted a maple grove of ten acres that with subsequent additions continues to be one of the largest and most beautiful, as well as oldest, in the township. By his industry, economy and good management he has met with good success on the farm. During the periods of hard times, the grasshopper visitations, drought and prairie fires he suffered with his neighbors, but his well tilled farm, with its dairy and increasing herds, enabled him to survive them. He planted fruit trees in the early days and has enjoyed the pleasure of gathering some fine crops of small fruits, plums, apples, and in 1898 of peaches that measured seven inches. These were the first peaches gathered in the township, and were raised on a tree that grew from the pit of California fruit. By his subsequent purchases the homestead of 80 acres has been increased to a finely improved farm of 260 acres, and in 1889 there was erected upon it one of the finest farm houses in the township.

His family has consisted of five daughters, namely: Cora Belle, who married Arthur Moulton, of Cedar township; Eliza Blanch, who married Adelbert Bailey and lives in Lyon Co., Minn; Mary Etta, who married Ulyses S. Reed and lives at Varina; Anna Grace, who married George Witcraft and lives in Dover township; and Millie, who married Lars Larson and occupies the home farm.

**Langworthy** Oscar A. (b. March 18, 1838), who died at Fonda Oct. 4, 1883, was a native of Dubuque. In February 1878 he came to Fonda and engaged in the hardware and implement business until the time of his death. He was appointed one of the commissioners to effect the incorporation of Fonda in 1879, and, at the time of his decease, was serving his third year as a member of the city council. He was a man highly respected for his excellent traits of

character and his loss was deeply felt.

April 9, 1878 he married Jennie G., daughter of Wm. Clark and Abigail (Fitz-Henry, a resident of Fonda since 1890) Alexander (b. 1817, d. Fonda, 1892), who survives him with two children, Ernestine, who in 1899 married Frank W. Swearingen, Esq., a resident of Fonda 1895-99, mayor in 1897, and now resides in Mitchellville; and Lucius, an assistant in the postoffice since Aug. 2, 1898.

The name of this family appears among the first in the pioneer history of Iowa and his father was one of the first to make a permanent settlement at Dubuque, the first one in the state.\* His father, Lucius, and uncle James L. Langworthy, swimming their horses by the side of their canoe, crossed the Mississippi in June 1830 and stood on that river's western shore nearly three years before a permanent settlement had been made in any part of Iowa. In 1831, their brother Edward arrived, attracted by the rich lead mines on the west side of the river. After the founding of the city of Dubuque these three brothers established a banking house where their financial skill found ample scope. Edward, who took the lead in matters of public interest, soon became an influential member of the city council, represented that district in the legislature and was a member of the first constitutional convention that met in Iowa City in 1844. These brothers were natives of St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. Lucius H. served in some of the early Indian wars, built the first frame house in Dubuque and was the first sheriff of Dubuque county.

**Lynch** Willam (b. 1821), a pioneer of Cedar township, is a native of Ireland. In 1847 he came alone to New York state and after a few months located at Montreal, where in 1852 he

\*See page 57.

married Margaret Lawler. In 1855, he moved to Grant county, Wis., and after two years to Brownsville, the oldest town on the Mississippi in Minnesota south of St. Paul, where he superintended the quarrying of rock for its first warehouse. During the next two years he had charge of a ferry-boat that plied between Dubuque and Dunleith, now East Dubuque. He then engaged in farming in Dubuque and Jackson counties until April 1869, when, with his wife and four children, he located on the homestead— $s\frac{1}{2}$  nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 2—Cedar township. By subsequent purchases, his farm was increased to 240 acres. One of the first schools in the township was taught in his pioneer home by Mary A. Calligan in the fall and winter of 1870. His wife died in 1890. He sold the homestead soon afterward and has since resided with his oldest son on the adjoining section in Dover township. He was a member of the Cedar township school board in 1873-74.

His family consisted of four children: 1. Michael J., owner and occupant of sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 35 Dover township. In 1877 he was president of the Cedar schoolboard. In 1882 he was chosen as the second secretary of the school board of Dover township and has held that office until the present time, a period of nearly nineteen years. He was a trustee from 1880 to '85 and has been township clerk since 1895. Oct. 25, 1878, he married Julia Kearns, a daughter of Patrick, and she died July 7, 1898, leaving a family of eleven children, Margaret, William, Winnifred, Julia, Catherine, Anna, Michael, John, Ellen, Patrick and Edward. 2. James, occupant of the se $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 34, Dover township, married Bridget White and has two children, Margaret and John. 3. Mary, married Matthew Byrne and resides at Fonda.\* 4. William is a resident of Colorado.

\*See Byrne, page 405.

**Mackey** John B. (b. 1823), a former resident of Fonda, was a native of Washington county, Pa., and locating at Coalrun, Washington county, Ohio, married there Matilda Hall (b. 1826) in May 1851. Some years afterward he moved to Boone county, Ill., in 1880 to Pomeroy, Iowa, and in 1884 to Fort Dodge. He owned and occupied the Smeaton home in Fonda from Feb., 1892, until the fall of 1894, when he bought and moved to a ranch of 320 acres near Porterville, Tulare county, Cal. He was a highly respected citizen, and at Pomeroy, Fort Dodge and Fonda rendered efficient service as an elder of the Presbyterian church.

His family consisted of seven children of whom three died young. Charles H., a railroad engineer, married Laura Griswold, has a family of two children and lives at Belvidere, Ill. David S. in 1876 married Ella Chamberlain in Tulare, county, Cal., and died there April 26, 1898, leaving a family of four children, John, Florence, Matilda and Relief. In 1882 accompanied by two others he went to the northern part of Alaska to develop a gold and silver mine in which he had obtained an interest. At the time set for their return, his two companions, taking the ore obtained, started homeward from the nearest port, while he traveled down the coast to the next one. At this port he received the sad intelligence that the vessel carrying his two companions, together with its cargo and all on board had been lost in a violent storm. He was thus compelled to remain and for two years was the only white man among the Esquimaux in that arctic region. Relief B., married Grant Fox, located first at Lake City, in 1895 moved to Tulare county, Cal. and now lives at Cherokee. Hattie H., married Frank P. McKee, of Fonda, lived there a number of years and then moved to Cherokee.



**Mallison** Joseph Captain (b. March 14, 1842), resident of Fonda and vicinity since May, 1870, is a native of Dale, Wyoming county, N. Y. His parents were William A. and Jane (Dingman) Mallison and he was brought up on a farm. In 1861 at the age of 19 he enlisted as a member of Co. E, 105th N. Y. Inf., which, in the spring of 1863, was consolidated with the 94th, and he continued in the service until he was mustered out at Albany, July 18, 1865. When he arrived at Washington, he was assigned to the command of Gen. McDowell and remained in the Army of the Potomac. In 1862 he participated in the battles at Cedar Mountain, sometimes called Slaughter Mountain because of the great number that fell on both sides; Rappahannock Station, Thoroughfare Gap, Chantilly, the second engagement at Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredricksburg; in 1863 at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, where he was in the Second Division, led by Gen. Reynolds, who fell on the first day.

On June 3, 1864, at the battle of Cold Harbor, seven miles from Richmond, he was wounded and taken prisoner. After a short confinement in Libby prison, he was held at Macon, Ga., two months; Savannah, six weeks; Charleston, S. C., three weeks, and then at Columbia until the arrival of Sherman's army, when he was moved successively to Charlotte, Raleigh and Wilmington, N. C., where he and 1200 other prisoners were released on parole, March 1, 1865.

He was made a First Lieutenant in December, 1863 and from the time he received his commission was placed in command of the company and performed duty as a captain until he was taken prisoner. He was exchanged six months after he was paroled and then found a Captain's commission awaiting him.

At the close of the war he returned to the home of his parents, who, during that period, had removed to Fondulac county, Wis. Thursday, Oct. 7, 1866, he married Susie H. Lingenfelter, and after two years on a farm at Brandon, moved to Hardin county, Iowa, and thence in 1870 to his homestead, the  $w\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 20, Cedar township, known later as the Blakeslee farm. In 1873, having improved and secured the patent for the homestead he moved to Fonda, where he engaged in the sale of implements eleven years, and in the real estate and insurance business since that time.

At the battle of Gettysburg, he saved the flag of his own regiment from capture and for this act of heroism was allowed to bring it home with him as a trophy of the conflict. This flag, which graced every patriotic occasion at Fonda, so that it had come to be regarded as the property of the town, was destroyed in McKee's Hall by the fire of 1883.

He participated in the organization of Cedar township, June 6, 1870, and served two years as its first assessor, when it included Celfax; two years as township clerk, 1875 and '86; and as justice of the peace since 1893. He took an active part in the incorporation of Fonda, was elected its first mayor in '79, and was re-elected in '84 '95 and '96. He was sheriff of Pocahontas county, four years, 1880-83, and has been postmaster at Fonda since February 7, 1898.

He inherited a robust form, a fine voice and has enjoyed good health; and these things, together with his affable disposition and dignified manner have made him a fine looking soldier and an acceptable commanding officer. He has proven himself to be a capable and efficient public official, and it is doubtful if any other one has rendered so much service to the people of Fonda and vicinity, as a

director of funerals and other assemblies or more acceptably than he.

His estimable wife has been associated as a leader among the ladies, in the promotion of the social and religious interests of the community, taking an active part in the organization of the first Ladies' Aid Societies of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, the first Chatauqua circle, Relief Corps, Eastern Star, etc. In company with her husband she has visited northern and southern California and Utah; and attended the national encampments at Washington in 1893 and at Buffalo, near his old home, in '97.

**Marshall** William (b. 1837), one of the first residents and business men of Fonda, was a native of Yorkshire, England, where he learned carpentry and cabinet making. After he became of age, he went to London where he married Jane Webster and two months later came to the state of New York. After a short residence there and also in Illinois and Missouri, he bought a half section of land in Bremer county, improved and occupied it for several years. He then lived one year in Waverly and engaged in railroad building, taking a contract on the I. C. R. R., west of Fort Dodge. In May 1870, he located at Fonda, erected the first dwelling house in the town for which he hauled lumber from Pomeroy. He established the first lumber yard at this place and afterwards the first store for the sale of hardware and implements. He also bought the ne½ sec. 33, and planted a grove that is not only the largest, but contains more varieties of valuable timber, including evergreens, than any other in this section. After the erection of good buildings on it, he made his home on this farm and died there Oct. 22, 1887. He served as justice of the peace for Cedar township ten years, 1872-74, '78-79, '83-87; and as surveyor for Poca-

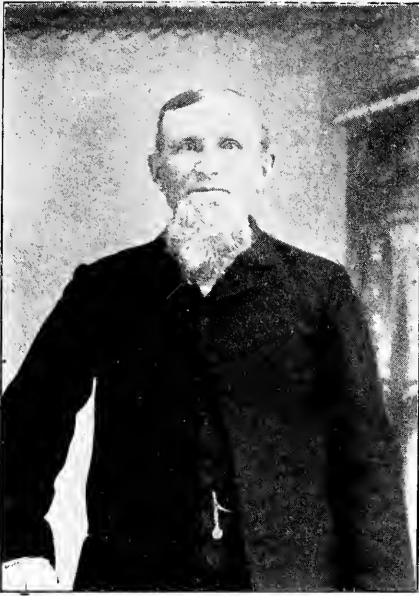
hontas county, eleven years, '73-83. He conducted a land agency at Fonda for many years and was well acquainted with not only the people but every nook and corner of the county. He was a man of unimpeachable integrity, modest, but persistent in his efforts, loyal to his friends and conscientious in the administration of justice.

In 1884 the board of county supervisors, at the instance of the people, conferred a special honor upon him by changing the name of Laurens township to "Marshall," in recognition of his long and efficient service as county surveyor.

His family consisted of three children, two of whom are dead. Maude and her mother live in Fonda, where they own a fine residence and other city property. They also own 400 acres of land in this vicinity including the old home.

**Martin** Samuel S. (b. Nov. 24, 1855), owner and occupant of a recently improved farm on section 23, is one of the leading and most successful farmers in Cedar township. He is a native of Perry county, Ohio, and the son of Thomas B. and Susan (Storror) Martin. At the age of seventeen, in 1870, he accompanied his parents to Greene county, Iowa, and whilst he has always lived on the farm, yet for a period of five years, he was engaged in boring wells, inserting pumps and erecting windmills. He acquired possession of a farm of 200 acres in Junction township, which he still owns. In 1891 he bought and moved to a farm on section 29, Cedar township; two years later on section 13; and in 1900 on section 23, where he has just built a good barn and one of the finest farm houses in the township. He is now the owner of two finely improved farms in Cedar township, that with the one in Greene county aggregate 680 acres.

He is a progressive and successful



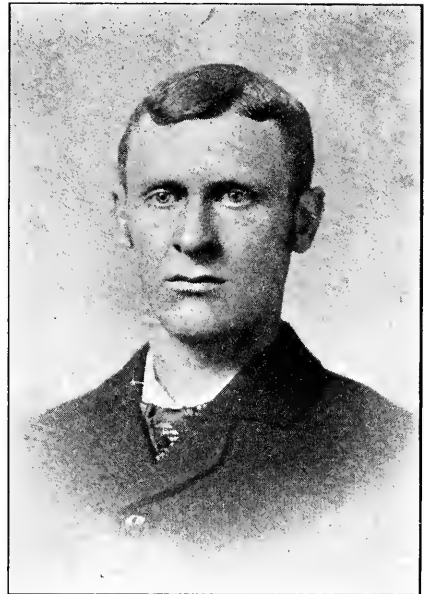
**WILLIAM BOTT**  
Co. Supervisor 1880-82, 86-88.



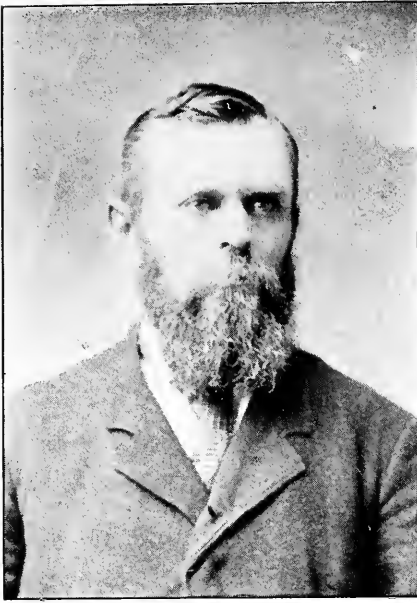
**R. F. BESWICK**  
Fonda Creamery Co.



**JOHN LEMP**  
Farmer.



**ED. B. TABOR**  
Editor.



JAMES MERCER  
County Supervisor 1883 85  
Representative 1890-97



MRS. JAMES MERCER



FRED SWINGLE



MRS. NELLIE R. SWINGLE

Fonda and Vicinity.

farmer. Having realized the convenience and value of good improvements, he gives them his first attention. He has learned also how to keep "the cattle upon the hills" and to have "the valleys (prairies) covered over with corn." His intelligence and excellent character as a citizen brought him into favorable prominence during his residence in Junction township, and in Cedar he has served two years as a justice of the peace, '93-94, and is now serving his second year as trustee. He has also rendered efficient service to the Presbyterian church, as a trustee since 1895 and as an elder since 1897.

On Nov. 7, 1875, he married Anna White, of Vernon county, Wis., and his family consists of five children: John Weston (b. July 25, '78), graduated at Fonda in '97, spent one year at Fayette college and is now pursuing his studies at the Iowa State University. Olive M. graduated at Fonda in '97 and is now a teacher. Dora E., Samuel G. and Otto Roy.

**Mercer** James (b. 1847), representative from this district in 1890-91, is a native of Galt, Ontario, Canada; and is a son of Andrew and Euphemia Mercer, both of whom came from Scotland. At the age of five years he moved with his parents to Cataraugus county, N. Y., soon afterwards to La Fayette, Ind., and in 1855 to Cascade, Dubuque county, Iowa. Here he grew to manhood and remained twenty years. After attending the public school he spent two years in the academy. On Oct. 24, 1864, at the age of sixteen he became a member of Co. M. 6th Iowa Cavalry and spent one year fighting the Indians on the frontier (see page 46) in Minnesota and the Dakotas, which did not then have a settlement beyond Yankton. After his return from the army he found employment in the furniture business and three years later commenced farming. In the spring of 1875 he

bought and began to improve the northwest sec. 35 Cedar township. The large and comfortable house, now occupied by his family, was built with his own hands in 1885, he having acquired a practical knowledge both of carpentry and masonry. His buildings are surrounded by several groves of different kinds of timber, of which the maples were planted in 1877 and the evergreens in 1893. By subsequent purchases his farm has been increased to 400 acres and he is recognized as one of the most thrifty and substantial men in the community.

He has rendered an efficient public service, to all of which he has been called without having acquired the arts of the politician. He served as township clerk four years, 1879-82; one term as justice of the peace and has been secretary of the school board since 1890. He was a member of the board of county supervisors three years, '83-85. In '89, at Peterson, he received the Republican nomination and at the general election held that fall was elected without opposition a member of the house of representatives of the 23d General Assembly of Iowa from the 77th district, composed of Clay and Pocahontas counties. In 1895 while he was busy "earning his bread by the sweat of his brow" he was nominated a second time for the legislature and lacked only a few votes of election. He has been a trustee and treasurer of the Presbyterian church since the dedication of the building in 1887, and an elder and deacon since 1897.

The highest practical objects of human attainment, such as the enjoyment of a happy home, the education of his children, the ennobling privileges of the church, together with the profitable cultivation and improvement of his farm, have been the praiseworthy ambitions of his life. He has always been a total abstainer and a practical prohibition-

ist. His steadfastness of purpose and successful achievements have won for him a public confidence, recognition and honor that only a few usually enjoy. In his youth he acquired the habits of industry and economy, and adopted the principles of integrity and honor, that fit every one for noble achievements. He is a splendid representative of the sturdy yeomanry that have developed her resources and made Iowa great.

On Nov. 14, 1872, while living at Cascade he married Anna, daughter of William and Anna (Brown) Stewart, of Ontario, Can., who has proven a wise counsellor and a faithful helper to him in all his endeavors. His family consists of seven children: Effie M., a graduate of the Normal school at Shenandoah and a teacher for two years at Sac City, two at Plover and three at Pocahontas, in 1900 married Thomas W. Tarr, of Cedar township. Nellie A., who enjoyed three terms at Buena Vista College and three terms at the Iowa State Normal at Cedar Falls, has been teaching since 1896. Cilena G., a Fonda graduate in '94, graduated from the State Normal in '97, then engaged in teaching and in June 1900, completed the fourth year course at the State Normal. May B., a Fonda graduate in '97, graduated at the State Normal in 1899 and is engaged in teaching. Cora L., a Fonda graduate in '99 and winner of the medal in the County Declamatory Contest at Havelock that year, is also a teacher. Rollo C. and Ralph J. are at home.

**McCartan** Bernard (b. Oct. 31, 1826), who died in Cedar township Oct. 2, 1887 in his 61st year, was a native of Down county, Ireland, the son of Bernard and Ann (Brush) McCartan. In 1845 with his parents he came to America and found employment in the lead mines at Dubuque, where he married Mary, daughter of Roger and Margaret (Baldwin) Mc

Namara. He then located on a farm in that vicinity, in 1869 moved to Webster county and in 1871 to the sw<sup>1</sup> sec. 3, Cedar township. He was the first to occupy this farm and improved it finely. The first house built in 1881, 14x18 feet, in 1876 became an attachment to a large and comfortable one. A fine grove of forest and fruit trees was planted, and by subsequent purchases the original farm was increased, previous to his death in 1887, to 540 acres and since that date to 930 acres, all of which are occupied by the younger members of his family.

He was president of the second board of trustees of Cedar township in 1872, president of the school board in 1873 and treasurer of the school funds in 1874. He was a member of the board of county supervisors three years, 1874-76, when the county seat was at Old Rolfe.

He was a good farmer, a man of noble principles and exerted a strong influence in establishing and sustaining Catholic worship in the vicinity of Fonda. In the pioneer days he was recognized as a wise and prudent leader in politics and religion. In matters of charity, he was always ready to respond to the call of the needy, who never left his door without assistance. His wife, a woman of more than average intelligence and loved by all who knew her, died June 11, 1898.

He was the father of thirteen children, ten of whom survived him: 1—Thomas F., county auditor seven years, 1886-92, (see below); 2—Susan E., on May 19, 1895, married Ed. O'Donnell, Fonda; 3—Mary E., Oct. 5, 1897, married John Lilly, owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on sec. 21, Dover township; 4—John J., born July 7, 1873, in April 1892 married Katie L. Haggerty and lived four years in Dover township, then engaged in the abstract business for the

Bank of Pocahontas in '97-98, and since as manager of the Shull Bros. lumber yard, Fonda; he has three children, Austin R., Mary F. and Regina; he was secretary of the Cedar township school board two years, '88-89 and assessor in Dover township 1894-95; 5—Arthur A., born Oct. 3, 1865, is manager of the home farm; 6—Bernard E., born Nov. 25, 1867, has taught school four years and is now at Davenport; 7—Joseph H. at home; 8—Maggie T. on August 28, 1899, married Anton J. Sauter, a carpenter, and resides at Fonda; 9—Katie and Roger, also at home.

**McCartan** Thomas F. (b. Oct. 19, 1854) is a native of Dubuque county and came with his parents to Cedar township in 1871. He was clerk of Cedar township in 1873 and secretary of the school board in 1883. He served as Auditor of Pocahontas county seven years, 1886-92, the law of 1890 changing the election of county officers to alternate years having added one year to his third term. He has been a resident of Pocahontas since 1886; and as a stockholder and cashier of the Bank of Pocahontas has been engaged in the banking and real estate business since 1893.

On May 17, 1886, he married Ella, a daughter of Roger and Margaret Collins, formerly of Lizard township, and has a family of six children, Clement B., Tessie, Theo. F., Myrtle, Monica and Arthur Thomas.

**McKee** Jonathan Neff (b. Feb. 9, 1837), manager and principal proprietor of the general merchandise firm of J. N. McKee & Co. Fonda, 1881-96, is a native of Blair county, Pa., and the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Neff) McKee. In the fall of 1860 he found employment at Belvidere, Ill., as a clerk in the store of A. T. Ames, who, two years later, sent him to Cherry Valley to sell out a stock of goods at that place. In 1864 at this place he entered into a partnership

with E. A. Blackington that lasted five years, and then with Rufus C. Potter under the firm name of J. N. McKee & Co. In the spring of 1881 he brought their stock of goods to Fonda, Iowa, where he bought and began to occupy the two store rooms in the Guyett block. At the time of the fire, Oct. 15, 1883, he sustained a loss of \$25,000, on which the insurance was \$6,000; but he cleared away the ashes of the wooden building and in its place, in 1884, erected a double two story brick block that has been the pride of the town ever since. He continued in business here until the fall of 1896 when he moved to Washta and in 1900 to Britt, Iowa. In partnership with his son Frank P. McKee a clothing store was maintained several years at Fonda and, in connection with it, a tailoring establishment, McKee & Ehline, that employed a half dozen workmen. During the period of his residence at Fonda he carried the largest stock of general merchandise in this vicinity.

He was not a politician but was one of the most public spirited citizens that Fonda has ever had. He was chosen a member of the town council the next spring after his arrival and continued a member of it until the time of his removal, a period of fifteen years, 1882-96. He was president of the Fonda school board five years, 1884-88.

On Dec. 20, 1864, he married Louise, daughter of Rufus C. and Hannah Potter. His family consists of four children, one having died young. Frank P. now a traveling salesman, married Hettie, daughter of John B. Mackey, lives at Sioux City and has one child; Mabel E. married Guy S. Robinson, Fonda, county treasurer, and has one child, Lorna E.; Earl Potter, a traveling salesman; and Louisa.

**Nichols** John Clark (b. May 23, 1843), who died on his farm on sec. 7,

Cedar township, Jan. 23, 1899, was a native of Scott county, Iowa, the son of William and Laura Nichols, both of whom died in his early days. On August 22, 1862, in response to his country's call he went to Davenport and enlisted as a member of Co. K., 20th Iowa Inf. and continued in the service until July 1865. His regiment became a part of the army on the frontier under Gen. Schofield and passed through Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, traveling 6,350 miles by steamboat, 2,400 miles by steamship, 1,300 miles by rail and 2,100 on foot, making an aggregate of 12,150 miles or half the circumference of the earth. He participated in the engagements at Prairie Grove, the siege of Vicksburg, the capture of Fort Morgan and Blakely near Mobile, April 9, 1865, the same day that Lee surrendered. He was a man of courage and did not hesitate to face danger when duty called. On the return of his regiment a lady of Davenport very appropriately wrote:

"Ring out a welcome; lo, they come!  
Our heroes from the war;  
They bear their banners seamed and rent,  
They wear the victors' scar."

Oct. 5, 1871, he married Laura Seekins and located on a farm at Red Oak, where he remained until 1886 when he came to Cedar township. He experienced considerable inconvenience from defective hearing after he returned from the army, but was a good farmer, kept his improvements in fine condition and was highly respected as a citizen and neighbor. At the time of his death he was the owner of 200 acres of land.

His family consisted of one daughter who, May 1, 1892, married Jas. M. Borders and lives on the island at Sunk Grove.

**Lucas** David Crystle (b. Jan. 17, 1842) resident of Fonda and vicinity

from 1873 to 1892, was a native of Carroll, Indiana. In 1856 he moved with his parents to Waverly, Iowa, where Dec. 28, 1863, he married Matilda Etta Busby (b. May 21, 1839, N. Y.) of Dubuque and engaged in farming. In 1870 he moved to Plainfield, Butler county and engaged in the mercantile business. In 1873 he located on a homestead in Williams township, Calhoun county, Iowa, and in 1881 moved to Fonda, where he engaged first in the livery business, then for three years owned a half interest in the Fonda Grist Mill, which seriously embarrassed all who invested in it. He then decided to engage in the hotel business and, serving as proprietor of the Central House, Fonda, one year, in 1892 moved to Meriden and two years later to Cherokee where he has since had charge of the Cherokee House. As a hotel keeper he has become quite popular with the traveling public and has met with good success.

Both he and his excellent wife, early in life, became active members and efficient workers in the Methodist church, and in Fonda, he filled for a number of successive years the responsible positions of treasurer, steward and superintendent of the Sunday school. He has always been a staunch friend of the temperance cause and a leader in movements for the suppression of the saloon.

His family consists of five children, Carrie, the second, having died in infancy, Jennie V., an early teacher in the Fonda schools, on March 17, 1887 married Calvin B. Saylor and lives in Lincoln township; Mabel C., a teacher in the Fonda and Rolfe schools, on June 30, 1891 married George H. Bush and lives at Fonda; Eben Parker married Claudia Myers and they both belong to the theatrical profession; Howard Harlan, a graduate of the Cherokee high school in 1899 is now filling a lucrative position in that city.



**Olson** John (b. 1825), owner and occupant of the se¼ sec. 33, Cedar township from the spring of 1870 to '85, was a native of Denmark. He married there Mary Jensen and in 1867 with her and a family of three children, Henry, Lawrence and Sophia, all of whom were called Johnson after the first name of their father according to the custom of their native land, came to Michigan and three years later to Pocahontas county, Iowa. He planted a beautiful grove of maples, walnuts and other trees and erected the house and other buildings occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Detwiller and completely destroyed by the cyclone of 1893.

On Oct. 6, 1883 his mother, Margareta Olson, died at his home and was buried on a slight elevation near the south west corner of this farm. At the time of her death she lacked only two months of being 94 years old, and, so far as known, was the oldest inhabitant of Pocahontas county. She was a native of Denmark, lived at Zealand until 1870, then at Aalborg until 1877 and then at the age of 87 years emigrated to the home of a son in Cedar township. She possessed a remarkable constitution and always enjoyed the best of health. Her eyesight was not diminished by advancing years, she never wore spectacles and was able to read fine print even in her old age.

In 1885, John Olson and family moved to San Pasqual, in southern California, where they still reside. His son, Henry Johnson, taught school in the vicinity of Fonda, in 1878 married Florence White, daughter of a minister, in 1884 moved to California and has a family of six children, Frank, Harry, Arthur, Nellie, Roy and Jessie, twins. His son Lawrence Johnson married Viola Darling in California and has two children, Inez and Glenn. His daughter, Sophia Johnson M. D.,

taught school in the vicinity of Fonda, pursued a course of study at Battle Creek, Michigan, graduated from the California Medical College in 1895 and since that date has been practicing medicine in San Diego. Her portrait appears in this volume.

**Osburn** Benjamin Franklin (b. March 25, 1837), a pioneer of Cedar township 1870 to 1885, was a native of Tioga county, N. Y., where he grew to manhood and in 1859 married Delilah B. Reed. August 10, 1862 he enlisted in the 137th N. Y. Inf. as an orderly sergeant, was made first lieutenant May 25, 1865 and was honorably discharged at Elmira, New York, June 9, 1865. In 1867 he and his family moved to Waterloo, Iowa, and in the spring of 1870 purchased the sw¼ sec. 25, Cedar township which he improved and occupied until the time of his death which occurred at Adel, Sept. 11, 1885. While returning from the State Fair at Des Moines, he endeavored to pass along a railing used for that purpose on the outside of the baggage car, and when the train entered the bridge at Adel its timbers striking his head inflicted fatal injuries and caused him to fall from the car in an insensible condition.

He was a fine looking soldier and one of the bravest of the brave. He participated in twenty seven battles including Lookout Mountain, Gettysburg and other decisive ones, and was promoted for his skill and courage.

His family consisted of two children: May, who married Fred Opperman, a mail agent, and died in 1885; Bert, a book keeper and clerk, married Becca Pfeiffer and located at Sioux City where his mother resides with him.

**Potter** Rufus C. (b. July 15, 1812), a silent partner in the firm of J. N. McKee & Co., Fonda 1881-89, was a native of Chili, N. Y. and was the son of Daniel and Abigail (Hemingway) Potter. His father was a veteran of the war of 1812 and his mother a member of the society of Friends, so

that from childhood he was trained in the principles of patriotism and piety. Sept. 22, 1836 he married Hannah C. Turner (b. Nov. 19, 1816 N. Y.) also of patriotic blood, whose grandfather, Captain Joseph Tombs, of Maine, served under Washington in the Revolutionary War. In 1837 he located at Hadley, Mich., in 1863 in Cherry Valley, Ill., and in July 1881 at Fonda, where he died Dec. 22, 1889. His large and beautiful residence, completed at Fonda in July 1888, was then adjudged to be the best finished and most convenient in this county. It is now known as the DeGraffe home. His wife, who had rendered fifty years of faithful service in the M. E. church and was respected as a "mother in Israel", departed this life at Fonda, Nov. 12, 1893. His life was a highly exemplary one. He was naturally of a quiet disposition and manifested such an holy zeal for the house of God that he became a living epistle of the meek and lowly Jesus. As long as his strength permitted, his place at the Sunday and mid-week services was never vacant and he loved to mingle his own with the voices of others in prayer, praise and testimony.

His family consisted of one son and three daughters all of whom located at Fonda and vicinity for at least a short period.

1.—Sarah Abigail, August 13, 1863 at Cherry Valley, married Abram F. DeGraffe, a carpenter and wagon maker, has been a resident of Fonda since 1888 and her family consists of three daughters: Louise a teacher; Anna in 1893 married Charles A. Alexander, assistant cashier of the Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda, since 1891 and has one child, Donald; Mary Franc, also a teacher. Louise and Franc have taught several successive years in the Fonda schools and are regarded as two of the best teachers in this locality.

2.—James Henry Potter in 1861

married Harriet Gleason, then enlisted as a member of the 74th Ill. Inf. and served three years in the army. He then engaged in farming near Cherry Valley, later moved to Rockford and in March 1889 to Fonda, Iowa, where he became the successor of Carpenter & Russell in the hardware business. After two years he moved to Storm Lake where he is still engaged in the hardware business under the firm name of J. H. Potter & Son. His family consisted of two children: William R. married Nina K. Kellogg who died in March 1895 leaving two children, and in 1896 he married Ida Sisson; Fannie is at home.

3.—Mary Louise married John N. McKee (See McKee).

4.—Josephine Julia married Ambrose A. Horton and for a few years lived on his father's farm near Cherry Valley. In Sept., 1875, they located on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Williams township, Calhoun Co., Iowa, and three years later in Pomeroy where he engaged first in the lumber business and afterwards in banking. In 1892 they moved to Storm Lake where she died Oct. 30, 1893, leaving a family of five children: Ava Grace Horton in 1894 married Burton Willis, manager of the Willis Lumber Co., and lives at Webster City; Ada, a milliner, Elmer, Frank and Josephine are at home. In 1895 Mr. Horton married Julia Brownlee of Wis., and two more children, Buelah and Harold, have been added to his family. In 1899 he moved to Spencer where he is now engaged in the real estate business.

**Patterson** Michael Frampton (b. Jan. 19, 1857), resident physician at Pocahontas and Fonda from 1882 to 1895, is a native of Haratio, Darke county, Ohio, the son of Samuel and Martha (Frampton) Patterson. He grew to manhood in Erie county, Ohio, graduated from the high school in Berlin Heights and on March 2,

1881 from the medical branch of the Western Reserve University at Cleveland. On April 5, 1882, after one year's practice of medicine in Cleveland, he located at Pocahontas, Iowa, and was the first resident physician of that town. That summer he erected a building, now used by the Bank of Pocahontas, on the lot now owned by Dr. Barthol and established a drug store and office in it. In September 1884 he moved to Fonda and, in connection with the practice of his profession, became a partner with Thomas F. Kelleher M. D. in the drug business. The interest of the latter in the spring of 1885 was bought by J. N. McClellan and one year later by J. B. Bollard; and in 1888 Dr. Patterson sold his interest in it to Henry Brown. In December 1888, he went to New York City and spent three months in the post graduate medical school making the diseases of the eye and ear the subject of special study. Subsequently he spent several similar periods in Chicago, during the winter of 1894-5 remaining seven months, the forenoon of each day being occupied at the Rush Medical Institute and the afternoon at the State Eye and Ear Infirmary. In June 1895 he moved to Des Moines, established an office on the corner of Walnut and Sixth streets and has since devoted his attention, as a specialist, to the treatment of diseases of the eye and ear.

December 6, 1883 he married Cora E., daughter of A. B. P. and Cordelia Wood, of Fonda, and they became owners of a farm of 240 acres on section 27, Sherman township that in 1890 was exchanged for one of 200 acres principally on sec. 25, Cedar township. After four years this one was sold and another one was bought on section 23 which was improved with good buildings and sold to Sylvester Barron in 1899.

Dr. Patterson possesses an unusual

amount of energy, keeps himself abreast of the times in all matters relating to his profession, and both wins and holds the confidence of his patrons by showing himself worthy of it. He keeps a clear head and is animated with the noble desire to prove an honor to his profession. He has successfully performed a large number of important surgical operations, and that he stands high as a physician and specialist is evidenced by the fact, that a large proportion of his patients consists of those who have been referred to him by other influential physicians.

His family consists of two children, Alpheus M. and Cordelia.

**Price** Edward and his wife Elizabeth, natives of England, married there in 1839, came to America in 1842 with one son, Theophilus, and located in New York State. August 1, 1873, he entered as a homestead the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 36, Cedar township and became a resident of Pocahontas county. After a few years he engaged in the mercantile business at Pomeroy and died there in 1885. His wife died at Rockwell City in 1888. His family consisted of eight children, all of whom except the eldest son were born in New York. Theophilus enlisted in the civil war and was killed in battle. Edward J. in 1869 located on a homestead in Calhoun county, Iowa, married Harriet R. Rockwell, of Rockwell City, and now lives in California. Charlotte E. married H. E. Walker and lives in Minneapolis. Louisa A. located at Fonda in 1870, entered a homestead in Williams township in 1872 and became the wife of Wm. J. Busby, of Fonda, in 1874. Ellen M. lives with her sister in Minneapolis. Robert J. died at Rockwell City in 1895, and John D. died in 1860. Francis P. married W. M. Frantz, agent of the I. C. R. R., and lives at Fort Dodge.

**Reniff** Garrett Russell (b. Nov. 4.

1856) proprietor of a blacksmith shop, Fonda, since 1885, and two since 1896, is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is the son of Elhanan Winchester (b. 1813, Rochester, N. Y.) and Catherine Butler Reniff. His father in 1833 married..... Bennett, who was the mother of four children, two of whom, Marion and Daniel grew to manhood and live in Michigan. She died in 1848.

In 1851 he married Catherine Butler (b. Apr. 13, 1824, Ireland) and the next year moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1868 he moved to Windham, Johnson county, Iowa, the next year to Des Moines and in 1885 to his own farm on the se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec 23, Marshall township, this county, where he died, October 31, 1896, in his 87th year, and his wife, June 19, 1898. Both were interred in the cemetery at Fonda. He was a man of genial and refined nature, whom to know was to esteem and respect; and she was animated with an unselfish desire to make others happy. Their wedded life covered a period of nearly fifty years and their family consisted of three children, two of whom, Frank and Garrett R. are still living.

Frank Reniff (b. Feb. 1, 1854) in Michigan, married Anna Crow, of Warren county, Iowa, lives in Marshall township and has a family of two children, Etta and Charles.

Garrett R. Reniff, learned his trade at Kalamazoo, Michigan, came to Fonda, September 1, 1885, built a shop and for three years was in partnership with John W. Spitzbarth. In 1891 he built a pretty residence and married Ella Viola, daughter of Orlando and Roana Brown. In 1896 he purchased an additional shop at Fonda and the increase of patronage enables him to give employment usually to four workmen. He has made shoeing horses a specialty and for many years has enjoyed the reputation of doing the most and finest work in this line in

this locality. His shop is also headquarters for the repair of bicycles. He is industrious and energetic in promoting his business interests and takes a personal interest in all local public matters. He was a member of the Fonda council six years, 1891-96, and has been chief of the fire-department since its organization six years ago. He has served four years as treasurer and is now a director of the Big Four District Fair Association. The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Reniff and their parents may be seen on another page.

**Robinson** Joseph Peter (b. Oct. 3, 1844) resident of Fonda and vicinity since April 1871, is a native of Skowhegan, Somerset county, Maine, where he was raised on a farm, attended public school and also Bloomfield Academy. In 1866 he went to Boston where, after completing the commercial course in Comers' Commercial College, he found employment as an instructor of mathematics in that institution for one year and then as a bookkeeper for a wholesale house. In 1868 he moved to Calamus, Clinton county, Iowa, and three years later to a homestead on the n $\frac{1}{2}$  sw $\frac{1}{4}$  section 20, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, which he improved and occupied until the fall of 1876 when he secured the patent for it, went to the eastern part of this state and the following summer to Texas. In the spring of 1878 he returned to this county, located in Fonda and has been a prominent citizen of this town since that date. It was his custom in the early days to teach school in winter and sometimes in summer, and for this employment he was well equipped. He taught in Fonda in 1871 and subsequently in other places in this vicinity. As a fitting recognition of his ability and efficiency as a teacher, in 1880 he was elected Superintendent of Pocahontas county and performed the duties of that office four years, 1881-85, in a highly creditable manner. He has been engaged as a general merchant since that date and is now the pion-

eer of the present merchants of Fonda. He has endeavored to merit the patronage of the people by constantly renewing his stock of goods with fresh supplies that both suit and please his customers. Long ago there was given to him the reputation of "selling better goods at lower prices than his competitors;" and his long and successful mercantile career is the just reward of untiring energy, good judgment and unbending integrity. He realizes that the world moves forward one step every day and he endeavors to keep pace with it.

His ability to render efficient public service has been recognized and utilized. In addition to the service rendered as a public school teacher and county superintendent he served as an assessor two years in Clinton county, and two years in Cedar township, 1872 and 1875. He was a member of the Fonda town council three years, 1890-92; president of the Fonda school board two years, 1890-91; and secretary of it two years, '92-93.

When superintendent of the public schools, in this county, he put forth an honest endeavor to raise their standard and increase their efficiency. At the close of his term of service the teachers presented him with a fine gold watch, as a token of their esteem, and in accepting it he very appropriately expressed the animating principles of his own life when he said: "This beautiful souvenir is a reminder to me that the time to finish our life's work is not only brief but constantly passing; as each diamond minute helps to make the golden hours, which if lost are lost forever, let your motto be 'Onward and Upward, and stand on your merits.'"

"The riches of the commonwealth  
Are free, strong minds and hearts of  
health,

And more to her than gold or grain  
Are cunning hands and cultured  
brain."

In 1870 in Clinton county, he mar-

ried Ella A. Fuller and their family consisted of four children, Guy Scott, Otis, Evan, who died at seven years of age, and Nellie Josephine. In 1893 he married Jenevee E. Crawford and they have one child Helen Isabel.

**Robinson** Guy Scott (b. Mar. 31, 1871), county treasurer since Jan. 1, 1899, is a native of Maquoketa, Iowa and has been a resident of this county since a few months after his birth. After completing his education in the Fonda public schools, he was for twelve years associated with his father, Joseph P. Robinson, in the general merchandise business. Here he not only received a valuable practical training but became widely and favorably known as a young man of pleasing appearance, excellent habits and unquestioned integrity. In 1896, when he was not an aspirant for political honors, but many in the republican county convention felt the need of another candidate for county auditor, his name was suggested and he lacked only one vote of receiving the nomination. Three years later the nomination for the responsible office of county treasurer was accorded to him, he was elected and is now rendering acceptable service in this official capacity.

October 16, 1895, he married Mabel Elizabeth McKee, has one child, Lorna Eloise, and lives at Pocahontas.

**Silbar** Jacob, the first grocer to locate on the present site of Fonda in 1870, was a Jew that for some time previous had been following the graders on the I. C. R. R. and selling his wares from a pedler's cart. In the fall of 1869 he built a shanty near a grader's camp on the west side of the creek south of the grove on Fairburns' farm then owned by John A. Hay. He was assisted by Knute Tisdale who cobbled and sold goods at the shanty while Silbar made weekly trips to Fort Dodge for new supplies. He and others awaited the location of the town and as soon as its site was indicated by the laying of a sidetrack

east of the creek in the spring of 1870, he moved his shanty to the vicinity of Ibson's first blacksmith shop, and it was the second building in Fonda. When the town was platted he erected a better building on the west side of Main street, but after one year sold it and moved away. He was the first one that sold intoxicating liquors in Cedar township.

**Spielman** David (b. Aug. 28, 1824), resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1870, is a native of Baden, Germany, and in 1848 came to Sullivan Co., N. Y., where he found employment as a carpenter. In Dec. 1851, he married Dorothea Couch and five years later moved to Dubuque Co., Iowa, where he continued to work at his trade. In the fall of 1870 he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the  $s\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 24, Cedar township, this county, improved and occupied it until 1880 when he sold it and bought the sw $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 19, Colfax township, 160 acres. On this farm he built a good house, barn and other outbuildings and occupied it until 1893, when he sold it, built a comfortable residence in Fonda and moved to town.

In 1845 he entered the German army and spent four and one-half years in the military service of his country. This was the period of the rebellion in Baden, and he participated in thirteen battles.

He has been a good citizen and has raised a family of eight children, one having died in childhood and another at the age of twelve. 1.—David (b. 1851), married Mary Jane (Reed) Wilbur, who in 1872 bought and still owns a farm of 80 acres on the w $\frac{1}{2}$  se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 25, Cedar township. He died in 1883 leaving one son, Carl Spielman, who in 1898 married Stella Reed, of the state of Washington, and lives in Fonda with his mother. The latter on coming to this county in 1872 taught school three years. She was first married to James M. Wilbur, and their

family consisted of one son, Romeo M. Wilbur, who in 1870 came to the home of his uncle B. F. Osburn, taught school several years at Pomeroy and vicinity and is now in Chicago. 2.—Jacob (b. June 28, 1855, N. Y.), a mason and plasterer, resident of Fonda, in 1889 married Nora May Sheriff and has a family of four children, Flossie, Virgil, David and Esther. 3. Mary married R. B. Adams, drayman, lives at Cherokee and has a family of four children, Early, Hiram, Elizabeth and Maud. 4.—Dora married Gustave Gottfried (See Gottfried). 5.—Sophia married Louie Lieb (See Lieb). 6.—Frederick (b. Aug. 22, 1864, Iowa) a drayman, Fonda, in 1896 married Alta Hardy and lives with his parents. 7.—Elizabeth married William Wykoff, a plasterer, lives at Fonda and has four children, Roy, Madge, Harry and Vera. 8. Lulu, in 1893, married James H. Thompson, a carpenter, Fonda, and has one child.

**Sanborn** George (b. Mch. 1, 1842), resident of Fonda and vicinity since June 5, 1869, editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times since Nov. 1, 1879, is a native of Jefferson, Wisconsin. He was the son of William (b. 1800-d. 1876) and Mary (Page) Sanborn, who were natives of Wheelock, Vermont and with a family of four children, two sons, Alden and Roswell, and two daughters, Emily and Caroline, in 1839 moved to Jefferson, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their days. His father was raised on a farm and engaged in farming during most of his life. He also took an active part in politics, held many important offices in his own township and county, Caledonia, Vt., and Jefferson, Wis., and served one term in the legislature of Vermont. After his removal to Jefferson, as a contractor and builder, he erected the first public buildings in that county seat, consisting of a court house and jail and

Several other important buildings, one of which which was a hotel that is still a leading one of that city. His mother (b. 1802-d. 1877) was of Scotch descent. The Sanborns in this country are the descendants of three brothers who came from England before the War of Independence; and the name was originally spelled Sandborn.

George Sanborn, the subject of this sketch, at the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861, enlisted as a member of Co. E, 4th Wis. infantry, at the age of nineteen. On Jan. 1, 1864, he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, which had previously been transferred to the cavalry department as the 4th Wis. cavalry. This regiment was not finally discharged until June 19, 1866, having made a continuous service of five years and six days, which is said to be the longest period of continuous service rendered by any regiment of volunteers in the Civil war.

During the first six months of his army life he was engaged guarding bridges and building forts in the vicinity of Baltimore, and campaigning on the eastern shore of Virginia. In the spring of 1862 he went with his regiment, under Gen. Butler, to Ship Island and New Orleans, and participated in the capture of Fort Morgan, Fort St. Philip and the city of New Orleans. His regiment and the 28th Massachusetts were the first federal troops to enter that city after its surrender. His regiment performed an important part in the operations against Vicksburg, and assisted in digging the famous cut-off that has since made that place an inland city. During 1863 he was engaged in Western Louisiana and the country along the Red river, where he participated in the battle of Bisland and the siege of Port Hudson, May 28th to July 8th.

On June 14th, while making a charge on the enemy's works he was wounded twice, captured and held a

prisoner until the fort surrendered. He was stationed at Baton Rouge most of the time afterward and participated in a number of small battles and skirmishes with the enemy in that vicinity. During the spring of 1865 his regiment was located at Montgomery, Alabama, and from that city marched to Fort Larado, Texas, by way of Vicksburg, making what was probably the longest continuous march by any regiment during the war. The object of this movement was to place the regiment in the vicinity of the Maximilian war in Mexico. In the spring of 1866, he returned to Madison, Wis., where he was honorably discharged on the 19th of June (1866.)

On Nov. 28, 1866, he married Louresta Augusta, (b. Oct. 28, 1844) daughter of Levi and Louresta Crandall, of Farmington, Wis., and engaged in farming. On June 5, 1869, having decided to locate on a homestead in the west, they moved for a few months to the home of Wm. Kennedy, a brother-in-law, then living on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Williams township, now the farm of Charles Ziegler. On Aug. 13, 1869, he entered as a homestead the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, Cedar township, and occupied it from February, 1870, until September, 1880, when he moved to Fonda, where he has since resided. In August, 1870, he purchased 80 acres adjoining his homestead on the same quarter, and in 1882, 140 acres more, making a farm of 300 acres, all of which he still owns and has improved with fine buildings, good fences and a beautiful grove. In 1880 he erected a residence in one of the prettiest locations in Fonda and recent enlargements have made it very handsome in appearance. In 1884 he erected the brick block known as the Times building and owns several other properties in Fonda.

On November 1, 1879, he became the editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times, called Pocahontas

Times from the time of its establishment at Old Rolfe, April 1, 1876, until June 21, 1894.\*

Although he did not enjoy the privilege of attending college, he received a liberal education and taught several terms of school in Wisconsin and vicinity of Fonda. On the farm he proved himself a practical and successful farmer, and in this rural district the practical experience thus gained was of great value to him in performing the onerous duties connected with the management of the printing office.

Through the long period of twenty-one years of editorial management of the Times he has become widely known as one of the most capable and successful editors in Northwest Iowa. During all these years his constant aim has been to make the Times not merely a first-class local paper, but also a living, positive and aggressive force in promoting the material, educational and moral interests of Pocahontas county in general and of Fonda and vicinity in particular. Through its columns during this long period he has exerted an influence along these lines second to none in this community.

When he and his wife located in this section the I. C. R. R. extended only to Fort Dodge, and only a few settlers had preceded them. He assisted in the organization of Cedar township, June 6, 1870, was elected its first justice of the peace and served three years, 1870-72. In 1871 he was township clerk, and in 1875 treasurer of the school funds. He was mayor of Fonda in 1882, a member of the council in 1887 and has been president of the board of education seven years, 1881, '89 and '95-1900. He was postmaster of Fonda seven years, Oct. 15, 1889-Sept. 1, '96, and during five years of this period, 1891-'96, the town enjoyed free delivery of the mail.

\*See page 287 for history of this paper.

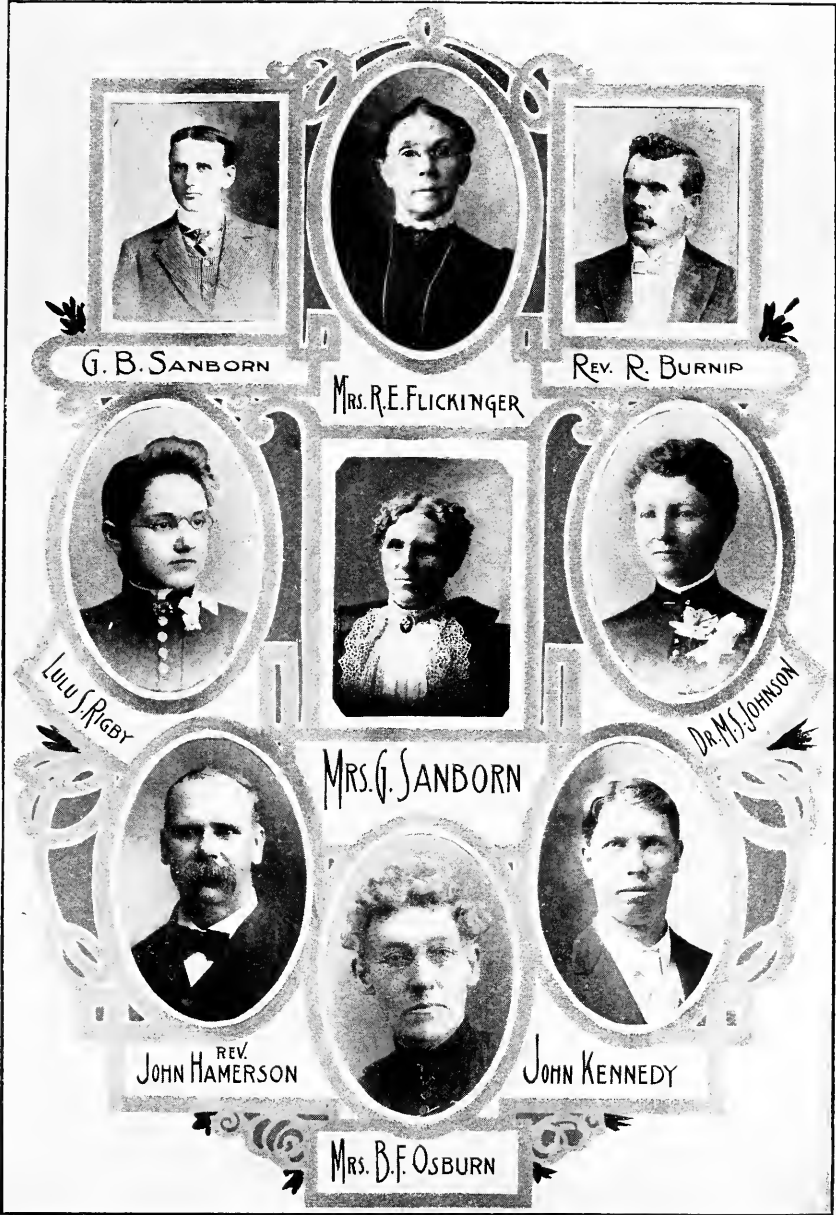
He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, the martyr president, at Baton Rouge, in 1864, during the period of his military service. He has voted for every republican candidate for president since that date and has been an advocate of the principles and policies of the republican party.

He became a member of the G. A. R. post at Jefferson, Wis., in the fall of 1866, and has been a member of the Fonda post since its organization in 1885. Perceiving that strong drink has been our nation's greatest curse, he has been a fearless advocate of total abstinence and prohibition. He has always lent a helping hand when efforts have been put forth for the suppression of the open saloon, assists in the support of the churches in Fonda and has contributed toward the erection of nearly every church in Pocahontas county.

He is now one of the oldest resident citizens of this section and both in the postoffice and through the columns of THE TIMES he has for many years well and truly served the best interests of this community. In the printing office he worked at first on the old Washington hand-press and sustained a serious loss by the fire of 1883. These were years of hard work and many discouragements. Instead of yielding to these discouragements he made provision for better facilities by the erection of a larger and more permanent building and has inserted better presses as the years have passed, so that today the work of this office is unsurpassed by any in Northwest Iowa, and the Times maintains its position of being not only the oldest, but the best paper in Pocahontas county.

Mrs. Sanborn was for eight years previous to December, 1899, superintendent of the Juvenile Temple, and, since its reorganization in 1886, has been an unflinching supporter of the lodge of Good Templars. She has also





G. B. SANBORN



MRS. R. E. FLICKINGER



REV. R. BURNIP



LILLI S. RIGBY



MRS. G. SANBORN



DR. M. S. JOHNSON



REV. JOHN HAMERSON



MRS. B. F. OSBURN



JOHN KENNEDY

FONDA AND VICINITY.



MAUD M. JORDAN

MAUD F. MILLER

MAUD S. KELLEY

EMMA P. TAYLOR

HARRIET C. CHAPMAN

ROSE STEINER

CYRUS THOMPSON

GEO. G. CRAFT

JOS. B. BOLLARD

REPRESENTATIVES OF PIONEER FAMILIES, FONDA AND VICINITY.

been an active member of the Relief Corps since its organization. Whilst her social standing places her among the cultured and refined, she mingles with the humblest, sympathizes with them in their trials and by her kind ministries endeavors to help them live better and nobler lives. The noble woman is never more a queen than when

“Teaching us how to seek the highest goal,  
To earn the true success,  
To live, to love, to bless—  
And make death proud to take a royal soul.”

Their family has consisted of seven children, five of whom died in their childhood and youth, Chester at the age of twelve, in 1892. Lulu, after graduating at Epworth college, on August 25, 1897, married A. E. Rigby, a graduate of Cornell college, principal of the Manchester high school two years and now pastor of the M. E. church at Elk Point, S. Dak. George B. (b. Oct. 26, 1876) has been an efficient assistant in the postoffice for a number of years and in 1900 was the census enumerator for Cedar township, including the town of Fonda.

**Sargent** Americus Vespucius, (b. Dec. 2, 1821), resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1877, is a native of Orange county, Vermont, the son of Enoch and Lydia (Littlehale) Sargent. In 1834 he married Mary Whipple, (b. Corydon, N. H., Apr. 23, 1819) and six years later moved to Newport, Sullivan county, N. H. In the spring of 1854 he moved to a farm in Clayton county, Iowa, later to another one in Delaware county, and after the war to Elkader, the county seat of Clayton county, and engaged in the livery business. In 1877 he located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, Cedar township, improved and occupied it until 1891, when he moved to Fonda. He was a trustee of Cedar township fifteen years, 1883-97, and is a member of the M. E. church.

His family consisted of five sons, all of whom, except Alberti, were born in New Hampshire, are still living and the oldest three, VanBuren, George W. and James W., were members of the same company and regiment, Co. F, 27th Iowa, during the civil war. VanBuren enlisted \_\_\_\_\_, 1862, George and James Feb. 15, 1864. On July 17, 1865 they were transferred to the 12th Iowa Inf. and were discharged at Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 20, 1866.

1—VanBuren Whipple (b. May 5, 1845) on Dec. 4, 1868, married Jane Fowler, located on a farm in Clayton County, Iowa, and in the spring of 1869 on his present farm on section 36, Buena Vista county. His family has consisted of five children: Arthur, Nov. 1, 1890, married Lily Stodgel, lives in Cedar township and has a family of three children; Maude, a teacher, Dec. 23, 1897, married Duncan A. Kelly and lives at Smithville, Texas; Raymond, a carpenter, has been in the Klondike region since 1898; Herbert, a farmer, on April 25, 1900, married Ella Dumond and lives in Sac county; Jennie on June 27, 1900, married Fred Holtz and lives at Newell.

2—George Washington, (b. Aug. 5, 1847,) in 1878 married Addie Woodward, at Elkader, and dealt in stock there until 1891, when he came to Fonda and engaged in the hotel business, erecting the Washington House in 1892. He is now at LaCrosse, Wis., and has a family of four children: Albert, Edward, Luella and Eva.

3—James Wellington, a twin brother of George W., in 1874 married Sarah Love and engaged in the livery business at Elkader. In 1890 he came to Fonda, and in 1894 married Mamie Cunningham and has a family of three children: Claude, Nodica and Frank.

4—Herbert Eugene, (b. Oct. 15, 1852) a painter, in 1877, married Mary Gould, of Sac county, lives in Fonda and has a family of four children: Van, a teacher and painter, Ruth, Laura and Allie.

5—Alberti Whipple (b. Aug. 23, 1861) a native of Delaware county, Iowa, after attending the Iowa State Normal school at Cedar Falls, several terms, served as principal of the Rolfe, Pomeroy and Fonda public schools, each one or more years. On June 6, 1888 he married Lydia, daughter of Rev. Edgar and Emiline Stevens, lives at Fonda and has a family of four children: Bernice, V., Mary Louisa, Forrest and Glenn, two having died in childhood.

Mary, wife of A. V. Sargent, died March 20, 1890, and on Nov. 27, 1895, he married Nancy D. (Brush) Moulton and they live at Fonda.

**Sargent** Isaac L., (b. 1819, d. Fonda, 1890) was a native of Orange county, Vermont, the son of Enoch and Lydia Sargent, who raised a family of eight children, three of whom, Isaac L., A. V. and Lydia, wife of Samuel Carleton, during the eighties located in Pocahontas county. Isaac married Rachel Colby, in 1865 moved to Henry county, Ill., in 1868 to Jefferson county, Iowa, and in 1885 to Cedar township. His wife died in 1874 in Jefferson county.

His family consisted of six children. Jennie E. in 1866 married W. A. Clark, a photographer, lives at Pentwater, Mich., and has a family of two children; Harrison H., in 1872, married Elizabeth Stewart and in 1894 died at Des Moines, leaving three children; Edwin I. in 1880 married Cordelia Sinclair, in 1881 located in Cedar township and in 1885 moved to Des Moines, where he has since been engaged in the commission business, owns a fine home in addition to several other valuable properties and has a family of seven children; James B. in 1876 married Ella Stewart, (died, Fonda, Nov. 26, 1895) in 1881 located on a farm of 200 acres in Cedar township, of which he was assessor two years, 1891-94, in 1889 moved to Fonda, where he has since been engaged in clerking, and

has a family of four children, Nellie May, a Fonda graduate in 1897 and a successful teacher since, Irwin H., Flora E. and Hazel B.; Ora O. in 1886 married Florence Clapp, both being graduates of Parsons college, Fairfield, Iowa, holders of state certificates and teachers for ten years, and now lives near Laurens; Flora E. in 1883 married V. A. Marsteller, a merchant, and lives at Wilcox, Neb.

**Swingle** Fred, resident of Fonda from 1874 to 1891, was a native of the Rhine province of Prussia, Germany, came with his parents to Livingston county, N. Y., in 1855, and there received his first lessons in the public school. After a few years he moved with his parents to a farm near the old military post, Fort Muscoda, on the Wisconsin river about forty miles east of Prairie du Chien. Here he attended the public schools and also the high school in Muscoda.

At fourteen he found employment in a store in Avoca, Wis., and spent one summer in Milwaukee. He then engaged in teaching in Grant and Iowa counties, Wis., until November, 1872, when he accepted a position in the store of Nicholas Kiefer at Pomeroy, Iowa. In February, 1874, at the request of Geo. Fairburn, director, he became teacher of the public school at Fonda, then called Marvin, and later taught several terms in other schools in the vicinity. Purchasing the coal business of E. O. Wilder, he added lumber to it and continued in the lumber and coal business until August, 1886, when he sold out to N. B. Post. He then dealt in hay and grain until August 1891, when he disposed of all his property in Fonda and moved to Sioux City.

Having a desire to engage again in teaching, he attended for a short time the Sioux City school, at the head of which was the late Prof. J. C. Gilchrist, the University of South Dakota one year and the Sioux

City college one year. He is now entering upon his fifth year as a teacher in the Sioux City schools.

On Dec. 13, 1875, he married Nellie R. Remtsma, of Webster county, Iowa, and she taught seven years in the public schools of Fonda. She was a native of Hanover, Germany, came with her parents to Ogle county, Ill., in her infancy, and later to Webster county, Iowa. After attending the public schools of Grand Detour, Ill., and Fort Dodge, Iowa, she attended the Des Moines school of Methods, Cook County Normal, Chicago, and the Denver Normal, Colo. At the age of sixteen she began to teach school, first in Calhoun county, Iowa, then in Webster and Pocahontas counties. In March, 1892, she was appointed first primary teacher in the Hawthorne school, Sioux City, and has been annually re-elected to that position since that date. During the summer vacations of the last six years she has been a teacher of primary methods in teachers' institutes held in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Fred Swingle was a member of the Fonda council three years, 1883-85. Both he and his wife took a leading part in the work of the M. E. church and Sunday school, and also in the organization and maintenance of the first Chautauqua circle during the early eighties. They were highly esteemed for their excellent social qualities and the valuable assistance they were able to render on all special or public occasions.

**Smeaton** David, and his wife, Esther O. (Riford) Smeaton, were residents of Fonda and vicinity from May, 1881, until April, 1890, when they moved to Des Moines. They first purchased the E $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 32, Cedar township, and located on that portion of it known as the Dorton homestead. A little later they purchased other lands in the vicinity until they had an aggregate of 560 acres. In the spring of

1883 they built a fine house on the west side of Main, between 4th and 5th streets, Fonda, and moving to town established a lumber yard southwest of the I. C. R. R. depot, and engaged in the sale of lumber, implements and hardware until June 12, 1884, when his warehouse and stock of implements and hardware were destroyed by fire. He then turned his attention to the cultivation of flowers, for which he erected a greenhouse, and to the improvement of their farms.

Mrs. Smeaton was one of the charter members of the Fonda Presbyterian church and served two years as the first president of the ladies' aid society. She was the daughter of Seth and Phoebe Riford, of Waukesha, Wis., whose family consisted of eight children, four of whom—one son and three daughters—became residents of Fonda and vicinity from 1874 to 1881. Eliza, the eldest, married David B. McKillips, and occupied the Stafford farm until 1890, when they moved to Fort Dodge; Sophia married Edward R. Ellis and died at Fonda in 1898; Royal Riford, the youngest, married Martha Jones and with a family of two sons, Seth and Thad, still lives in this vicinity.

**Tabor** Edward B. (b. Aug. 14, 1858) editor of the Pocahontas Times three years, 1877 to 1879, is a native of Lake City, Calhoun county, Iowa. He moved with his parents to Denison, then to Webster City, then to Cedar Falls and in 1862 back to Lake City. After a few months they moved to Davenport where they remained until the close of the year, then moved to Cedar Rapids and in 1867 again returned to Lake City, where he was favored with the opportunity of obtaining a limited education.

In 1872 he found employment in the office of the old Calhoun County Pioneer, the first paper published in that county, and began to learn the print-

er's trade. The office contained only a few fonts of type, a Washington hand-press and was a very small affair compared with the country offices of the present time.

Early in the spring of 1875 he came to Fonda and secured a position with M. D. Skinner on the Pocahontas Times, taking the place of Geo. M. Dorton, who had worked on the paper during the previous winter, and then returned to the farm from which he had been driven by the ravages of the grasshoppers in the fall of 1874. In the Times office Tabor did all the mechanical work including the printing of the paper, one page at a time on the old wooden press that worked with a screw like a cider-press.

In August, 1875, he purchased the Calhoun County Index and returned to Lake City. When he became proprietor of this newspaper he was only seventeen years of age. In the spring of 1876 he moved his outfit to Glidden and started the Glidden Express, the first paper published in that town. After a few months he sold the Express, returned to Lake City and worked on the Calhoun County Journal.

Jan. 1, 1877, he became foreman in the office of the Pocahontas Times then published at Pocahontas and owned by Messrs. MeEwen & Garlock, the former serving as editor. In October following he leased the Times office and in the spring of 1878 moved it to Fonda and continued in charge of it until Oct. 1, 1879, when it was sold to Geo. Sanborn, its present owner.

He then started the Fonda News, but the support it received proving insufficient, in the spring of 1880 it was moved to Pomeroy and called the Pomeroy News. In May, 1881, he received an appointment as a postal clerk on the I. C. R. R., a favor conferred by the late Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, who was then representing

this district in congress.

January 1, 1886, he resigned this position to accept one in the office of the Sioux City Journal, where, commencing at the exchange editor's desk he soon became successively city reporter, city editor, telegraph editor and finally managing editor. Jan. 1, 1890, he resigned this position and bought the Saturday Chronicle, a local, variety paper.

In July, 1891, he moved to Brandon, Miss., where in January following he established the Brandon News, which has prospered until it is now one of the foremost weeklies of that state, is published in a finely equipped office and proves a profitable enterprise.

On Dec. 25, 1877, he married Alice E. Townsend, of Carroll, and has a family of three children, the oldest one of whom was born at Fonda.

**Taylor** William, (b. June 6, 1819-d. Fonda, Oct. 31, 1890), was a native of Bourbon county, Ky. In his boyhood he moved with his parents to Greene county, Ill., and in 1855 to Macon county where, March 19, 1856, he married Harriet D. Seay. In 1859 they moved to Logan county, Ill., and in 1873 to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Cedar township, this county, which he improved and continued to occupy until the year previous to his death, when they moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of seven children: John W., a blacksmith, on April 14, 1897, married Mrs. Farrie A. (Watts) Metcalf, and lives at Varina; Mary E. in 1881, married Geo. W. Taylor, lives on a farm in Calhoun county and has one daughter, Daisy; Elizabeth in 1886, married Frank Brackenwagen, lives on a farm near Emmons, Minn., and has two children, Clarence and Leroy; Charles in 1888, married Cora Hendrickson, has two children, Lloyd and Pearl, and lives in Potter county, S. D.; Annie in 1889 married Charles Bevier, lives in Calhoun county and has one child, Al-

pheus; Martha lives with her mother in Fonda, and Edward, the youngest, in 1888 married Evelyn Aten, has one child and lives at Emmons, Minn.

Lucian and Milfred Seay, parents of Mrs. Taylor, in 1874 came to Cedar township and bought a farm three miles west of Fonda. A few years later they moved to Marathon, where she died July 21, 1885, and he, Aug. 16, 1895.

**Thompson** George E., (b. June 22, 1826, d. Cedar township, Aug. 20, 1891) was a native of Indiana county, Pa., the son of George C. and Elizabeth (Davis) Thompson. May 5, 1853, he married Evaline George and engaged in farming. Dec. 31, 1866, he moved to Aledo, Mercer county, Ill., where he remained three years. In November 1869, in two prairie schooners, he and his family made the trip to Redfield, Iowa, crossing the Mississippi at New Boston, Ill. In the fall of 1870 they located on a homestead of 80 acres on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, Cedar township. He improved this farm with good buildings and a new house in 1890, and occupied it until the time of his decease in 1891. In 1894 this farm was sold and the family moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of seven children, all of whom are still living. 1—Cyrus is a veteran school teacher, one who has been well qualified for teaching, stands high in educational circles and in the fall of 1899, as the democratic nominee for the office of county superintendent, polled a splendid vote—his own township of Cedar, that gave the republican candidate for county treasurer a majority of 187, giving him a democratic majority of 44 votes. He still lives with his mother. 2—Elizabeth Frances, March 24, 1875, married James Albarnus Sayre, who died in Fonda Oct. 29, 1894, leaving one daughter, Pearl, who on Sept. 6, 1900, married Evermond D. Snyder, of Des Moines. 3—George P.

March 29, 1883, married Alice Bliss, (daughter of George) of Dover township, and lives on a farm in Thayer county, Neb. 4—Harry C. Sept. 29, 1889, married Eugenia Gobelle, of Vermillion, S. D., and has one son, Earl. He was a telegraph operator for a number of years and is now an express agent at Kansas City, Mo. 5—James H., a railroad carpenter, on Dec. 22, 1898, married Lulu Spielman, lives at Fonda and has one child, Fern. 6—John A., August 26, 1896, married Dora Sayre, has one child and is engaged in the hardware business at Varina. 7—Mary, a dressmaker, in 1887 married Leslie Dean and their family consisted of one child, Daphne; in 1899 she married Eugene Herrington and now lives at Sioux City.

George H. Thompson, a nephew of George E., came with the latter to Pocahontas county in 1870 and homesteaded the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18. Cyrus Thompson owned this farm from 1885 to 1898.

**Thompson** Richard Perry (b. Dec. 16, 1843), resident of Cedar township since 1871, is a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, the son of John and Maria (Ross) Thompson. At thirteen he moved with his parents to Washington county, Iowa, where Dec. 29, 1869, he married Annabel, daughter of Dr. Nicholas and Mary (Curry) Ray. After visiting Washington county, Iowa, Johnson county, Kan., and several other sections of country in a prairie schooner, they decided to locate in Pocahontas county, Iowa, and in April, 1871, located on section 26, Cedar township. Six months later they purchased 80 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, improved and occupied it, with the exception of one year, until 1900, when they moved to Fonda.

He has been a careful and progressive farmer, and still manifests those habits of industry and thrift that were acquired in youth. Mrs. Thompson was one of the pioneer teachers of

Cedar township and although not the first one in that district, yet during the winter of 1871-72, taught the first term in the first school house built in the township outside of Fonda, which was the one on the southeast corner of Sec. 7, in the Sunk Grove district.

**Toy** James F., of Sioux City, president of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. Bank, Fonda, established this institution Sept. 1, 1886, while he was a resident of Storm Lake. In the early history of Storm Lake he organized and became president of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. By careful management previous to the above date it had not made a real estate loan on which a dollar had been lost or an acre of land taken on foreclosure. Having received that year an addition of \$100,000, making the capital stock \$250,000 with a surplus of \$56,000, the branch at Fonda was established with Geo. B. Kerlin in charge as cashier. After two years he was succeeded by P. C. Toy, a younger brother of James F., who remained in charge of it ten years, 1888-98. He was succeeded by Louis A. Rothe, the present cashier.

**Weaver** James B., (b. Jan. 5, 1854, d. Cedar township, Aug. 13, 1897), was a native of Deerfield, Oneida county, N. Y., and was the son of James and Arvilla (Smith) Weaver. Dec. 13, 1876, he married Cora, daughter of John and Sarah (Wilcox) Potter, and they lived at Marcy, N. Y., until the spring of 1886 when, with a family of five children, they came to Pocahontas county and began to occupy their present home on sections 1 and 12, Cedar township. His uncle, Abram B. Weaver, of Deerfield, bought of Thurlow Weed, N. Y., the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 1 in the spring of 1870, and came to view it on the excursion train of July 4th following, that signalized the completion of the laying of the track from Fort Dodge to Sioux City. In 1886 he bought also the N $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, on which the buildings are located, and in 1890

the E $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 1, making a farm of 800 acres in one body.

James B., while assisting one of his neighbors to thresh, stepped underneath a large box used for elevating the grain, and it fell upon him with such crushing force that he died one hour later. He was a man highly esteemed for his industry, integrity cordiality and success. All who knew him attest the nobility of his manhood.

His family consisted of ten children: William Potter, Claude J., Maude L., Helen, Sarah, Mildred, Abram G., Kenneth D., Angeline and Cora V., all of whom remain with their mother on the farm, except Maude, who in August, 1899, returned to the home of her uncle at Deerfield, N. Y., for the purpose of completing her education.

**Whitney** Charles H., (b. Nov. 20, 1833) resident of Fonda and vicinity since June 1870, is a native of Erie county, N. Y., the son of Erastus and Anna (Wilkinson) Whitney. In 1852 he moved with his father's family to McHenry county, Ill., where they remained four years and then moved to Sac county, Iowa.

On June 11, 1856, he married Levisa Blakeslee, and located on a farm in Dubuque county, Iowa, and after two years moved to Moore county, Minn. On Dec. 28, 1862, he enlisted and spent three years in the frontier service against the Indians in Minnesota and Dakota, (See page 45). In June, 1870, conveying his family and household goods in two wagons, he located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, Iowa, which he improved and occupied four years. He then purchased the two homesteads of Geo. H. and Sidney E. Wright on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, which he continued to occupy until the spring of 1898, when he moved to Fonda.

He served seven years as a trustee of Cedar township, 1875-78 and 1896-98; and was treasurer of the school



funds two years, 1877-78. He was one of the trustees of the M. E. church, Fonda, at the time of its incorporation in 1877, and has been a constant supporter of its services since they were first established.

His family has consisted of six children. Nettie married Warren Karr, lives in Fonda and has two children, Bessie and Charles; Oliiva married William Bower and lives at Sac City; Mamie married Marion Jenkins and lives at Pomeroy; Charles R., M. D., (see below); William married Lulu Reed and lives in Chicago, and Frank, who is still at home.

**Whitney** Charles R., M. D., (b. June 14, '63) resident of Fonda, is a native of Moore county, Minn., son of Charles and Levisa Whitney, with whom he came to Pocahontas county in 1870. After spending two years in the high school at Sac City, he spent four years in the Western Normal at Shenandoah, graduating first from the Normal and two years later from the Scientific department of that institution. In 1894, he graduated from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, and has since been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Fonda. During his first year he was associated with Dr. M. F. Patterson and then became his successor. He is a good representative of well trained home talent, has already successfully performed several difficult surgical operations and is rapidly growing in favor as a skilful physician. He is the owner of a farm of eighty acres on Sec. 24, Cedar township, and in 1896 built a fine residence in Fonda. On Sept. 15, 1896, he married Lillian Higgs, of Storm Lake, and has two children, Homer Higgs and Wayne.

**Wood** Alpheus Bowan Putnam (b. June 20, 1824, d. Fonda Oct. 8, '87), was a native of Batavia, N. Y. His father died when he was a child, leaving a family of three sons of whom he was the oldest. One of his brothers in his

boyhood left home and no trace of him was afterward discovered. The other one enlisted in the civil war and held the position of captain at the time he was killed on the field at Yorktown.

Alpheus worked for his board and clothing among the farmers of the neighborhood until he was able to command wages, and then entered a factory in Massachusetts. The next year he went to Michigan, found employment in a store and remained three years. He enjoyed the advantages of the public school only for a few months, but became well informed by reading the best books and papers his opportunities afforded. At twenty-one he found his way into a law office at Toulon, Ill., and two years later he was admitted to the bar. In 1849, in company with a number of others, he went by the pony express to California and, after a few months, passed to Oregon, where he located a claim several miles distant from any neighbor. When others arrived they founded a town which he named "Dallas," and it became the county seat of Polk county. Here he began the practice of law and by appointment filled the honorable positions of clerk of the senate, and judge of the probate court in that district of the territory of Oregon.

Returning to New York by way of the isthmus of Panama, on April 13, 1854, he married Cordelia Kysor, of Danville, and later that year moved to a farm in La Fayette county, Wis. In 1863, on account of a return of ill health, he moved with a family of seven children to Darlington, Wis., where he resumed the practice of law. He was mayor of this city several of the fourteen years of his residence in it. Becoming again affected with sciatic rheumatism, in March 1878, he located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, Iowa, and resumed work on the farm. Later he opened an office in Fond

and resumed the practice of law.

When the independent district of Fonda was organized March 9, 1880, he was chosen one of the three members of the first school board and continued to serve in that capacity until the time of his decease, Oct. 8, 1887, a period of seven years. He was an ardent friend of the cause of education, and took a leading part in promoting the interests of the Fonda schools. The erection of the first brick school building and the high standard of excellence attained at the same time in the work of the schools were in a great measure due to his interest and influence.

He was chosen a trustee and treasurer of the Fonda Presbyterian church at the time of its organization in 1886, and rendered efficient service until the time of his death which occurred the day before the building was dedicated.

He looked upon the legal profession as one of the most noble that can occupy the attention of man, and endeavored to adorn it by a true and noble life. He was animated with an absorbing desire to be useful rather than to accumulate wealth, and always advised an amicable adjustment of difficulties as preferable to the uncertainties of a lawsuit.

His family consisted of seven children, of whom Engenia, the firstborn, died in childhood at Fayette.

1—Adele, a graduate of the Darlington high school and a music teacher, on Oct. 5, 1876, married William J. Curkeet, (b. July 6, 1846) who engaged in farming near Darlington two years and then in March, 1878, with one daughter, Rena, came to Pocahontas county and located on a farm of 240 acres on Sec. 27, Grant township. He was a native of Galena, Ill., attended the Normal school at Plattville, Wis., Wheaton college, Ill., read law at Darlington, Wis. and was admitted to the bar in 1875. In 1880, he fell

from a small building and soon afterward became affected with paralysis in his limbs. After four years of intense suffering he died at Fonda Jan. 12, 1884. He served as a justice of the peace in Grant township two years, 1878-80. His wife and daughter continued to reside at Fonda until 1895, when with her mother, Mrs. A. B. P. Wood, they moved to Cedar Falls, where Rena completed a four years' course in the Iowa State Normal in 1898, graduated from its musical department in March 1900, and is now taking a two years' course in the Musical Observatory at Oberlin, Ohio.

2—Lois Ann, a graduate of the Darlington high school and the first principal in the independent district of Fonda, 1880 and '83; married Alexander F. Hubbell, (See Hubbell).

3—Adelbert Sylvanus Wood, (b. Aug. 25, 1858,) cashier of the Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda, since 1886, is a graduate of Darlington High School, learned telegraphy at Fonda, was operator at Parkersburg, Iowa, one year, 1881, agent of the I. C. R. R. at Fonda from June 15, 1882, to Sept. 15, 1884, then became bookkeeper in the Pocahontas County Bank and two years later its cashier. In 1896 he built one of the finest houses in Fonda and is the owner of 600 acres of land in Pocahontas county. He was the recorder of Fonda seven years, 1886-92, and treasurer of the school funds nine years, 1887-95. On Sept. 2, 1884, he married Mary Josephine, daughter of William and Abigail Alexander, and his family consists of four children, Arthur Bowan, Lucian, Percy Eugene and Delphine; Clark, the first-born, having died in childhood.

4—Cora Estelle married Dr. M. F. Patterson. (See page 434).

5—Affa died in 1881 at the age of nineteen, during a visit to Darlington with her sister Lois.

6—Abram Grosvenor Wood, (b. 1862) after spending one year at school in Valparaiso, Ind., graduated from the

law department of the State University, Iowa City, in June, 1886, and that same year commenced the practice of law in Fonda with his father. He was secretary of the Fonda school board three years, 1888-90, and mayor of the city two years, 1893-94. He spent most of the years '91-92 in a tour through Wyoming, California and other sections of the Pacific slope. In 1886 he married Emma Augusta Hull, and she died Sept. 30, 1888. In May, 1894, he married Jessie Roberts, two years later moved to his farm of 240 acres on Sec. 33, Sherman township, and has a family of three children, Abram, Cordelia and Margaret.

When A. B. P. Wood came to Fonda he purchased 2500 acres of land in Cedar, Sherman and Grant townships and all of it is still owned by different members of his family, except the farm on which he lived near Fonda.

**Wood** George Washington, (b. Oct. 25, 1825) resident of Cedar township from 1869 to 1892, was a native of Warren county, N. Y. One of his uncles was a sea captain, and at fifteen he became a sailor, first on Lake Champlain and later on a three-masted vessel on the Atlantic ocean. During the civil war he belonged to the construction corps of the Army of the Tennessee, and passed through the states of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. He continued a sailor until the year 1868, a period of twenty-five years. On May 3, 1869, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Cedar township, this county, which he improved and occupied for a number of years. He then moved to Fonda, and in 1892 to Marathon.

He first married Sarah Reach, who died in Cedar township Dec. 24, 1879, leaving one daughter, who married Nelson E. Bailey and now lives at Marathon. Later Mr. Wood married Mary Lovewell, and she died at Fonda Jan. 16, 1890.

**Wood** John Martin, (b. Apr. 3, 1822, d. Cedar township, Jan. 13, 1900) was a native of Warren county, N. Y., where in July 1854, he married Sarah T. Tubbs. March 27, 1870, they located on a homestead, the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Cedar township, where he erected first a sod house that was afterward replaced by an underground stone house in which he spent the remainder of his days. He raised a family of ten children: Alice married Joseph Gattson and lives in Monona county; Mary Maria married Julian Adams, Fonda; George W. and Charles C.; Wilson married Mary Jenkins and lives in Williams township; Lydia married Gus Eikhoff, Fonda; John Elmer and Ezra Eugene; William married Emma Holyer, Fonda; and Oller F.

**Woodin** David Milo, (b. Nov. 13, 1837) resident of Fonda since 1892, in May, 1870, located a homestead of 80 acres on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, Dover township and was the first to enter a homestead in that township. He is a native of Erie county, N. Y., the son of Amos and Harriet (Cobb) Woodin. At the age of eighteen he moved to Indiana, where he found employment as a stage-driver.

Soon after the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, he went to the army, became a teamster in the quartermaster's department of the Army of the Potomac, under McClellan, and so continued until the spring of 1863, when he located at Brodhead, Green county, Wis. On Jan. 4, 1864, he enlisted as a member of Co. K, 1st Wis. cavalry. After his enlistment he belonged to the Army of the Cumberland and was constantly engaged in scouting and skirmishing in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Prairie du Chien, Wis., May 26, 1865, having spent as a teamster and soldier about four years in the army.

After the war he spent two years in

the gold mining district in Montana. Returning to Wisconsin, on Sept. 12, 1868, he married Laura Mickelson, a native of Norway, and located on a farm. In May, 1870, he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, in a prairie schooner, located a homestead and made the entry of it in Sioux City. On Sept. 12th, following, having completed his harvesting and threshing in Wisconsin, he started again in the same way with his household goods and few farming implements to occupy the homestead. He was accompanied by his wife until they arrived at Webster City, where she remained that winter, and by her brother Newton, who assisted in breaking the first land on his homestead, which was the third plot of ground plowed in Dover township.

The ensuing winter was spent in an unoccupied cabin north of Webster City, and on May 12, 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Woodin began to reside in the first sod shanty in Dover township. During the period of haying and harvesting that year he returned to the vicinity of the cabin, sixty miles east, for the purpose of obtaining some lucrative employment. During this period of six weeks' absence Mrs. Woodin remained on the homestead alone to take care of the stock, and many a night did she sleep in the open wagon to which the horses and cow were tied. One of the pigs would be tied to a plow near by to prevent them from wandering away. Frequently the little prairie wolves, whose haunts were along the creek, in packs of twenty or more would surround the premises, break the stillness of the night by their mournful howl for a chicken, and have to be driven away. He improved this homestead, added eighty acres to it and occupied it until Feb., 1892, when he built a house in Fonda and moved to town.

He has been an industrious, hard-

working man, whose perseverance has enabled him to overcome difficulties that proved insurmountable to many others. He did not spend his time hunting in the early days, but has stacked his own hay at night after helping his neighbors during the day. During the first two winters he drew his coal from Fort Dodge and for several years afterward twisted hay and used it for fuel, as did also some of his neighbors. His noble wife has been a faithful helper to him. In the early days she used to enjoy catching prairie chickens by setting a number of steel traps around the patch of corn and sprinkling a few grains around them. A dozen chickens were occasionally caught in this way in a single day. Two badgers were also caught. The portraits of both Mr. and Mrs. Woodin may be seen in this volume.

**Wright** Rensselaer, (b. Nov. 18, 1850) resident of Fonda and vicinity since 1882, is a native of Lockport, Ill., the son of Rev. Robert Wright, (b. Saratoga Springs, N. Y., 1812, d. York Neb., 1891) and Mary Granger (b. Yorkshire, England, 1811, d. Fonda, Iowa, 1899) who were married in 1835 at Pultneyville, N. Y. On Nov. 18, 1874 he married Luella E. Bonett and located at West Brooklyn, Ill., where he found employment as a railway agent until 1877, when he was assigned the station at Wedron, Ill., where he remained five years. In the spring of 1882 he bought and moved to the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, Cedar township, and when the Wabash (now the C. M. & St. P.) R. R. was completed to Fonda he opened the station in a box-car Dec. 18, following, and continued as its first agent until March, 1884. In 1887 he purchased the furniture stock of George Fairburn, and moved to Fonda, where he is still engaged in the furniture business, in the management of which his wife has always taken a personal interest. At Fonda he was operator for the I. C. R. R.

from May, 1889, to August, 1892, and for the C. M. & St. P. R. R. since Oct. 1, 1899. He was justice of the peace of Cedar township six years, 1887-90, '97-98, and secretary of the Big Four Fair association three years, 1897-99.

His family consists of one son, (another having died in infancy) Lewellyn R., (b. West Brooklyn, Ill., Mar. 22, 1876) a Fonda graduate in 1894. He acquired a knowledge of watchmaking and optics at Elgin, Ill., and has been the popular jeweler and optician at Fonda since 1897. On June 20, 1900, he married Mabel, only daughter of J. R. and Lucy Johnson.

#### FIRST DEATH.

John Klow, who was accidentally drowned while endeavoring to cross Cedar creek, at the fording north of the Catholic church, Fonda, during the great flood in August, 1869, is believed to have been the first white person who died in Cedar township. He was about twenty years of age and had accompanied George Sanborn from Jefferson, Wis., that spring, assisting to drive the stock on the way. He found employment as a day laborer in the western part of the township and coming on foot to the Cedar found it bank-full from heavy rains that had fallen in the north part of the county. Having no other means of crossing the flooded stream he asked leave to hold to the tail of a horse belonging to a man who crossed it horseback, and when they were about the middle of the stream he lost his hold, possibly from cramp, and was drowned. His body was recovered soon afterward and buried on the east bank of the creek on the homestead of Abigail J. Howell, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, now owned by Harvey Eaton.

#### FIRST WEDDING.

The first wedding in Cedar town-

ship occurred in January 1871. The contracting parties were William Richards, whose homestead was on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, and a lady who resided in Buena Vista county, about six miles northwest; and the justice was George Sanborn, who went out from Fonda on horseback to perform the ceremony. When he arrived at the home of the bride, where she and her friends were awaiting the ceremony, he found the license was for Pocahontas county, and they were more than a mile west of the county line. At his suggestion they and their friends got into their sleds and drove eastward until they arrived at a large haystack that stood on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, Cedar township, where they found a slight refuge from the wintry wind. There on the snow covered prairie and in the open air of mid-winter the ceremony was performed while the bridal pair stood together on the sled.

This incident reminds one of the Squire who united "for better or for worse" two persons with this unique ceremony:

"Jim will you take Bet,  
Without any regret,  
To love and to cherish,  
'Till one of you perish  
And is laid under the sod,  
So help you God?"

After the usual affirmative answer, he proceeded:

"Bet will you take Jim,  
And cling to him,  
Both out and in,  
Through thick and thin,  
Holding him to your heart,  
'Till death do you part?"

When her assent had been modestly given, he added:

"Through life's alternate joy and  
strife,  
I now pronounce you man and wife;  
Let none other you asunder part.  
For better or for worse, now de-  
part."

OLDEST PERSON.

Jeremiah Herrington, Fonda, born in Ireland March 9, 1808 and now in his 93d year, is the oldest inhabitant in Cedar township.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Public officers have been elected from Cedar township as follows: representative, James Mercer, 1890-91; auditors, A. O. Garlock, '74-81, T. F. McCartan, '86-92; treasurers, J. N.

McClellan, '87-92, Guy S. Robinson, 1900-; recorder, R. D. Bollard, '91-98; sheriffs, T. J. Curtis, '72-73, Joseph Mallison, '80-81; superintendents, G. W. Hathaway, '72-73, J. P. Robinson, '82-85, A. W. Davis, '98-99; surveyor, Wm. Marshall, '73-83. Members of the Board of Supervisors, John A. Hay, '71-72; Bernard McCartan, '74-76; Harvey W. Hay, '77-79; Wm. Bott, '80-82, '86-88; James Mercer, '83-85.

## XIV.

### CENTER TOWNSHIP.

Almighty wisdom made the land  
 Subject to man's disturbing hand,  
 And left all for him to fill  
 With works of his ambitious will.  
 As ages slip away earth shows  
 How need by satisfaction grows.  
 And more and more its patient face  
 Mirrors the driving human race.

—E. S. MARTIN.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.



CENTER township is a gently undulating prairie drained by the north branch of Lizard creek, which flows through it in a southeasterly direction. The soil is excellent, and the name of the township is derived from its central position in the county.

Its history begins with November 4, 1870, when Warrick Price employed Fred Hess, of Fort Dodge, to make a

survey and plat of Pocahontas, on section 31, of which an account has already been given.\*

Warrick Price was a banker, residing at Cleveland, Ohio, who had purchased from the Roger Locomotive Co., of New Jersey, a large amount of land in the south part of that township, which that company had received in payment for engines and other rolling stock furnished the Du- buque & Pacific R. R. Co. By reason

\*See page 280.



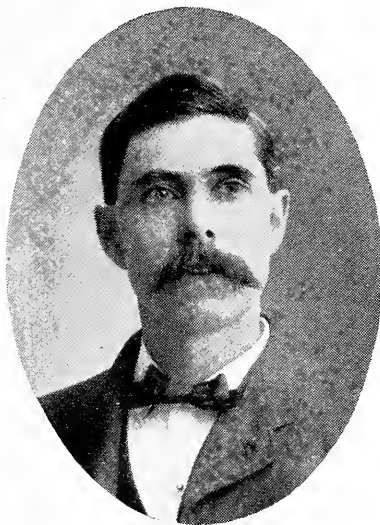
GEORGE A. HEALD,  
COUNTY ATTORNEY, 1903-4.



DR. O. H. BARTHEL.

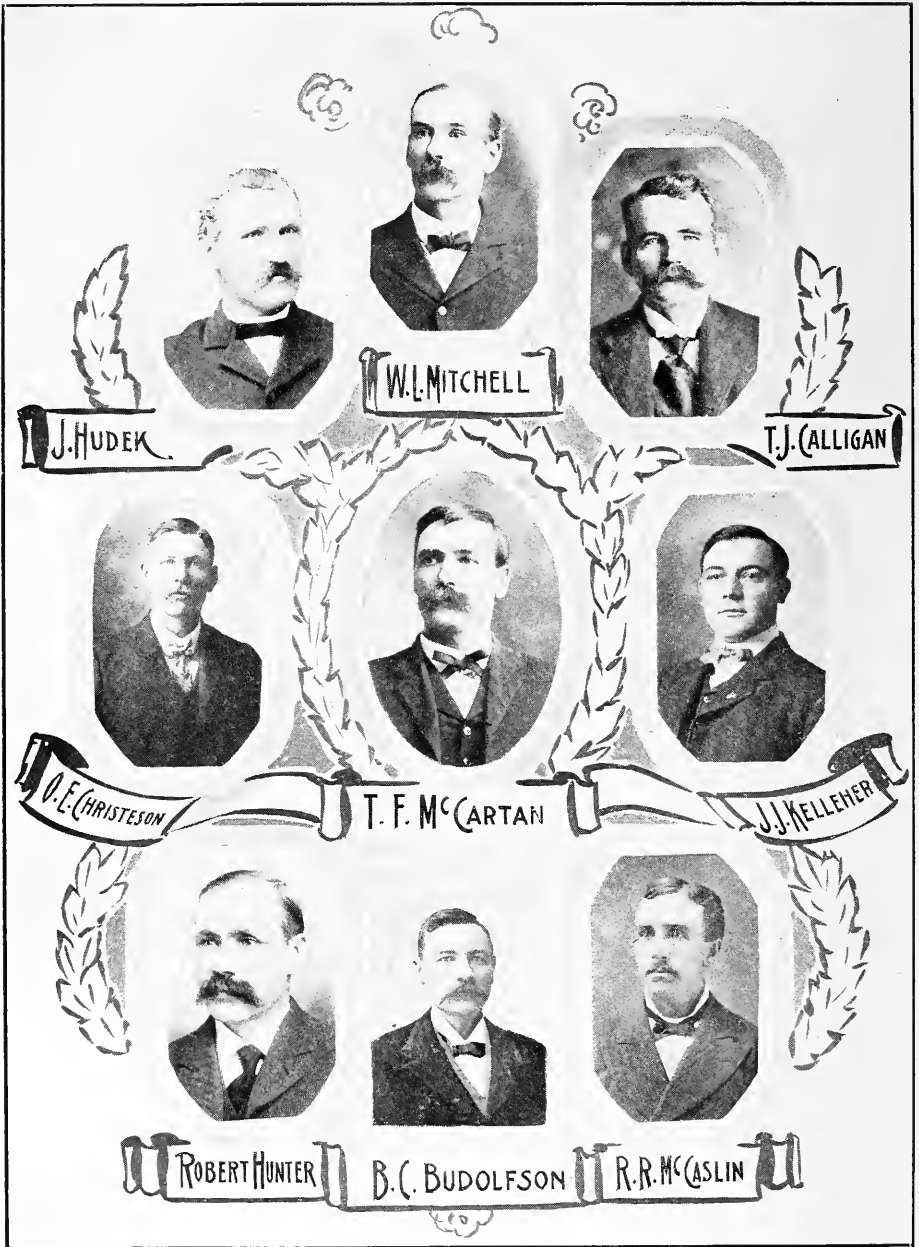


GUY S. ROBINSON,  
COUNTY TREASURER, 1900-05.



ULYSES S. VANCE,  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, 1900-05.

**POCAHONTAS.**



POCAHONTAS AND VICINITY.



of its location in the center of the county, he named the plat of the new village, "Pocahontas Center," and, indulging the hope it would become the location of the county seat, he donated to the county, in addition to its streets and avenues, a large square in the center of the plat for a public park and court house. This square contains five and one-half acres and is only a half mile from the geographical center of the county.

There was not a resident, tree or sign of any improvement in the township at the time this was done. The lines of settlement previous to this date had been northwestward along the Des Moines river in the east part of the county, and westward along the I. C. R. R. in the south part of it.

Warrick Price then employed Hess (Fred) & Behring, real estate agents at Fort Dodge, to look after and dispose of his lands in this county, and they, in the fall of 1871, erecting a small office with two rooms, south of the court house square, sent to Pocahontas two young men whose names were Mare and Barian, to act as their local agents and show the lands to prospective purchasers. These men remained only until March, 1872, when as local land agents, they were succeeded by Wenzel Hubel, of Fort Dodge, who purchased the office and ten acres of ground as a home for himself, wife and four children—William, Mary, Annie and Cedora—and to him and his family has been accorded the honor of being the first permanent residents of Pocahontas. At the time of his arrival, B. F. Brown, wife and six children were occupying a building that stood south of the site of the stone bank. He owned no real estate, was engaged in hunting and trapping, entertained travelers, especially those passing on the old stage route from Fort Dodge to Sioux Rapids, and soon moved away. This hotel building, 16x36, one and a half stories

in height, lined and sheathed with flooring, had been erected by a land company in the fall of 1870 and was first occupied by Albert Davy, who had a family of six children. After one and a half years he moved to Old Rolfe and three years later to Dakota.

In May, 1871, William A. Hubel became a temporary resident of Center township and engaged in breaking. At this date there was only one other building in Pocahontas besides the hotel and it was a blacksmith shop that stood on the site of the Garlock and McEwen home. It was in charge of a Swede, who remained only that year. In the spring of 1871, N. Kiefer, of Pomeroy, built a small store-room north of the blacksmith shop and during that year, it was managed by his daughter Mary, but the store was then discontinued and the building removed. The fourth building erected was the real estate office occupied by Wenzel Hubel, which in the fall of 1872 was enlarged and he was appointed the first postmaster in the new village. William A. Hubel, his son, carried the mail on horseback once a week from Pomeroy.

Bonifacio Erne, who located on section 17, early in the spring of 1871, was the first farmer and did the first breaking in the township. He was a German, had a wife, commenced in a sod shanty and remained on the farm about five years, when he moved to Pocahontas and the next year to a homestead in Grant township.

In 1872 three other farmers located in the township, namely, Frank Langer, on section 19, later a resident of Dover, but now of Pocahontas; Joseph Stoullil, on section 21, but now on 19, and Joseph Stverak, on section 21, now in Dakota.

In 1873, among the additional families in the township were those of Frank Hronek Sr., on the E½ Sec. 19; D. Berryman, on section 2; James Eral,

on section 27, and Fred Mott, who moved to Boone in 1880.

In Pocahontas Thomas J. Bilsky erected a building on the east side of the street and established a grocery. Benjamin Brown also located there. He was a great hunter, worked at carpentry occasionally and after two years moved to Estherville. Joseph Machovec also erected a building in Pocahontas and occupied it that year. The next year it was used for the first public school established there, under Miss Hattie Barnes, of Powhatan, who continued to teach for several terms, the first schoolhouse having been built by William A. Hubel in the fall of 1874.

In 1874, Joseph Nemick built the Center (later called the Bissell) House and during the next ten years kept the first regular hotel in Pocahontas. John Bartak established a harness shop, Michael Bartosh located on section 29, and John Eral on section 23.

In 1875, a number of Bohemian families from Winnishiek county located in the township, among whom were those of Albert and Joseph Lukes, M. and T. Shimon, (on section 36) and Joseph Sobereik. David (Deiderick) Brinkman located on section 24.

In 1876 the court house was built at Pocahontas and the county officials, consisting of W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, J. W. Wallace and others, located there, the first two building a large double house. Louis Brodsky engaged in the mercantile business as the successor of T. J. Bilsky, and F. J. Payer located on section 28.

In 1877 a number of Bohemian families from Chicago located in the township, among whom were those of Albert Jelenek, Charles Nemeck, (no relative of Joseph) John Dives, Ignac Votlucka and Frank Sernett. Peter Murphy located on section 7.

In 1878, another lot of Bohemian families came from Chicago, among whom were those of Joseph Sinek, on

section 28; John Veterna and Joseph Marketan; and from Bohemia, Frank and Wenzel Vodreska. After this the settlement of the township progressed quite rapidly, the Bohemians constituting a large proportion of the population and establishing Catholic services at Pocahontas in the spring of 1875. Whilst the settlement of the township was retarded by the ravages of the grasshoppers in 1873-74 and 1876-77, and its great distance from market over roads that had no bridges, it was encouraged by Warrick Price, who donated to every purchaser of 160 acres from him one lot in Pocahontas, and of 320 acres, two lots. He also donated ample grounds for a school house site, a cemetery and the Catholic church. The increase in population and rise in the price of land were greatest during the period from 1885 to 1893.

#### ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

Center township was included in Des Moines until the date of its establishment by the board of supervisors, September 8, 1874. The first officers were elected on October 13, 1874, and were as follows: Joseph Stoullil, Joseph Stverak and Frank Hronek, trustees; Joseph Stverak, clerk; Joseph Nemick, justice of the peace, and George Mott, assessor, who entered upon their duties Jan. 1, 1875. The judges at this first election were Frank Langer, Joseph Nemick and Joseph Stverak, and the clerks were Wenzel Hubel and Fred Mott.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES: Joseph Stoullil, 1875-76, '79; Joseph Stverak, 1875-79; Frank Hronek, 1875-76; David Brinkman, '77-78; George Mott, '77-78, '80; John Viterna, '79; John Eral, '80-83; Vit Payer, '80; John Divish, Frank Langer, '81; J. S. Smith, '81; O. C. Christopherson, Thomas Shimon, '82; Anthony Sectlachka, '82; Charles T. Stein, '83-84; Henry Schrader, '83-84, '95; John Hrc-

nek, '84-92; Geo. F. Spence, '85-89; Samuel Powell, '85-91; Charles L. Gunderson, '80-92 and '95-97; James Stoullil '92-94; T. E. Ferguson, '93-94; John Eral, '93-94; James W. Eral, '95-1900; W. C. Walkenhaur, '86-98; Martin Paduska, '98-1900; Richard Grant, '99-1900.

CLERKS: Joseph Stverak, '75; Fred Mott, '76-77; Frank E. Hronek, '78; Albert Shimon, '79-82; Peter Murphy, '83-85; Frank J. Payer, '85-88; Anthony Hronek, '89-91; James Lehane, '92-94; Joseph Wolf, '95-98; F. M. Starr, '99-1900.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: Joseph Nemick, '75-79; J. E. Pattee, '80; Michael Crahan, '81; W. G. Bradley, '82; E. M. Hastings, '83; G. B. Gunderson, '84; C. L. Stein, '85-87; George F. Spence, '88; C. L. Gunderson, '89-90, '92-93; O. P. Phillips and J. W. Wallace, '91; W. D. Pattee, '94-98; W. H. Bissell, '87-90; A. L. Schultz, '98-1900.

ASSESSORS: George Mott, '75-76; N. L. Brown, '77; Fred Brown, '78; Wm. A. Hubel, '79-80; O. C. Christopherson, '81; Theo. Stein, '82; O. A. Pease, D. Brinkman, H. W. Bissell, 85-89; D. B. Dady, H. C. Burkhalter, '92-93; Joseph Sinek, 94-1900.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

The first public school in Center township was taught in Pocahontas in 1873, by Hattie Barnes, who later became the wife of Edward Snell and died at their home in Crawford county, in 1884. The first school house was also built in Pocahontas in the fall of 1874. In March, 1875, the township first elected its own school board, and Joseph Nemick, contractor, built a small temporary school building on the farm of Albert Shimon on section 36, and the two teachers employed that year were Katy and Amy Condon. In 1876 a third building was built by Wm. A. Hubel on section 32 and the first teacher in it was Anna Hubel. In 1879 the first school house in the Brinkman district was built on

the NE Cor. Sec. 23, and about the same time a permanent building was built in district No. 8. In 1887 the school house in district No. 2 was built by W. A. Hubel, and in 1888 the one in district No. 4 by Joseph Mikesh.

On March 17, 1884, the board arranged with N. Stelplflug, for \$15.00, to plant 500 forest trees on the various school grounds. In 1888, a uniform series of text-books (Appleton's) was adopted for a period of three years.

Other teachers who taught previous to 1883, were Annie and Katie Crilly, Anna O'Niel, Mary E. Kelley, Mattie E. Waite, G. B. Gunderson, Anna Anderson, Ida Garlock, Jessie Mallison, Lizzie O'Brien, Mary Dady, Anna C. Kruchten, Julia Lamb, Bridget McDermott, Jennie Fitzgerald, Eliza J. Brown, Emma Lowrey, Florence Hastings and Miss McLarney.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.

At the first election of school directors for Center township held March 1, 1875, Frank Langer served as chairman and Fred Mott as secretary. Frank Langer, Frank Hronek, Sr., and Wenzel Hubel each received four votes and were declared directors of the school district of Center township. One week later Joseph Nemick was elected a director in place of Frank Hronek, who declined to serve, and he was then chosen president of the board, Fred Mott, secretary, and Jos. Stoullil, treasurer. The succession of officers has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD: Joseph Nemick, 1875, '79; David Brinkman, '76-77; Geo. Mott, '78; J. W. Wallace, '80-81, '83; A. O. Garlock, '82; J. F. Harlan, '84; C. H. Tollefsrude, '85-87; Geo. F. Spence, W. C. Ralston, O. A. Pease, '90-'91; Frank E. Hronek, '92-'95; James Lehane, R. C. Grant '97; Anthony Hronek, 1900.

The board in 1900 consisted of seven members representing the districts as follows: 2—Ira Coburn; 3—A. W.

Freeman; 4—W. C. Walkenhaur; 5—Port C. Barron, '97; Frank E. Hronek, John Hronek; 6—R. C. Grant; 7—C. L. '98-1900.  
Gunderson; 8—Anthony Hronek.

SECRETARIES: Fred Mott, 1875-76; Wm. A. Hubel, '87-81; W. C. Ralston, '82-84; Frank E. Hronek, '85-87; J. W. Wallace, '88-97; James Lehane, C. L. Gunderson, R. C. Grant.

TREASURERS: Joseph Stoullil, '75-76; Fred Mott, '77-78; Albert Shimon, '79-80; E. M. Hastings, '81, '85; C. M. Hunt, '82-84; C. F. Stein, '86; Samuel Powell, '87-90; John Stegge, '91-92; T. McCartan, '93-96; James Eral, '97-1900.

#### POCAHONTAS.

"Thirty years ago, Pocahontas,  
You were fair—yes, very fair;  
There were no furrows on your brow,  
No silver in your hair;  
The blush of early womanhood  
Was on your verdant cheek,  
The wild flowers on your bosom  
Exhaled their fragrance sweet."\*

Pocahontas was platted in 1870, was chosen as the county seat Oct. 12, 1875, and became the county seat by the erection of the court house and removal of the public records from Old Rolfe, Oct. 1, 1876. On March 23, 1892, in response to a petition presented, the Judge of the district court appointed B. J. Allen, W. C. Ralston, L. C. Thornton, O. A. Pease and Port C. Barron commissioners to hold an election May 13, 1892, on the question of incorporation. At this election forty-seven votes were cast, all of them in favor of incorporating the town. On June 13, 1892, the first officers of the town were elected and as follows: W. C. Ralston, mayor; Port C. Barron, recorder; R. D. Bollard and B. J. Allen, (1 year), L. C. Thornton and T. F. McCartan, (2 years), H. W. Bissell and Frank E. Hronek (3 years), councilmen; and they appointed Geo. A. Heald, treasurer. The succession of officers has been as follows:

MAYORS: W. C. Ralston, 1892-93; H. W. Bissell, Geo. A. Heald, '95-96;

\*Iowa State Register: a paraphrase of the first stanza of the poem, "Thirty Years My State"

RECORDERS: Port C. Barron '92-94; J. E. Pattee, '95-97; E. E. Burkhalter, '98-99; C. F. Pattee, 1900.

TREASURERS: Geo. A. Heald, '92; C. M. Hunt, '93-97; J. B. Kreul, '98-99; A. D. Shupe, 1900.

COUNCILMEN: H. W. Bissell, '92-93, '97-1090; F. E. Hronek, '92-94; L. C. Thornton, '92-1900; T. F. McCartan, '92-96; R. D. Bollard, '92-94; B. J. Allen, N. Stelpflug, '92-95; W. C. Ralston, '94-97; C. A. Charlton, '95-97; O. H. Barthel, '95; W. H. Joner, '96-97; B. W. Cheney, '96; Joseph Simpson, '96-'98; T. F. McCartan, '98-1900; C. F. Fattee, '98-1900; F. Chalstrom, '98; O. H. Barthel, '98-1900; S. Steinhilber, '98-1900; H. J. Murray, '99-1900; L. C. Thornton, '99-1900; N. Stelpflug, 1900.

In the spring of 1897, owing to an irregularity in filing the nomination papers, the annual election of officers was not held and the vacancies were filled by persons appointed by the town council.

Doubts having arisen as to the legality of the incorporation of the town of Pocahontas, the election of its officers, acts done and ordinances passed by the council, on May 14, 1897, an act of the General Assembly of Iowa was approved, that legalized and declared valid and binding all of said acts and ordinances, as though they had been done in accordance with the law.

#### POCAHONTAS INDEPENDENT DISTRICT.

The electors of the independent school district of Pocahontas met first May 4, 1896, for the purpose of electing a board of education to consist of three members. At this meeting J. E. Pattee was chosen to preside, and J. W. Wallace to act as secretary. As a result of this election, at which sixty ballots were cast, W. C. Ralston, F. E. Hronek and Port C. Barron were elected directors, the first one receiving the ballot of every voter.

On May 30, 1896, the board met and



JOSEPH H. ALLEN,  
BANKER.



WILL. D. McEWEN,  
BANKER.



W. S. CLARK,  
EDITOR, POCAHONTAS DEMOCRAT.



D. O. BLAKE,  
EDITOR, POCAHONTAS RECORD.

**POCAHONTAS.**



RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH H. ALLEN, POCAHONTAS.



RESIDENCE OF WILL. D. McEWEN, POCAHONTAS.

organized by the election of W. C. Ralston, president, and J. W. Wallace, secretary. On Nov. 17, 1896, Geo. A. Heald was appointed treasurer, and on Feb. 15, 1897, \$1089.94 were acknowledged as received from Center township on final settlement.

On March 8, 1897, by a vote of 32 to 21, it was decided the board of education should furnish free text-books for use in the schools. The school year was increased to nine months and the wages of the three teachers employed was fixed at \$45.00, \$35.00 and \$35.00, respectively. In 1898 the board was increased to five members. The succession of the school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS:** W. C. Ralston, 1896-97; J. W. Wallace, '98; R. D. Bollard, 99-00. Others who have served as members of the board were F. E. Hronek '96-97; P. C. Barron, '96; C. F. Pattee '97-1900; H. R. Shupe, '98-1900. F. H. Plumb, '99-1900. W. C. Ralston has continued a member since its organization.

**SECRETARIES:** J. W. Wallace, '96-'97; J. E. Pattee, A. L. Schultz, '99-.

**TREASURER:** Geo. A. Heald, since the date of its organization in 1896.

The second school was established in Pocahontas in 1891 and the third one in 1896. The succession of principals since 1891 has been Kittie Coutant, '91-92; Minnie Curtis, '93-94; Wm. R. T. Merwine, '95-96; Walter B. Munson, '97-1900. Some of those who were assistant teachers during this period were Norma L. and Grace Gilchrist, Maggie Hogan, Effie and May Mercer.

**POSTMASTERS.**

The succession of postmasters at Pocahontas has been, Wenzel Hubel, Oct. 1, 1872-Oct. 1, '77; A. O. Garlock, '77-81; O. A. Pease, '81-86; J. F. Harlan, March 1, '86-87; Frank E. Hronek, Sept. '87-Nov. '95; George Steinhilber, Nov. 1, '95-Aug. 1, '97; Port C. Barron, Aug. 1, '97, until his death, July, 9, 1900; Mrs. Mary E. Barron, July 9, 1900-

**POCAHONTAS IN 1900.**

**COUNTY OFFICERS:** Auditor I. C. Thatcher; Clerk of Court, F. H. Plumb; Treasurer, Guy S. Robinson; Recorder, Leonard E. Hanson; Sheriff, Wm. L. Mitchell; County Attorney, Wm. Hazlett; Superintendent, U. S. Vance; Surveyor, H. W. Bissell; Coroner, Dr. T. J. Dower; Supervisors, Terry Doyle, chairman; Claus Johnson, A. H. Rich-ey, M. A. Hogan, Charles Elsen.

**TOWN OFFICERS:** Mayor, Frank E. Hronek; Recorder, C. F. Pattee; Treasurer, A. D. Shupe; Councilmen, O. H. Barthel, M. D., T. F. McCartan, L. C. Thornton, H. J. Murray, S. F. Steinhilber, N. Stelpflug.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** R. D. Bollard, Pres.; A. L. Schultz, Sec.; Fritz Lindeman, Treas.; F. H. Plumb, C. F. Pattee, H. R. Shupe, W. C. Ralston, directors; W. B. Munson, principal.

**ABSTRACTERS:** L. C. Thornton & Co. since 1885; W. C. Ralston, since 1886; Hazlett (Wm.) & (O. P.) Malcolm, Foster & Graves.

**ATTORNEYS:** W. C. Ralston, '81-83, '86-1900; Geo. A. Heald, since '89; Wm. Hazlett, since '92; A. L. Freelove, since '99; T. F. Lynch, since '99; James Bruce, C. D. Atkinson, Foster (B. B.) & (W. A.) Graves.

**ARCHITECT AND SUPERINTENDENT:** F. B. Wheeler.

**AUCTIONEERS:** C. M. Fritz, J. E. Pattee.

**BANKS:** Pocahontas Savings Bank, established and stone building erected in 1883; L. C. Thornton, Pres.; W. C. Ralston, V. P.; W. S. McEwen, cashier; Bank of Pocahontas was established in 1891, J. H. Stegge, Pres.; Geo. A. Heald, V. P.; T. F. McCartan, cashier; Allen Bros. (J. H., C. S. & B. L.) F. W. Lindeman, cashier; City Exchange Bank, W. D. McEwen Jr. and Joseph Simpson, proprietors.

**BARBERS:** J. W. Dougherty, since 1882; D. Helcher.

**BLACKSMITHS:** W. H. Joner, since 1880; George Kreul.

CARPENTERS: Ira and Charles Montgomery, Robert Thomas.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS: J. H. Metcalf, E. J. Shank, Fountain Bros., A. Montgomery, W. E. Gardner and Mr. Cummings.

CLOTHING: McGhee & Gilliland.

COAL, FEED & FLOUR: C. F. Pattee.

CIGAR MAKER: M. E. Burkhalter.

DENTIST: E. R. Holsen.

DRAYMEN: Wm. C. Starr, since 1899; C. F. Pattee, B. E. Kreul and W. A. Kiefer.

DRESSMAKERS AND MILLINERS: Mrs. B. Whitney, Lizzie Montgomery.

DRUGGISTS: S. C. Jones, (blind) since 1894; F. E. Freeman, since 1899.

ELEVATORS: Counselman's and Wheeler's, both built in 1900.

FURNITURE DEALERS: McIntire Bros., since 1899; C. P. Leithead & Sons; J. E. Pattee, agent; Wm. J. Leavitt, agent.

GENERAL MERCHANTS: Joseph Simpson, since 1892; Fritz & Fritz, in 1900, successors to Frank E. Hronek; Flaherty & Elliott, H. Townsend & Co.

GRAIN DEALERS: Counselman, Mr. Jones, Mgr.; Wheeler Grain & Coal Co., P. L. Rivard, Mgr.; S. B. Fritz and Byrne Bros.

HARDWAREMEN: Steinhilber Bros. (Geo. H. & Stephen F.) since 1892; Solomon Cundy.

HARNESS DEALERS: J. M. Bentley, Henry Becker.

HOTELS: Bissell House, built by Joseph Nemick in 1874, Thos. Hutchinson, manager, since 1899, successor to H. W. Bissell; The Grand, R. Burns.

IMPLEMENT DEALERS: Steinhilber Bros., F. W. Moore.

INSURANCE AGENTS: Wm. J. Leavitt, H. J. Murray, J. H. Stegge.

JANITORS: B. E. Kreul, of court house; John Dockal, school house.

JEWELERS: Wm. Boyd McClellan, since 1889; F. P. Jensen, since 1890.

LIVERYMEN: Thomas Hutchinson, F. J. & Joseph Southworth, both since 1899.

LUMBER & COAL: H. L. Jenkins Lumber Co., since 1893, C. S. Ferguson, Mgr.; J. & W. C. Shull, since 1899, W. J. Howard, Mgr.

MASONS AND PLASTERERS: J. A. Byerly, Robert Payton, M. Leahy.

MEAT MARKET: Shupe Bros. since 1891.

MUSIC TEACHERS: Mrs. I. C. Thatcher, Mrs. Geo. H. Steinhilber, Miss Joanna Barthel.

NEWSPAPERS: The Pocahontas Record, by Mrs. Mary E. Barron, since July 9, 1900, successor of Port C. Barron, its founder, in April, 1884; The Pocahontas Herald, by A. L. Schultz, its founder, in 1898.

PAINTERS: A. H. Gilbert, Wallace Haven.

PASTORS OF THE CHURCHES: Rev. W. A. Pape, Catholic, since 1895; Rev. C. W. Flint, M. E., since 1899. Churches built by Catholics, Baptists and Christians. Services also held by Presbyterians and Methodist Episcopal.

POSTMASTER: Mrs. Mary E. Barron.

PHYSICIANS: O. H. Barthel, A. H. Thornton, W. A. Hawley.

R. R. AGENT: W. F. Gerhart, of Gowrie & Northwestern.

RACKET STORE: M. McGrath.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS: L. C. Thornton, Foster & Graves, W. J. Leavitt.

RESTAURANT KEEPERS: M. E. Burkhalter, W. A. Haven, Hawley (Wm.) & (Ellis) Rubendall.

SHOEMAKER: John Dockal.

STOCK DEALERS: Fritz & Fritz, Wm. Flaherty.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM: Pocahontas Telephone Company, established by W. Boyd McClellan in 1900, R. D. Bollard, operator.

WAGON MAKERS: W. H. Joner, Geo. Kreul.

WELL DRILLERS: Joseph Mikesh, John Seogde.

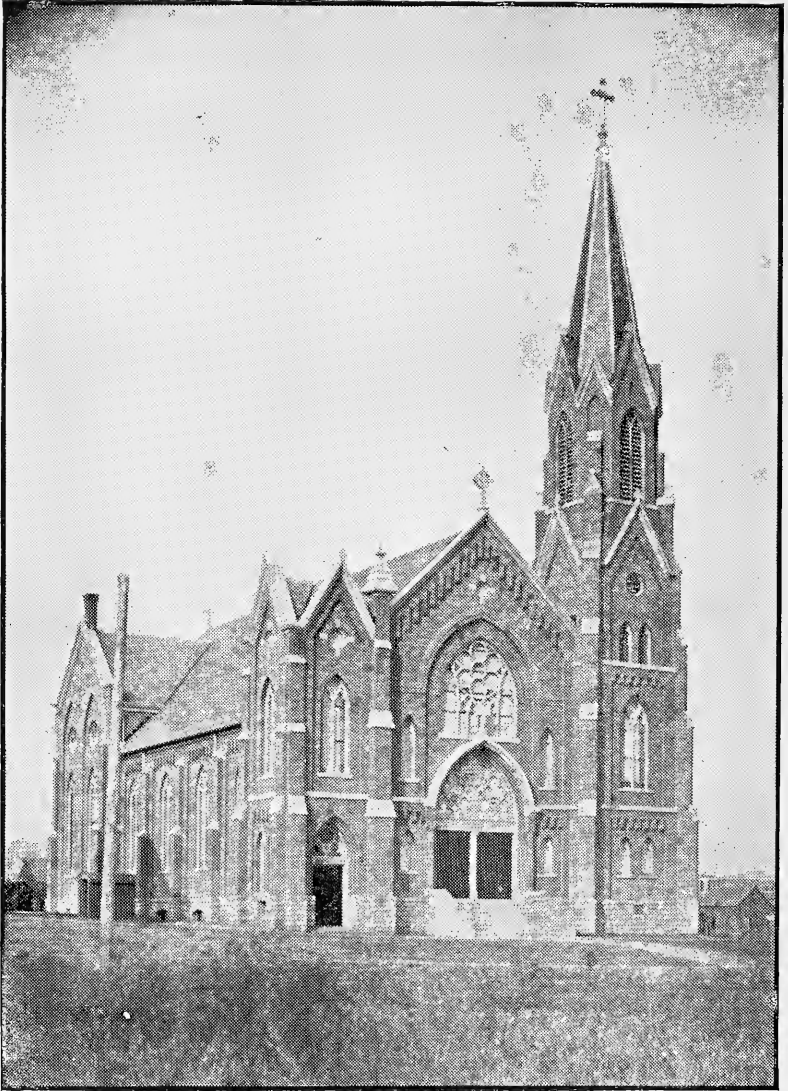
THE CHURCHES.

CATHOLIC—Early in 1875, Rev. T.





REV. W. A. PAPE. CATHOLIC. POCAHONTAS.



CATHOLIC CHURCH, POCAHONTAS, 1902.

M. Lenehan, of Fort Dodge, held the first Catholic service in Center township in the school house at Pocahontas, and maintained an occasional service until 1881, when it became a mission of the Lizard church under Rev. Matthew Norton, who began to hold the services regularly once a month. In 1883 Warrick Price donated three acres of land, one-half mile east of the court house square, for church and cemetery purposes and a church building, 32x40 feet, was built that year.

In 1887 Mr. Norton died and Rev. M. Darcy became his successor. In 1889, Gilmore City became a permanent mission and Pocahontas a part of it under Rev. T. D. Sullivan. In 1890 Pocahontas was served by Rev. D. F. McCaffrey, of Fonda, the church was moved to its present site in Pocahontas and an extension of thirty feet was added to it. In 1891 it became a permanent mission under Rev. J. P. Broz, who, as the first resident pastor, remained until April, 1895, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Pape, the present pastor. During that same year the church was enlarged, remodeled and decorated at an expense of \$1,800. In 1896, a parochial school and convent were erected at a cost of \$3,500. The church and school are both in a very flourishing condition. In May, 1900, block 3 in Fairview addition, containing eighteen lots, was purchased as a future location for both the church and school buildings.

**BAPTIST**—Baptist services were first held at Pocahontas by Rev. John A. Kees, soon after he became a resident of Center township in the fall of 1885. An organization with twenty-five members was effected Oct. 4, 1888, he became their first pastor and served them until 1893, when he moved to Powhatan township. The first board of trustees consisted of O. A. Pease, J. W. Wallace, Rev. John A.

Kees, Mrs. O. A. Pease and Mrs. C. M. Hunt. O. A. Pease was elected treasurer and Mrs. Mary M. Wallace, clerk. The church was recognized as one of the sisterhood of Baptist churches, in the court house Aug. 14, 1889, and a house of worship, 28x46 feet and costing \$1700 was dedicated June 21, 1891. In 1893, Rev. Geo. W. Braker became and continued pastor for a short time. He was the last resident pastor.

**PRESBYTERIAN**—Presbyterian services were established at Pocahontas about the year 1894, by Rev. M. T. Rainier, then stationed at Plover. His successors have been, Mr. W. N. Gillis, of Plover, '95-6; Mr. A. W. Bailey, in 1897; Rev. Roderick Corbitt, Rev. Z. W. Steele, in 1899-1900. On Feb. 19, 1897, a church was organized with seventeen members. Frank H. Plumb and I. C. Thatcher were elected elders, and Wm. Hazlett, Mrs. Isabella Ralston, Mrs. Clara B. Malcolm, F. H. Plumb and Mrs. I. C. Thatcher, trustees. The Sunday school was organized Feb. 21, 1897, with Frank H. Plumb, superintendent; Mrs. W. C. Ralston, assistant and Ella Bollard, secretary. The Endeavor Society was organized April 13, 1897. The services held for some time in the Baptist church are now held in the court house.

**CHRISTIAN**—The Christian church at Pocahontas was organized about the year 1896, and a church building was erected in 1897, during the ministry of J. W. McDonald. The present pastor is Rev. E. S. Grove, of Plover.

**METHODIST**—The services that led to the organization of the M. E. church at Pocahontas were first conducted by C. B. Lawrence, M. D., from February, 1897, to March, 1898. Among the original members were C. D. Hobbs, W. B. Munson and Mrs. Byerly, Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Montgomery. Rev. J. J. Ehrstein conducted the services on

alternate Sabbaths from October, 1898 to August, 1899, and Rev. C. W. Flint, a resident pastor, on every Sabbath since that date. The stewards are, Guy S. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. McIntire, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. McGhee. The trustees are J. H. Allen, Geo. H. Miller, Joseph Simpson, Guy S. Robinson and S. L. McIntire. The services are held in the Baptist church.

#### WOOLING A RAILROAD, 1870-1900.

In 1870 when the beautiful site of Pocahontas was platted, the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad was confidently expected, but instead of it the grasshoppers came, destroying everything in their path. In 1881, after the county seat had been located there, this company surveyed a line through Pocahontas, new hopes were raised and a tax was voted by the people, but when the railroad was built, it passed through Rolfe. A few months later the Newton & Northwestern made a survey through the town and another tax was voted, but it did not come. Before the end of that year the Des Moines & Northwestern ran a line through Pocahontas, but built the railroad to Fonda.

In 1882, the Dubuque & Dakota and in 1883 the Minneapolis & Omaha R. R. companies made surveys through Pocahontas, and new expectations were raised that were not realized. In 1886, the surveyors of the Sioux City & Northwestern arrived, in 1887 a special tax was voted for it by Center township, but when the grading should have commenced, a mysterious silence and inactivity began to prevail. The branch of the I. C. R. R. surveyed to Pocahontas that year, was disposed of in the same way.

During the next four years Pocahontas was allowed to rest without a suitor; there was not the least sign of the coming of a railroad—a fact that some attributed to the granger rail-

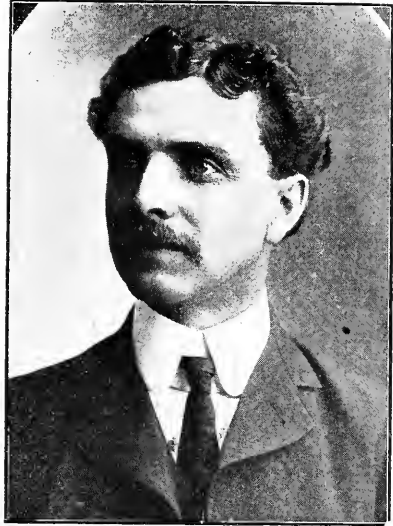
road laws enacted by the General Assembly of Iowa about that time.

In 1894, the citizens of Pocahontas, being no longer able to stand the suspense, organized the Pocahontas Railroad and Improvement Co., and surveyed a line from Pocahontas to Havelock. An unsophisticated farmer planted three acres of potatoes on this survey and threatened to shoot the first man who came to build the railroad. To avoid the war that seemed inevitable, this company endeavored to get the Chicago & Northwestern to build the railroad, and they also "begged to be excused."

In the fall of 1898, the Northwestern surveyed a line from Sac City to Algona, passing through Pocahontas (Nov. 5, 1898) and the citizens of Pocahontas proposed to give them the site for a depot in town and the right-of-way to Rolfe if they would build the road. A new railroad was then crossing the west end of this county, and when this generous proposition was treated with indifference, it seemed as if Pocahontas would never get a railroad. Hearing the whistle of the locomotive at a distance of eight miles, having no prospect of its coming to Pocahontas, constantly facing the possibility of a railroad passing only a few miles distant and the consequent removal of the county seat to some new town there established, many of her citizens were beginning to feel that they were wasting the best years of their lives waiting for a railroad to come to Pocahontas. They were on the verge of abandoning all hope, for "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and were even ready to pack their goods, move to the first railroad that should pass in the vicinity and seek their fortunes elsewhere. As the years passed and the state developed, bands of steel were stretched across the prairies from north to south and from east to west, but with a wearisome regularity



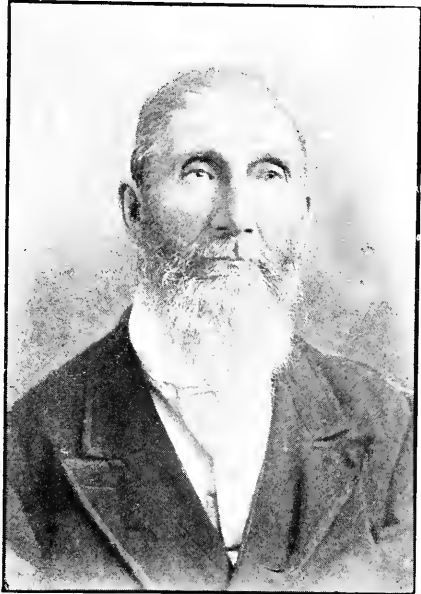
REV. CHARLES W. FLINT,  
METHODIST.



REV. ROBERT W. TAYLOR,  
PRESBYTERIAN.



WILLIAM HAZLETT  
Co. ATTORNEY, 1897-1902.



REV. JOHN A. KEYS,  
BAPTIST.

**POCAHONTAS AND VICINITY.**



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, POCAHONTAS, JAN. 26, 1902.

the new railroad always happened to run elsewhere than through the town of Pocahontas.

In the spring of 1899, after thirty years of alternate hope and disappointment, M. M. Carss and a corps of surveyors traced a line for the C., R. I. & P. company from Gowrie to Sibley, passing through Pocahontas county about five miles southwest of Pocahontas. On July 6, 1899, Superintendent C. N. Gilmore, Carroll Wright and Engineer W. B. Worrall, representing that company, met the citizens of Pocahontas in the office of the Bissell House, accepted their proposition to furnish depot grounds in town and the right-of-way for ten miles, and agreed to build the road through Pocahontas.

The new survey was made and on Aug. 31, 1899, Capt. J. A. Ware, of Sedalia, Mo., who had a contract to grade 25 miles of the railroad, arrived with his grading outfit that soon consisted of 100 teams divided into seven gangs. The track-laying machine arrived July 25, 1900, and on Aug. 15th, the station was opened in a box-car for the regular train service, by W. F. Gerheart, of Forest City. The telegraph line was erected three days later and the depot was completed soon afterward.

The effort to secure the Gowrie & Northwestern R. R. was the most important movement ever carried to a successful issue by the citizens of Pocahontas. In this effort they were united so that every man put his shoulder to the wheel and, by a liberal donation, discovered his public spirit. If this unanimity of purpose shall mark her future course, other enterprises of material value will soon be secured for her benefit. The surrounding country is sufficient to support a town of 5,000 people, and there are good reasons for believing that during the next few years, Pocahontas will make the most rapid growth of

any town in Northwestern Iowa.

“The beautiful story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith has been branded as a legend and a myth by the brutal iconoclasm of the period in which we live, but that which tells how Pocahontas, the county seat of Pocahontas county, vainly struggled so many weary years for an highway of steel to connect herself with the great commercial and industrial world, and of the manner in which the Great Rock Island Route came to her rescue will always remain one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the state.”\*

No longer thy wares shall be toted  
On stoneboat, bobsled and truck,  
O'er highways and byways deep-coated  
With gumbo and fathomless muck,  
For the lightning express now goes  
scooting  
Like wind through the midst of the  
town.—H. W. Harris in Rolfe  
Tribune.

Everything is now changed and all her citizens are happy.

The men whose names have been most prominently connected with the history of Pocahontas during the ante-railroad period have been Warrick Price, its founder; Wenzel Hubel, the first postmaster; Port C. Barron, who more than any other, assumed the responsibility of securing the right-of-way and depot privileges for the C., R. I. & P. at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00; F. E. Hronek, Hiram Bissell, W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, C. H. Tollefsrude, A. L. Thornton, J. W. Wallace, W. C. Ralston, Dr. M. F. Patterson, O. A. Pease, L. C. Thornton, W. G. Bradley, Esq., and C. M. Hunt. All of these men were animated with the desire to secure a railroad for Pocahontas, and while they worked and waited for it, they beautified the town by planting an abundance of shade trees and the most beautiful park in the county.

#### RAILROAD DAY.

A 5 per cent. railroad tax was voted by Center township Feb. 28, '81, in favor of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge,

\*Des Moines Capital.

Aug. 19, '81 in favor of the St. Louis, Newton & Northwestern, and July 5, 1887, in favor of the Sioux City & Northwestern railway companies, but the railroad did not come until July 25, 1900, when the Gowrie & Northwestern, a branch of the Rock Island, completed the track from Gowrie to Pocahontas, and the first, a construction or track-laying train arrived. On August 15th a regular train service was established from Gowrie to Laurens, and the new era ushered in by these events was duly celebrated at Pocahontas Sept. 4, 1900, by an appropriate industrial parade, vocal and instrumental music, addresses by Judge Helsell, Carroll Wright, M. F. Healy and others, and the marriage of three young couples. For a number of years Pocahontas had enjoyed the unenviable experience of being the only county seat in Iowa without a railroad. "An event of great importance had occurred. Pocahontas, a thirty-year old bride, had secured the desire of her heart, a union with the great outside world with bands of steel. During a long period of waiting, she smiled on many suitors, but one and another passed her by until the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific looked upon the lonely maiden on the prairie and recognized a wealth of beauty that others, blinded by the love of gold, did not see. She smiled, she spoke and the great Rock Island was won. In her joy she invited her friends to make merry with her; set the date and 5,000 people thronged to congratulate her."\* She is now comforted by the song of the locomotive, "Monster of steam and steel, With soul in shaft and wheel; Child of man's brawn and brain Whizzing o'er mountain and plain." The original name, "Pocahontas Center," in 1885 by request of the board of county supervisors, was abridged to "Pocahontas."

In October, 1896, Nicholas Stelplflug  
\*Pocahontas Record, Sept. 6, 1900.

platted the first addition at the southwest corner of the town. Its recent growth, increasing the population to 800 and causing the erection of seventy new buildings in 1900, has led to the platting of the Allen and Bissell additions.

#### POCAHONTAS NEWSPAPERS.

**POCAHONTAS TIMES**—The first paper published at Pocahontas was the Pocahontas Times, Messrs. McEwen & Garlock, editors and proprietors. It was moved there from Old Rolfe, Oct. 10, 1876, at the time of the removal of the county records. On Nov. 1, 1877, Ed B. Tabor became the editor, and after the issue of May 9, 1878, the outfit was moved to Fonda.

**THE POCAHONTAS RECORD**—The Pocahontas Record as a seven-column folio, 16x23½ inches, was established at Pocahontas by Port C. Barron, editor and proprietor, and the first issue was published April 24, 1884. In his salutatory the aim of the editor was stated to be "to make the Record a reliable newspaper, devoted to the promotion of the best interests of Pocahontas county and independent in all matters relating to its material interests." It was established and throughout a period of sixteen years was published in a small country village that did not enjoy the facilities afforded by even a narrow-gauge railroad. During this period it was sent forth from the press week by week, clean, fresh, bright and cheery, a messenger of comfort to the lonely dwellers on the prairies.

As the years passed it was enlarged and improved to meet the demands of the times. On Oct. 1, 1885, it was enlarged from seven to eight columns. On April 15, 1889, at the beginning of its sixth year, it began to be printed on a power press. On Dec. 26th, following, the entire paper began to be printed at home, and it was the first one thus printed in the county. From June 26 to Aug. 14, 1890, A. R. Thorn-



ton edited its third page as *The Fonda Record*, and on the last named date it was enlarged to a seven-column quarto. On June 22, 1893, it appeared in a new and modern dress as a six-column quarto, its present form.

It has advocated the principles of the republican party and every enterprise that would make Pocahontas "the gem of the prairie," the queen of Pocahontas county. The pathetic appeal for a railroad that has found expression in its columns and its courteous, conciliatory spirit availed greatly to unite the people in one grand effort to obtain the first one available.

Port C. Barron, its founder and editor for sixteen years, died July 9, 1900, and Mary E. Barron, his wife, has published it since that date.

**POCAHONTAS HERALD**—The *Pocahontas Herald* was established at Pocahontas Feb. 15, 1899, by A. L. Schultz, editor and proprietor. It is a democratic paper and "is as frisky as can be expected" at its present age. It was founded under circumstances not very encouraging, but making its interests identical with those of the town, its subscription list has constantly increased with the growth of Pocahontas.

#### SHANNON RANCH.

Osburn J. Shannon, a commission stockdealer of Chicago, at an early day foreseeing the future development of Northwestern Iowa, purchased all of sections 1, 3 and 5 and 240 acres on section 7, Center township, making altogether 2,160 acres. These sections are enclosed with good fences and with the exception of 300 acres under cultivation, are used for pasturing and feeding the large herds of cattle and hogs that are annually prepared here for the Chicago market. This ranch is one of the largest business enterprises in Pocahontas county, about 500 head of hogs and 1200 head of fat cattle being annually shipped from it, the latter about the month of

October. The value of the annual sales ranges from \$60,000 to \$70,000. Few or no cattle are fed during the winter season, the places of those that have been marketed being supplied by purchases in the early spring. About 500 tons of hay are made each year, and during last year 100,000 bushels of ear corn were purchased from the neighbors. The cattle are fed twice a day during the feeding period, the daily ration being 500 bushels of shelled corn. Before it is fed the corn is shelled and soaked twelve hours in cold water. For soaking the corn and distributing it at the time of feeding, the farm is supplied with five water tanks, holding sixty bushels each and set on wagons. When the corn is soaked it is drawn to the pastures.

The buildings occupied by the resident manager are located on section 7 and consist of a fine house, a medium sized barn, two cattle sheds, one 146x24 feet, the other 128x24 feet, and a half-mile of corn cribs in the vicinity. On section 3 there is a small house and barn and another lot of cribs.

James H. Charlton had charge of this farm for ten years previous to 1897, and John Johnson since that time. Mr. Shannon visits it once a month during the summer. Nothing is undertaken without his approval and whatever is done must be well done.

#### CHARLTON RANCH.

In 1882, James Henry Charlton, a young man, resident of Dallas county, bought the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 11, Center township—80 acres—and erected some improvements. The next year he began to occupy it together with his father's family, completed its improvement and embarked in the business of raising corn, hogs and cattle—the corn for feed and the stock for the city market. The profits, from time to time, have been invested in more land, and he is now the owner of 3,000

acres, to the successful management of which he gives his entire time and attention.

This land is located on sections 2, 10, 11 and 18, Center; sections 16, 20, 21 and 35, Powhatan; sections 30 and 31, Des Moines township, Pocahontas county, and on sections 28 and 29, Ellington township, Palo Alto county. It is divided into ten farms on each of which a house and other outbuildings have been erected. These farm houses are occupied by persons or families who have been employed at an annual salary, with the understanding that they shall board from one to three other persons as occasion may require.

The aim, in their management, has been to mature for the city market each year all the hogs and cattle possible. During recent years about 2,500 head of cattle have been carried and to supply their needs in the summer season it has been necessary to purchase from 60,000 to 80,000 bushels of corn, in addition to the large quantity raised on the farms. The amount of sales including the dairy and other products, in 1899 was \$114,620.30; and for the present year, 1900, they will aggregate about the same amount.

In 1891 he married Franc Lenore, daughter of W. W. Beam, M. D., and since that time has resided in Rolfe.

One cannot read the story of the rapid growth of this ranch, whereby in eighteen years it was increased from 80 to 3,060 acres, yielding a gross annual income of more than \$100,000, without being impressed with the thought that its proprietor and manager has found the golden secret of "how to make the farm pay." As a farmer he has certainly found the philosopher's stone—the secret of success—and his wisdom appears in strictly adhering to it. That which has been achieved is a practical illustration of the possibilities of the Iowa

farm and the kind of management needed to secure the best results.

#### POCAHONTAS CREAMERY.

In 1884, Welch & Litts erected and operated a creamery on Litts' farm, one and one-half miles north of Pocahontas. For a while it received a liberal patronage and made first-class butter, but closed about July 1, 1886. On August 1st, following, it was purchased by John Wallace, the pioneer of the cheese and creamery business in Northwestern Iowa, who reopened it fifteen days later, and continued to operate it for some time, and then this enterprise was abandoned.

On Sept. 1, 1898, a number of the leading citizens of Pocahontas met in the court house to discuss ways and means of securing a butter factory at that place. Mr. Hinn, of Laurens, then operating creameries at Laurens and Havelock, was present and submitted a proposition. Geo. A. Heald, S. C. Jones, F. E. Hronek and Nicholas Stelplung were appointed a committee to ascertain what aid the people might be willing to give, and W. C. Ralston, R. D. Bollard and Port C. Barron were appointed to secure a suitable location. Subsequent meetings were held and as a result in May, 1899, there was completed a good building 40x60 feet, supplied with the latest improved machinery for making butter and a mill for grinding feed. This has proven to be a substantial and profitable business institution.

#### POCAHONTAS POINT.

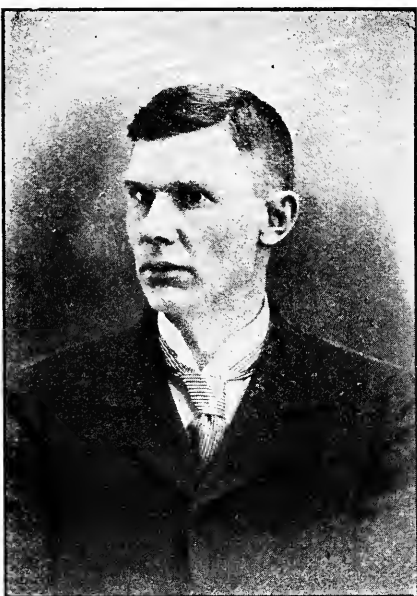
About the year 1890, W. D. McEwen and A. O. Garlock purchased a tract of land at the southwest corner of Lake Okoboji in Dickinson county, and erected a spacious summer cottage in the beautiful grove of natural timber, overlooking the classic and sparkling waters of West Okoboji. To this delightful summer resort they gave the name, "Pocahontas Point," and decided to sell lots in it only to those who were residents of Pocahon-



JOHN W. WALLACE.  
CLERK OF COURT, 1875-86.



MRS. J. W. WALLACE.



WM. C. RALSTON,  
CLERK OF COURT, 1887-94.



LUCIUS C. THORNTON.

**POCAHONTAS.**



PORT C. BARRON,  
EDITOR POCAHONTAS RECORD, 1884-1900.



MRS. MARY E. BARRON,  
COUNTY RECORDER, 1885-6.



ALONZO L. THORNTON,  
COUNTY RECORDER, 1883-85.



MRS. EMILY R. THORNTON.

**POCAHONTAS.**

tas or of the county that bears that charming name. Other cottages were soon erected by George Fairburn, Lute C. Thornton and Col. John B. Kent. In 1895, Messrs. McEwen & Garlock put a swiftly moving steamer on the lake, called "Pocahontas," and George Fairburn another one called "Nellie F.," both for their own private use; and almost every day during midsummer, they may be seen "bounding over the rolling waves," at Iowa's greatest summer resort.

#### FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The first Sunday School in Pocahontas was organized May 8, 1881, as a union Sunday School, under E. L. Hastings, superintendent; Walter Hodges, assistant superintendent; Mrs. J. W. Wallace, secretary, and Mrs. E. M. Hastings, treasurer. The meeting was held in the court house and an arrangement was made with Rev. Thos. Cuthbert, (M. E.) of Rolfe, to hold divine services at the close of the Sunday School session on alternate Sabbaths.

#### PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Public officers have been elected from Center township as follows: Surveyors, Lute C. Thornton, '84-85, '88-'89; H. W. Bissell, '90-93, '98-1900. Recorder, Mary E. Thornton, '86. Attorneys, Wm. G. Bradley, '87-88; Wm. Hazlett, '97-1900. Supervisor, Samuel Powell, '93-95.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Barron** Port C., (b. Feb. 3, 1861; d. July 9, 1900) editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas Record from the time it was established, April 17, 1884, until his death, was a native of Fredericksburg, Iowa, the son of F. W. and Marion Barron. During his childhood his parents moved to Nashua, where his mother died when he was fourteen. At this early age he entered the office of the Nashua Post, and, acquiring a knowledge of the printers' trade, followed it ever afterward. After working several years in the Beacon office

at Spirit Lake and later as foreman of the Fonda Times, he established the Pocahontas Record, at Pocahontas, Iowa. Through the columns of this paper for a period of sixteen years he labored unceasingly for the development and improvement of the town of his adoption and exerted a potent influence throughout the county. He located in this town when it was merely a village, but had an expectation that a railroad would soon be built to it. When the promised railroad did not come he did not become discouraged, but resolutely worked away, indulging the hope the time would soon come when Pocahontas would be afforded the same privileges and conveniences that were enjoyed by other communities. He thought and worked for "our little community" as long as he could, and "fell asleep just a few days before the dream of his life was to be realized."

He is remembered by those who knew him as one possessing an unusual amount of cheerfulness, hopefulness and enthusiasm. His kindly disposition, strict integrity and steadfastness of purpose also elicited admiration. To make others happy and not wound the feelings of any, were aims constantly before him in the use of his pen. Through the columns of the Record he gave the strength of his best days and the noblest thoughts of his being to the development of the community in which he lived. He was ambitious and manifested an unbounded faith in the future.

"During the first ten years the Record was published, those who knew not its editor personally often wondered how the paper could live or where its support came from; but those of us, who knew its editor, knew full well that he knew no such word as fail, and as time passed the paper has grown with the growth of the community so that now there are few county seat towns in Iowa that are

better supplied with a newspaper than Pocahontas."\*

"In his death Pocahontas lost an enthusiastic boomer. He knew no such word as fail. 'Hope sprang eternal in his bosom.' With the collapse of one railroad boom he went to work on another. In everything that went for the improvement of the town he was in hearty accord. He never lost faith in the ultimate success of Pocahontas. It took sixteen years of waiting to realize his ambition for Pocahontas—a railroad. He won the battle, but just as his labors were to be rewarded his light went out."†

In accordance with his expressed wish his body was laid to rest in the soil of the place that was the principal scene of his life's activities and in the midst of those who will longest appreciate his labors.

He served as the first recorder of Pocahontas, '92-94; was a member of its first school board in 1896; mayor in 1897, and postmaster from Aug. 1, '97-July 9, 1900.

On Feb. 3, 1887, he married Mary E., daughter of Alonzo L. and Emily Thornton, and she became his successor in the postoffice and in the proprietorship of the Pocahontas Record.

Their family consists of three children, Phaen Thornton, Joab Eunice and Port Comstock.

**Bissell** Hiram Wallace, (b. July 4, 1844) resident of Pocahontas since 1881, is a native of Granville county, province of Ontario, Canada, the son of Truman and Cynthia Bissell, both of whom were descendants of the French Huguenots. He received his education as he had opportunity, in the public schools.

In 1869, he went to California, but soon returned to Peoria, Ill., where he remained three years. He then located at Grand Rapids, Mich., and after two years, at Freeport, Ill.

\*From tribute by W. C. Raiston.

†Marion Bruce, in Rolfe Reveille.

Here on June 8, 1879, he married Susan Harpster, a native of Pennsylvania, and during his subsequent career she has proven herself to be "one of the best women in the state of Iowa." He was then engaged in the marble business, but his health failing him they spent the ensuing winter in Canada. In 1880 they located at Fort Dodge, and in February, 1881, in Pocahontas, where he became owner and proprietor of the "Center," afterward called the "Bissell House," which he still owns and continued to occupy until 1899, when he erected a new home in the Bissell addition to Pocahontas.

The history of the Bissell House, during the eighteen years that Mr. and Mrs. Bissell had charge of it, is full of delightful and romantic associations that are peculiarly its own. Here judges and jurors, attorneys and their clients, county officials, ministers of the gospel and people from all parts of the county, year after year, have sat down together around the tables that groaned with a sumptuous variety of those good things, which in this life satisfy the cravings of the inner man; and in the office or parlor the great questions of the day have been freely and fully discussed. When one thinks of the way in which many long winter evenings were whiled away at this ancient hostelry before the arrival of the railroad, he cannot resist the notion that Goldsmith had such experiences in mind when he wrote the following touching description of the home in the poem entitled, "The Deserted Village":

"The broken soldier, kindly bade to  
stay,  
Sat by his fire, and talked the night  
a way,  
Wept o'er his wounds, or tales of sor-  
row done,  
Shouldered his crutch and showed how  
fields were won.  
Pleased with his guests, the good man

learned to glow,  
And quite forgot their vices in their  
woe."

Mr. Bissell served as assessor of Center township, '85-93; as justice of the peace, '87-90; as member of the first town council of Pocahontas, '92-93; mayor, '94, and as county surveyor, seven years, '90-93, '98-1900.

**Brinkman** David, (Diedrick) resident of section 24, Center township, was born near Hamburg, Germany, in 1843. At the age of twenty-three, having learned the carpenter trade, he crossed the ocean in a sail boat that was seventy-two days on the voyage. He located first in Michigan, where he worked at carpentry. On Feb. 28, 1871, he married there Anna Wiegman, and on April 18, 1873, located in Pocahontas county, first in Clinton township, and the next year on his present farm.

He is one of those hardy pioneers who were not frightened from the frontier by early hardships, and his splendid success on the farm places him in the front rank as a farmer. When he came to locate on the frontier his brother-in-law accompanied him. Leaving their wives at Fort Dodge, they set out on foot at Manson to walk the distance to their new homes—twenty miles—and had to carry their clothing in their hands when they waded the Lizard. A few days after they returned to Manson, sent for their wives and families and took them out with an ox team. A few days before harvest that year the grasshoppers came and destroyed thirty acres of wheat and ten of oats, a loss that left David in the fall of the year with ten dollars and thirty bushels of potatoes for the support of himself and family during the winter. When the corn was ripe he went east of the grasshopper district, husked corn on the shares and survived that winter by making his home in a cellar and living on potatoes, cornbread and

water. In 1874, the grasshoppers devoured the small grain again, but not the corn, and he fared better; but that fall and again in 1881 his crops and improvements were saved from prairie fires only after the most heroic efforts. In the fall of 1874 he got lost and had to remain all night alone on the prairie. In the winter of 1881, while returning from Humboldt in a sleigh, he was caught in a blinding snowstorm, passed within three rods of his home, but did not know it or discover the fact until he had gone two miles further, and ran against the walls of a deserted sod shanty. When he reached his home he was nearly frozen to death. His brother-in-law, after one year's experience on the frontier, returned to Michigan.

As the years have passed, David Brinkman has added acre to acre so that his home farm, which he has improved with fine buildings, contains 540 acres, and he is the owner of two other farms in the vicinity that contain 300 acres more. He keeps from 25 to 30 cows for dairy purposes and in August 1894, began to use the Delaval cream separator, the first one in Center township. The result of its use has been so satisfactory that he would not think of dispensing with it while keeping cows. He aims to keep a sufficient amount of stock to eat all the grain raised on the farm, and has met with good success in feeding both cattle and hogs. He is a highly respected citizen, was a trustee of Center township in '77-78, president of the school board in '76-77 and assessor in 1884.

His family enjoys all the comforts of a good home and consists of twelve children: Hattie, a native of Michigan, married Morris Ives and lives in Clinton township; Caroline, after teaching school six years, on March 8, 1899, married Henry Oelrich and located on one of her father's farms; Henry, a teacher, Dora, Jessie, John,

William, August, Anna, May, Glide and Idella are at home.

**Bollard** Richard D., (b. Oct. 15, 1847) resident of Pocahontas and Recorder of Pocahontas county, 1891-98, is a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio. He received his education in the public schools of Edinboro, Erie county, Pa., where his father located when he was quite young. In 1864, at the age of sixteen, he lost his left arm by the accidental discharge of a gun he was endeavoring to draw across a log while hunting. In 1867, he went to Grant county, Wis., where he worked on a farm and taught school. The next year he returned to his home and on Dec. 25, 1868, married Emma Lawrence. The next spring they located in Wright county, Wis., where he taught school in winter. In 1878, he moved to Pottawattomie county, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres of land and continued farming and teaching. In 1881 he met with another serious accident, the loss of the three largest fingers of his right hand, while shelling corn. Undaunted by these misfortunes he continued farming and teaching until the spring of 1886, when he moved to Fonda and engaged in the coal and grain business.

In the fall of 1890, he was elected recorder of this county, an office to which he was re-elected with a constantly increasing majority in 1892, '94 and '96. The efficiency of the public service rendered during these eight years, elicited the unstinted approval of the people of this county. The office was not closed at night until the necessary work of each day had been faithfully performed.

Just previous to the adjournment of the board of supervisors, Jan. 19, 1899, he was presented with a solid gold watch, chain and charm, the latter set with a diamond of purest luster, and inscribed with the words, "A token of esteem from the county officials to R. D. Bollard, recorder, 1891-

1898." In Pottawattomie county, he served several years as a justice of the peace, in Fonda was street commissioner, and at Pocahontas he was a councilman, '92-94, and president of the school board in '99-1900. He taught twenty-one terms of public school.

His family consisted of ten children, six of whom are married: Walter, a drayman, married Rose Early, and lives at Fonda; Mattie B. married John Stream, a traveling salesman, and lives at Fonda; Mary Ella, July 3, 1899, married Wm. Boyd McClellan, a jeweler, and lives at Pocahontas; William married Maggie McCormick and lives in Lake township; Frederick P., in June, 1898, enlisted for the war against Spain in Cuba and spent several months in Jacksonville, Fla.; Roy in 1900, married Ida Lyon, and is a druggist clerk at Fonda; May in 1899, married Charles Lucas, and lives at Pocahontas; Gracie, Lawrence and Gorton are at home.

**Eral** John, (b. 1832) owner and occupant of a fine farm on section 23, since 1874, is a native of Bohemia. In 1874 he bought his present farm and a tract of timber in Clinton township. He is now the owner of 490 acres of land in this county which he has finely improved with two sets of good farm buildings, the beautiful grove on the home farm being one of the largest in Center township. He participated in the organization of Center township in 1874, and served as trustee six years, '80-83, '93-94. He has been an industrious and successful farmer, a highly respected citizen and has endeavored to perform faithfully every matter of public interest entrusted to him.

His family has consisted of six children, of whom the first three—James, Frank and Mary—were born during his residence in Illinois.

1—James W. Eral (b. 1862) in 1873 located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27. In 1883 he



married Anna Payer and is now the owner of 280 acres in Center township. He has been a trustee of the township since 1895, and treasurer of the school fund since 1897. He has a family of four children—Anna, William, Louie and Harry.

2—Frank R. Eral in 1889 married Fannie Ziemann, of Tama county. He owns and occupies a farm of 120 acres on section 27 that had previously been improved by his father. His family consists of two children, Agnes and Joseph.

3—Mary married Charles Pashek and lives in Winneshiek county.

4—Joseph, Rosa and John are at home.

**Eral** Martin, (b. Nov. 10, 1842; d. May 7, 1899) was a native of Budweis, Boh., where he grew to manhood. In 1870 he came to Chicago, where on May 15, 1870, he married Anna Michael and lived there the next ten years. In March, 1880, he located on the Litts farm, Center township, and the next year bought 120 acres south of Pocahontas, on which he afterward lived and died. His death was the result of a fall from the back of a colt. He was a man of unswerving integrity and won the esteem of all who knew him.

His family consisted of twelve children, four of whom, Joseph L., Louis F., Emma E. and Albina, and their mother, survive him.

**Erne** Bonifacius, who on section 17, in the spring of 1871, bought the first farm sold by Warrick Price, built the first farm home in the township—a sod house. On May 31, 1873, he entered as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Grant township, 80 acres, and received the patent for it Nov. 5, 1878. A few years later he located in Lincoln township and in 1895 returned to Center township, where he died in 1899. He raised a family of four children who, after his death moved to Minnesota. He was an in-

dustrious and good farmer. His brother, Valentine Erne, also a native of Germany, (b. 1850) in 1881 bought a farm of 80 acres on section 26, Grant township, which he still occupies and has neatly improved. He has a family of two children.

**Kees** John A. Rev., (b. April 2, 1833) through whose personal efforts the organization of the Baptist church, Pocahontas, was effected, is a native of Crawford county, Pa., the son of George (b. 1878, Pa.) and Nancy Benn (b. 1801., Del.) Kees, both of whom were remarkable for the enthusiasm of their piety. The father of Nancy Benn and three of his sons were pioneer preachers in the Methodist Episcopal church. In his childhood, John A. Kees moved with his parents to Venango county, Pa., where he assisted in clearing the timber from a farm, and went to school. When the Cherry Tree Academy was opened in that vicinity he entered it and two years later began to teach the school in his own neighborhood. In the fall of 1856, he located near Sabula, Iowa, and taught school. In 1857 he located at Boone, where he taught several terms and then passed to Dallas county. On Feb. 24, 1860, he married Margaret M. Betteys and located in Boone county, where, in '62-63, he served as a member of the board of county supervisors. In May, 1864, he enlisted as a volunteer and remained in the service until October, when he was sent home from Camp McClellan with his constitution so completely wrecked by disease there was scarcely any hope of his recovery. After two years he was able to resume the work of teaching and filled the office of assessor and township clerk. In 1876 he moved to Jefferson, where he became the agent of the co-operative association; but finding the labor too exhaustive, he resigned this position and moved to a farm in that vicinity. In 1884 he moved to Shelby county,

and in the fall of 1885 to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, Center township, which he had previously owned for several years. In 1893 he sold this farm and bought another one on the north line of the township.

At ten years of age he became a christian and at seventeen united with the Baptist church of Cherry Tree, Pa. At this early period he had a conviction that he ought to preach the gospel, but on account of the apparent need, was constrained to work on the farm. During the period he engaged in teaching he embraced every opportunity to unfold and enforce the truths of the Bible, but later the conviction forced itself upon him that whilst he did not receive a proper preparation for the full work of the ministry, he ought to preach the gospel as he had opportunity, free of charge. Expressing this conviction the church to which he belonged in Boone, in 1867, gave him a license to preach. In Greene and Dallas counties he often rode long distances to meet engagements as opportunity afforded. In the spring of 1885, at the request of the Baptist church in Harlan, Shelby county, he was ordained, became their pastor and accepted pastoral support.

When, in the fall of 1885, he visited his farm to do some work preparatory to settlement upon it he was pained to find the people of Pocahontas destitute of religious privileges, with the exception of those of the Catholic church. On the second Sabbath he held services in the court house and announced his desire that those present would co-operate with him and his family, five of whom were members, and they would form the nucleus of a Baptist church and plan for the erection of a suitable house of worship. This prophetic announcement was received with smiles and suppressed laughter; nevertheless, it was fully realized by the organiza-

tion of a church of 25 members in 1888 and the erection of the Baptist church in 1891. He served the church as its first pastor until 1893, when he moved to his present home on the south side of sec. 33, Powhatan township. After serving four years as pastor of the Baptist churches of Havelock and Bradgate, he retired from the active duties of the gospel ministry.

He has always voted the national republican ticket and has been an ardent advocate of the cause of prohibition.

His family has consisted of six children, of whom four are living. May Luella in 1886 married Anton Eigler, a farmer, and lives in Spokane county, Wash. William H., John Alvin and Margaret E. are at home and engage in teaching. George A., the eldest, died in 1863, and Rev. Frank A. D. Kees, the second son, died at his father's home, Oct. 23, 1900. He had been educated for the gospel ministry, was ordained on May 22, 1900 and served the Baptist church at Egan, South Dakota, until three weeks before his death, when, his physician informing him he was going to have typhoid fever, he hastened home. He taught school several terms, at Havelock, had charge of the Baptist church at Lake View in 1895, and at Havelock in 1896. He had worked his own way through college that he might enter the ministry, and was loved by all who knew him.

**Hubel Wenzel**, (b. 1819; d. Nov. 26, 1885) the first permanent resident of Pocahontas, was a native of Bohemia, where in 1843 he married Mary A. Kerska (b. 1823). In 1851, they came to America, losing one of their children during the voyage on the ocean. He located first at Montreal, but after two years moved to Iowa City. Two years later he located on a homestead in Tama county and remained there until 1868, when he

moved to Benton county. Two years later he moved to Fort Dodge.

In March, 1872, as the local agent of Hess & Behring, of Fort Dodge, who had charge of the sale of the lands of Warrick Price, he located at Pocahontas and that fall was appointed the first postmaster of that place. The mail was carried by his son William usually once a week, on Friday, from Pomeroy, later from Fonda and the office remained in his home until the fall of 1877. He was a member of the first school board of the township in 1875-76.

During his residence in Tama county he and his elder brother Fred, enlisted as members of Co. F, of the 6th Iowa cavalry. After two years in the service he received an injury that unfitted him for further service and made him an invalid for life.

In 1878 he and wife returned to the home of his oldest son, Frederic, who married Mary Benish and continued to reside on the old homestead in Tama county. He died there in 1885. Four of his children located with him at Pocahontas in 1872.

1—William A. Hubel, (b. Jan. 16, 1853, Iowa,) a carpenter, in 1878 married Mary Ann Julius (b. 1860, Wis.) and continued to live at Pocahontas until 1884, when he moved to Plover, and in 1897 to Rolfe, where he is now engaged principally in raising poultry. He commenced to reside in Center township in the year 1871, and built nearly all of the first buildings in Pocahontas including the Catholic church, and the Presbyterian church of Plover. He was assessor of Center township in '79-80, and secretary of the school board, '77-81. He carried the mail from Pomeroy and Fonda to Pocahontas, 1872 to '79. He was an all-round man among the Bohemians of the township in those early days. He was their interpreter at nearly all school and township meetings, elections and in the transaction of their

business before the court.

His family consists of six children: Mamie, Frederic, William, Josephine, Wenzel and Albert.

2—Mary E. married James S. Smith, Fort Dodge, and in May, 1883, he was appointed and served five years as the first station agent of the C., R. I. & P. R. R. at Plover. He built the first house in Plover for his use and it stood the first season in a cornfield. Their family consists of three children: William, James and Albert.

3—Annie in 1886 married Vencil Drahos, a well-known attorney of Cedar Rapids, and they have one child, Vlasta.

4—Cedora C. in 1882 married James T. Calhoun, at Pocahontas, and in the fall of 1883, locating at Plover, he became the first dealer in coal and lumber at that place. He died in 1887, leaving three children; Thomas, James and Grace.

In 1891, Cedora married Albert J. Eggspuehler, a merchant of Plover, and they have two children, Florin and Gladdis.

**Hronek** Frank, (b. Sept. 22, 1822; d. Sept. 5, 1899) a pioneer of Center township, was a native of Tabor, Pazov county, Boh., and on Feb. 17, 1846, married there Anna Mares. In 1862, with a family of four children, they came to America and located first at Iowa City, but soon afterward at Chelsea. In 1874, he bought, and with a family of six children, located on the E $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 19, Center township, improved and occupied it until 1895, when he moved to Pocahontas, where he lived the remainder of his days. He was a quiet, industrious, successful farmer and highly respected citizen. He assisted in the organization of Center township in 1874, and served as one of its first trustees, in 1875-76. He was elected one of the three first school directors of the township, but declined to serve. Three of his sons,

Frank E., Anthony and John, have subsequently taken a prominent part in the management of the affairs of the township.

His family consisted of ten children, all of whom are still living.

1—Rosa, (b. 1858) in 1876 married Martin Puduska, (b. Boh., 1852,) a prosperous farmer, owner of 280 acres principally on section 29, Center township, which he has occupied since 1876. They have a family of six children.

2—Frank E. Hronek, (b. Boh., 1860) came with his father to Center township in the spring of 1874, and has become one of the most prominent citizens in the township. In 1878 he served as township clerk. In 1882 he became a general merchant in Pocahontas and so continued until April 1, 1900, when he arranged for the removal of the old store building and the erection of a fine, double two-story brick business block in its place. He was secretary of the township school board, '85-87, and president of it, '92-95. In Pocahontas he was postmaster from Sept., '87 to Oct., '95, a period of eight years. He served as a member of the first school board, '96-97; as a member of the first town council, '92-94, and as mayor, '98-1900. He is the owner of some valuable property in Pocahontas and a farm of 80 acres in Lincoln township.

In 1882 he married Antonia Moravec, who died in 1891. In 1893, he married Melinda Winegardner. His family consists of three children—William, Walter and Sadie—who survive their mother, his first wife.

3—Paulina, (b. 1862) in 1870 married Joseph Kryce, a miller, and lives at Andrews, South Dakota.

4—Anthony Hronek, (b. Iowa, 1864) in 1883 married Mary Vodruska, is the owner and occupant of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Center township, and has a family of five children. He was township clerk three years, '89-91.

5—Emmanuel Hronek (b. Ia., 1867) in 1885 married Anna Vodruska. He is the owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, Center township, and has a family of six children.

6—James Hronek (b. Ia., 1869) in 1889 married Mary Prochaska. He is the owner and occupant of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, Center, and has a family of three children.

All of the foregoing located in Center township with their father in 1874. The other members of his family are as follows:

7—Frances, (b. Boh., 1849) in 1868 married Vance Zeman, owner of a farm of 360 acres near Chelsea, Tama county, and has a family of eleven children.

8—Mary, (b. Boh., 1851) in 1869 married William Wright, clerk in a shoe store at Mason City, and has a family of three children.

9—John Hronek, (b. Boh., 1853,) in 1874 married Anna Skorda and came to Center township in 1881. He is now the owner of the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 21, 320 acres, and has a family of ten children. He was a trustee of the township, '84-92, and is now a member of the school board.

10—Josephine (b. Boh., 1858,) in 1877 married Frank Musel, has a family of seven children and lives in Marshalltown.

**Langer** Frank, to whom it is claimed, is rightly due the honor of doing the first breaking in Center township, in the spring of 1871, left Fort Dodge and located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, Center township. In company with William A. Hubel he did the first breaking in the township, on his own farm, then on the Stoullil farm on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section, and later on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 21. Erne commenced breaking about the same time and built the first farm home. In 1882 Frank Langer bought and moved to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec; 24, Dover township, and in 1899 moved to Pocahon-



FRANK E. HRONEK.



JOHN H. STEGGE.



MR. AND MRS. FRANK HRONEK.

**POCAHONTAS.**



VIEW OF BUELAH AVENUE, POCAHONTAS, IN 1896.  
(See list of illustrations for buildings.)



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, POCAHONTAS, 1902.

tas. He assisted in the organization of Center township, serving as one of the judges at the first election, held Oct. 13, 1874, and as a trustee in '81. When Center township, on March 1, 1875, was organized as a school district, he served as chairman of the meeting and was elected a member of the first school board.

His family consists of three children—Frank, Anna and Mary.

**Nemeck** Joseph, proprietor of the Center House, Pocahontas, 1874-'80, was a native of Bohemia. In the spring of 1874, with wife and two children, he located there and built the first good hotel in Pocahontas. Unfortunately, he provided a saloon adjunct to the hotel and, according to the stories that are still current, many ludicrous and some ridiculous events occurred during the period he continued in charge of it. He assisted in the organization of the township and served as its first justice of the peace, '75-'79. He was appointed a member of the first school board, was then elected its first president and served in that capacity in '75 and '79. In 1880, with wife and four children, he moved to Ackley, and later to Minnesota, where he is still living.

**Mikesh** Joseph, (b. 1859) resident of Pocahontas since the fall of 1876, is a native of Winnesheik county, and of Bohemian descent. At the time he located at Pocahontas the grasshoppers were paying their respects to the farmers and the latter could not afford to employ hired help. The only lucrative employment that presented itself at first was hunting and trapping and, giving his undivided attention for a time to the capture of game for the table and furs for the market, he met with a fair degree of success. He often averaged 40 to 50 muskrats a day at Devil's Island, on section 5, Grant township, and they brought from 6 @ 18 cents a piece. Deer were about as plenty then as jack-rabbits

are now, and after the snow came they were tracked to the high grass in the sloughs where they were sometimes found lying at rest. Later he found employment as a carpenter, janitor and well-borer. In 1889, when Sheriff Pattee died, he was appointed sheriff of the county to complete his unexpired term.

In 1889 he married Mary Hickey, widow of James Murray, and their family consists of three children, Joseph, Sadie and John; and the three children of her former husband, Mollie, Michael and James Murray.

He reports the interesting fact that in sinking wells in the vicinity of Pocahontas, two layers of wood are frequently found, in a fair state of preservation, at the depths of 60 to 80 and 160 to 170 feet. The upper layer is sometimes about four feet in thickness, and on the farm of Gus Boog, on Sec. 2, Lincoln township, there was found in it a sea muck consisting of sand, coral, snail and clam shells, some of the last being as large as common oyster shells, but very brittle. The lower layer is usually not so thick as the upper one, but the wood is in a better state of preservation. The pieces of logs brought to the surface resemble cedar and of these the knots are the best preserved portions. Another variety has the appearance of grapevine. This is found in a good state of preservation and the bark peels from it in strips as if it were freshly laid in water. Some good specimens, in 1898, were furnished Buena Vista college.\*

**Hazlett** William, (b. Oct. 1, 1869) attorney of Pocahontas county 1897-1900, is a native of Muscatine county, the son of William H. and Hannah (McNutt) Hazlett, both of whom were of Scotch-Irish (Presbyterian) descent. After pursuing his education in Muscatine he attended the State University at Columbia, Mo., and then spent

two years in teaching. In 1892 he graduated from the law department of the State University at Iowa City, and was admitted to the practice of law. On Dec. 1, 1892, a few months after the death of his father, he and his brother J. Clark, and his mother located at Pocahontas, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. In the fall of 1896 he was elected the attorney for Pocahontas county, an office to which he was re-elected in 1898, and again in 1900. He is recognized as a lawyer possessing fine abilities and is rapidly rising in his profession. The high standard of morality adopted in early youth has given dignity and strength to his manhood, and his faithfulness as a public official has elicited words of highest commendation and hearty endorsement.

On May 15, 1895, he married Helen Ketchum, of Marshalltown, and has a family of three children, Dorothy B., Ruth and Isabel. His mother in 1895 returned to the home of her daughter, Jennie (Andrew T.) Addebran, in Muscatine county, and his brother is a civil engineer in Tennessee.

**Heald** George A., (b. Iowa, June, 1870) vice-president of the Bank of Pocahontas, is a native of Johnson county, the son of Isaac and Amelia Heald, who located at West Liberty in his early youth. In 1887 he graduated from the high school of that town and in June, 1889, from the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He then located in Pocahontas, where he found employment in the bank of D. J. Allen & Sons. Here he embraced the opportunity of reading law under the late B. J. Allen, county attorney at that time, and graduating from the Iowa College of Law in January, 1894, was immediately admitted to the practice of law. In January, 1897, he became a partner and was elected vice-president of the Bank of Pocahontas. He is a young

man of pleasing address and is well equipped both for the practice of law and a successful business career. He has the happy faculty of gaining the confidence and esteem of those with whom he becomes acquainted and is entering on a constantly enlarging sphere of usefulness with bright prospects for the future.

On Jan. 23, 1894, he married Stella Torpey, a teacher of Lake township, and they have one child, George.

**Hunt** Charles M., (b. 1847) clerk at the court house, 1881-1900, came to Pocahontas in the fall of 1880 and a few months later found employment in the auditor's office, then occupied by A. O. Garlock, his brother-in-law. With the exception of one year, he has been an assistant in that office or that of the county treasurer ever since, and is now, in 1900, in the treasurer's office. These eighteen years of faithful and efficient service as an assistant in two of the most important offices in the county, make a very creditable record. He has become very familiar with the method of keeping the public records and in his modest way has rendered a service that has been greatly appreciated.

On May 12, 1888, he married Cynthia A. Perkins, of Winthrop, and has a family of three children, Gilbert, Melville and Hazel.

**Payer** Vit, a native of Bohemia, in the spring of 1876, accompanied by his wife (Mary Brodsky) and family of four children, Frank, Jacob, Anna and Joseph, and Louis Brodsky, a son of his wife, located on section 28, Center township. He was a trustee of the township in 1880 and died in 1881. The farm of 320 acres, originally purchased at \$5.00 an acre, is still owned by his wife and children.

1—Frank J. Payer (b. Iowa, 1861) in 1889 married Mary Remesh, who died leaving two children, Frank and Frances. In 1895 he married Rosa Masek. He is the owner of a farm of



160 acres on section 28, Center township, and was clerk of the township 1885-88.

2—Jacob Payer, in 1889, married Julia Shimon, who died in 1891. In 1894, he married another and has a family of two children. He is the owner of a farm of 200 acres on Sec. 28.

3—Anna, in 1883, married James W. Eral. (See Eral.)

4—Joseph Payer married Elizabeth Bartosh and lives in Center township.

**Pease** Oscar A., (b. Ill., 1848) postmaster at Pocahontas, '82-86, in 1869 came from Chicago and, as one of its first settlers, located in Swan Lake township. On April 17, 1871, he entered as a homestead the  $W\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30 and received the patent for it July, 30, 1878. He married there Adelaide, daughter of John Proctor, one of the first teachers in that township. About the year 1880, he located in Pocahontas, where he kept a grocery store and engaged in the insurance business. On Oct. 15, 1882, he was appointed postmaster and served four years, his wife performing the duties of the office a great part of the time. In 1893, he moved to Burlington, Wash., where he has a comfortable home and has since been engaged in the lumber business. He served as the deputy sheriff of Pocahontas county four years under John F. Pattee and two years under John A. Crummer. He assisted in the organization of Swan Lake township, served as its first justice of the peace, also as a trustee and treasurer of the school fund. In Center township he was assessor in '83 and president of the school board, '90-91. He was a capable, public-spirited man and his footprints appear as a pioneer in Center as well as in Swan Lake township.

His family consisted of four children, three of whom died in childhood and youth. Lucy married Oscar Wagneman, lives at Ellensburg, Wash., and has two children.

**Plumb** Frank H., (b. July 28, 1861) clerk of the court of Pocahontas county, 1895-1900, is a native of Webster county, Iowa, the son of William and Adeline Plumb. After completing his education in the public schools of Fort Dodge, in April 1877, he began to learn the printers' trade in the office of the Fort Dodge Times. In 1879, he assisted Tabor on the Fonda News; and during the next nine years assisted in various offices in Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota, including the Fonda Times. On July 12, 1888, he and J. J. Bruce established the Reveille at Rolfe and he continued a co-editor of that paper until May 1, 1890, and afterward as its foreman.

In the fall of 1894 he became the nominee of the republicans for the office of clerk of the district court of this county and was elected. During his first term he performed the duties of his office so conscientiously and efficiently that his most enthusiastic supporters were more than gratified and a host of new friends encouraged his renomination. He was re-elected in '96, '98 and 1900. He has proven himself a young man of noble principles and his natural fitness for the public office to which he has been elected for the fourth term, has been recognized by his political opponents. The neat appearance and correctness of his work on the public records have elicited the highest praise from attorneys and judges.

On April 23, 1887, he married Kate M. Roberts, of Fonda, and has a family of three children, Clifton B., William H. and Katherine M.

**Ralston** William Curtis, (b. July 1, 1855) clerk of the district court of Pocahontas county, 1887-94, is a native of Hillsboro, Ill., the son of John A. and Elizabeth (Ladd) Ralston, both of whom were of English descent. After completing his education in his native town he directed his attention to the study of law. In September, 1881, he

located in Pocahontas, where he found employment first in the Bissell House. At the first session of the court he was admitted to the practice of law, but taught school the ensuing winter. In the spring of 1884 he moved to Rolfe, but after his election to the office of clerk of the district court, in the fall of 1886, he returned to Pocahontas and has been a prominent resident of that city ever since. In 1888, '90 and '92 he was re-elected to the same office. In 1886 he won the office with a majority of only three; but in 1888 he was re-elected without opposition and received all the votes cast but three. In 1885 he served as the second mayor of Rolfe, and in 1893 as the first mayor of Pocahontas. In 1889 he was president of the school board of Center township, and in 1896 served as the first president of the Pocahontas independent district. His rugged honesty and integrity of purpose have won the confidence and esteem of all who know him and he stands high in his profession as a lawyer. He has taken a hearty interest in all matters relating to the growth and development of Pocahontas.

On June 21, 1887, he married Isabella Middleton, daughter of a clergyman of the Reformed church, Hillsboro, Ill., and his family consists of three children, Florence, Lucile and Sybil. His estimable wife has taken a leading part in the maintenance of religious services at Pocahontas.

**Starr Francis M.**, (b. 1846) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Guernsey, county, Ohio, where in 1869, he married Susan M. Callihan and engaged in farming and teaching. In 1882 he located on a farm in Guthrie county, Iowa, and in 1885 on one of 86 acres in Center township, now within the incorporated town of Pocahontas. He erected all the improvements on this farm and still occupies it. In the effort to secure the organization of the Christian church at Pocahontas

he took a leading part and has served several years as the superintendent of its Sunday school. In 1891 he was deputy sheriff and for several years has been rendering an efficient service as deputy in the office of the clerk of the court. He was clerk of Center township, '99-1900.

His family consists of eight children, Ella having died at nine: Willis C., (b. Ohio, 1870) in 1897 married Elizabeth Hutchins and lives in Swan Lake township; Homer F., Perry, Warren, Albert, Ralph, Julia and Marian.

**Stegge Bernard**, (b. June 17, 1829; d. Pocahontas, July 9, 1899) was a native of Rhede, Hanover, Germany. In 1853, he came to America and located at Quincy, Ill., where in 1854, he married Margaret Kreul, (b. Ger., 1832.) The next year he located at Highland, Wis., and engaged in farming. In 1869, he came to Pocahontas county, on wagons drawn by oxen, and accompanied by Nicholas Kieffer and John Kruchten and their families. Kieffer became the first merchant at Pomeroy and Kruchten located on a homestead in Colfax township. Stegge located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 32, Lincoln township, for which he made the entry June 12, 1869. The first improvements were a house and stable, both built of sod. The former was occupied until 1874, when it was replaced by a good farm house that with some later additions is still in use. In 1890, he moved to Pocahontas where he spent the remainder of his days. His wife died Sept. 9, 1896, leaving a family of seven children: Henry B., William H., Bernard H., Anna, Elizabeth, William J. and Frank. Joseph and Maggie died in childhood and Angela in 1894, at the age of 26 years. She was the wife of H. S. Schmaing. In Jan., 1895, he married Mrs. Caroline Getler, who died Feb. 13, 1899, leaving two children by her former husband, William Getler,

of Dover, and Mrs. C. M. Englert, of Marshall township. He died a few months later at the age of 70 years.

He assisted in the organization of Lincoln township in 1873, served as one of the first trustees that year, also in 1876-80, and was treasurer of the school funds '85-87. He endured the trials and hardships of a pioneer farmer's life in the effort to secure a home for himself and family and by hard labor and thrift succeeded admirably. Those of his family that are married are as follows:

1—Henry B. Stegge (b. Wis., Nov. 13, 1855,) came with his father to Lincoln township in 1869, where he is now the owner of a finely improved farm of 160 acres. He was township clerk in '81-82, and has been a trustee since 1896. In 1878 he married Mary Sicking, of Wisconsin, and they have a family of six children, Bernard, Catharine, Annie, Mary, Henry and Frank.

2—John H. Stegge (b. Wis., Dec. 3, 1859) in 1887 married Mary Stelpflug and located on a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 4, Lincoln township, improved it with good buildings, groves, orchard and increased it to 240 acres. In 1889 he sold the farm and during the next three years was in the employ of D. J. Allen & Sons in the real estate business at Pocahontas. In 1892 he bought their abstract books and formed a partnership with Geo. A. Heald under the name of Heald & Stegge. In 1896 Thomas F. McCartan also became a member of the firm and from the Allen Bros. they purchased the stock of the State Bank of Pocahontas and organized a private banking house under the name of the Bank of Pocahontas, John H. Stegge, Pres.; Geo. A. Heald, Vice-Pres., and Thomas F. McCartan, cashier.

His family consists of four children, Caroline, Maggie, Mary and John F.

3—Bernard H. Stegge (b. Wis., May 26, 1862) is the owner of a farm of 90 acres in Dover township and lives in

Grant. He married Mary Pussekou, a native of Winnesheik county, and has a family of three children.

4—Anna, in 1885, married Bernard Schmaing, (b. Ger., 1856) who located in Lincoln township in 1879, and now owns a farm of 80 acres. Their family consists of five children.

5—Elizabeth, in 1894, married Henry Tucking, lives in Lincoln township and has a family of two children.

**Stelpflug** Nicholas, (b. 1852) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Wisconsin, where in 1878, he married Maggie Kreul (b. 1861) and two years later located on Sec. 33, Center township. In 1892 he bought 30 acres adjoining the plat of Pocahontas, moved to town and has since been engaged in the stock business. In 1896 the first, known as the "Stelpflug addition," to Pocahontas, was laid out by him on this farm at the southwest corner of the town. In Center township he was school director a number of years and in Pocahontas he was a member of the town council, '92-95 and in 1900.

His family consists of eleven children: Annie, Maggie, Jacob, Joseph, Caroline, Lena, Henry, Nicholas, William, George and Louisa.

**Thornton** Alonzo L., (b. Nov. 25, 1833) who died at Pocahontas, May 13, 1885, while serving his second term as recorder of Pocahontas county, was a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. At fifteen he entered the college at Marietta, Ohio, and during the next four years attended that institution and taught school. On Sept. 8, 1853, he married Emily R. Comstock and located in Chautauqua county. Five years later he moved to Houston, Minn., and soon afterward accepted a position in the office of the Surveyor General at St. Paul, that afforded him the opportunity of doing considerable field work as a government surveyor and civil engineer. In August, 1862, when the Indians under Little Crow massacred the whites, he and his par-

ty of surveyors were engaged in the timber only a few miles distant from one of the scenes of bloodshed at the time it occurred. He was appointed first assistant to the Surveyor General and made the first sectional map of the state of Minnesota. He was a splendid draughtsman and continued in the map business with slight intermissions until four years previous to his death. From St. Paul he went to Des Moines and then to Buffalo, N. Y. Soon afterward he located at Fort Dodge and in the spring of 1871 on the Thornton and Greene farm in Marshall township, this county. Two years later he went to Des Moines and made the second map of Iowa. He then went to Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago, successively, and returned to the company farm in this county in 1881. In the fall of 1882 he was elected recorder of this county and filled that office in a manner so highly satisfactory that he was re-elected the year preceding his death. He was an active, enterprising man and during his residence in this county became very much interested in its drainage by a system that should embrace and benefit all of it. On this subject he wrote several able articles for the Pocahontas Record, to illustrate the propriety of deepening the channels of the five principal streams of this county at the public expense, in order to provide a suitable outlet for the numerous ponds and sloughs that existed in the early days. He also earnestly advocated the propriety of planting more fruit and forest trees. He was a close student, a fine scholar and manifested a desire to confer some lasting benefit upon his fellowmen. His close application to business and study, it was believed, tended to hasten his death which occurred May 13, 1885, after a stroke of paralysis on April 27th that affected the left side of his body, and another one on May 3d that was more serious. In his

death the county lost a worthy citizen, an energetic and efficient officer that did not hesitate to push a public enterprise at his own personal inconvenience. One of his maxims was, "He who would thrive in business must make his business known." He was a man of devout and reverent spirit, an industrious and methodical worker.

His family consisted of three children, all of whom and their mother are still residents of this county:

1—Lucius C. Thornton, (b. July, 1857) resident of Pocahontas, is a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. He received his early education in the public school, and at fourteen began to attend the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames where, after four years, he graduated in 1875, having been the youngest to enter that institution previous to that date. He at once found employment in relief plate map engraving with his father at St. Louis, whom he accompanied from place to place until 1881, when they located again in Pocahontas county. In August, 1883, the family moved to Pocahontas. The next year a set of abstract books were bought from A. O. Garlock, and in connection with the care of these he engaged in the real estate business. He has been a member of the council of Pocahontas since the town was incorporated in 1892, and was surveyor of Pocahontas county in '84-85 and '88-89. He owns a cottage at Pocahontas Point and usually spends a few months each year at that delightful summer resort.

In 1885, he married Jennie M. Bellinger, of Marshall township, and has a family of four children; Alonzo Lucius, Thad Bellinger, Jennie and Helen. His mother also lives with him.

2—Mary E. Thornton assisted her father several years in the recorders' office, and after his death was appointed and later was elected recorder

of Pocahontas county to complete his unexpired term, and served in this official capacity about one and one-half years in 1885-86. She also had charge of her brother's abstract books for several years. On Feb 3, 1887, she became the wife of Port C. Barron and since his death, July 9, 1900, has succeeded him as postmaster at Pocahontas and as proprietor of the Pocahontas Record. In Pocahontas county she was the first and to this date the only lady elected to a public office, and she is also the first one to receive the appointment of postmistress from the government.

3—Alonzo Rufus Thornton has been an associate editor and proprietor of the Reveille at Rolfe since Sept. 5, 1895. In 1897, he married Charlotte daughter of C. H. Tollefsrude, and has a family of two children, Norma and Emily. Since the retirement of Marion Bruce, Aug. 4, 1900, his wife has been associated with him in the management of the Reveille.

**Wallace** John William, (b. June 17, 1845; d. Pocahontas, May 22, 1899), was one of the early settlers and a very popular official of Pocahontas county. He was a native of Northumberland county, Ontario, Canada, the son of David and Mary (Bagdad) Wallace, both of whom were of Scotch descent, natives of the north of Ireland and members of the established Church of England.

In 1865, having completed his education in the public school, he came to Michigan but returned to Canada that fall. In March 1866, one year before the arrival of his father and family, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 8, Lizard township, on which he built a sod house and during the first three winters engaged successfully in hunting and trapping. On May 28, 1872 he married Mary Elizabeth Riley (b. Ireland 1851) who became a resident of Lizard township in 1869 and still survives him. He

was clerk of Lizard township in 1871-72. In the fall of 1874 he was elected clerk of the district court of Pocahontas county and the next spring moved to old Rolfe. In 1876 he moved to Pocahontas where he died May 22, 1899. He was five times re-elected to the office of clerk of the district court and rendered twelve years of public service in that capacity, 1875-86. Whilst others rendered more years of public service and as many in the same office, this was the longest term of continuous service in the same office rendered by any public official of Pocahontas county. He was deputy sheriff five years, 1893-97, and frequently served as coroner of the county when those elected did not qualify. He was secretary of the school board of Center township nine years, 1888-96, and of Pocahontas two years, 1896-97.

He had the contract for carrying the mails between Pocahontas and Humboldt during the four years, 1879-82, and from Fonda to Rolfe, 1887-91. In 1892 he engaged in the livery business at Pocahontas and continued in it until the time of his decease. He made additions to the old homestead from time to time and was the owner of 200 acres of land in this county in addition to the home in Pocahontas, built in 1881.

He was a strong, well built man, enjoyed good health and nobly performed his part in the great drama of life. He was loyal to his convictions, when he was sure he was right, and was equally loyal to his friends. He was amiable in his disposition, happy in his home life and just in all his dealings. His unswerving integrity placed his public service above unfavorable criticism and his public spirit was manifested in the leading part he took in efforts to promote the welfare of the public schools of his town and township. The flags on the school and court house were placed at

halfmast and most of the business houses of Pocahontas were closed during the funeral services and his remains were interred at Rolfe.

His family consisted of seven children one of whom, Rosa, died in childhood. Ella married George W. Bruce; William D. (b. June 14, 1876) in May 1898 enlisted for the war with Spain in Cuba as a member of Co. B. 2d Ia. Infantry, and spent a few days at Camp McKinley, Des Moines; Bessie married Fred J. Southworth, Pocahontas; Amanda Melvina, a milliner; Blanche and Genie E. are at home.

#### THE CASE SISTERS' SECTION.

Section 32, one-fourth mile east of Pocahontas, shows a division and has a history that is peculiarly its own.

This section, with the exception of the SW 40 acres, was entered by Seymour M. Case, who held it until he died in 1873. By his will 600 acres of it were bequeathed to his four sisters, Mrs. Sophia L. Rose, Mrs. Luna Beach, Mrs. Lavina M. Beach and Mrs. Maria C. Holcomb, who in 1876 divided the land among themselves into four farms as they appear in the Plat Book of 1888, Luna Beach before its publication having sold her part to Morgan W. Beach. The husbands of these four sisters died many years ago. They are still living, Luna at Bristol, Maine; and the others at Granby, Conn.; and their ages range from 76 to 88 years.





**THOMAS L. MACVEY,**  
RECORDER, 1869-74.



**MRS. T. L. MACVEY.**



**JOHN FRASER,**  
SEC. CO. BI. SOC. 1867 TO 1904.



**BERIAH COOPER,**  
FOUNDER OF COOPERTOWN.

**ROLFE AND VICINITY.**



**AUG. H. MALCOLM, ROLFE,**  
CLERK OF COURT, 1866.



**SEWELL VAN ALSTINE, GILMORE CITY.**



**WM. C. KENNEDY, ROLFE,**  
PRES. CO. S. S. ASS'N, 1889-1904.



**LEW. E. ENGLAND, ESQ., GILMORE CITY.**



## XV.

## CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

We love thy prairies green,  
 Thy streams with movement serene;  
 Thy woods and groves that lean  
 O'er plenty's shrine.

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.—HOLMES.



CLINTON township was named in honor of Gen. George Clinton, governor of New York, 1777-95, and 1801-04, and vice-president of the United States 1805-12.

This township (92-31) is located in the east tier of the county. Section 1 is traversed in a southeasterly direction by the Des Moines river, and the north tier of sections by Pilot creek, on the south side of the North branch of which, on section 5, Belts is

located. There is a considerable belt of timber on both sides of the Des Moines river and one large grove along Pilot creek on the northeast corner of section 10. The current of the Des Moines river is strong and its banks of clay are 8 to 10 feet in height. Indications of gypsum are found along its banks and an abundant supply of good limestone on sections 24 and 25.\* The elevation south of Pilot creek on section 12, has become historic as the scene of the last bloody conflict between the Sioux and Winnebago Indians in Iowa.†

\*Page 158.

†Pages 136-137.

The tradition concerning the name of Pilot creek is to the effect that when Judge Hickey and others first went from Fort Dodge to Palo Alto county and came to this stream they failed to find a crossing on the trail near the river. Finding James A. Edleman, who was trapping in the east part of the township, they got him to pilot them over it, and after this incident it was called "Pilot Creek." Hickey became the owner and occupant of "Hickey's Grove" north of Emmetsburg in which, about one-half mile from his house, the bodies of Capt. J. C. Johnson and W. H. Burkhalter were found after the Spirit Lake expedition in March, 1857.

The land, with the exception of the north and east tiers of sections, is a beautiful prairie, nearly level, and the soil is very fine in quality. A lover of Nature passing through this section some years ago remarked, "The Creator has here placed some of Nature's choicest flowers and most beautiful scenery. The birds, the grass, the flowers and the noble and stately trees were put here for man's entertainment and enjoyment."

Clinton township when first established Sept. 15, 1860, included all of Clinton, Lake and the south row of sections in Des Moines, as these townships are now constituted. On June 4, 1861, the territory now included in Lincoln and the north half of Grant was added. On Dec. 1, 1862, the south row of sections in Lake and Lincoln was assigned to Lizard and in lieu thereof the north half of Dover and south half of Marshall were added. On June 2, 1868, the south row of sections in 93-31 was assigned to Des Moines; on June 6, 1870, the north half of 91-33 was assigned to Grant; on Sept. 6, 1870, the north half of 94-34 and south half of 92-34 were assigned to Dover; on June 4, 1872, all of 91-32 was assigned to Lincoln, and on

June 5, 1877, all of 91-31 was assigned to Lake, leaving Clinton as now constituted.

No homesteads or pre-emptions were taken in Clinton township. Most of the odd-numbered sections were included in the Des Moines River grant or that to the McGregor & Missouri River R. R. Co. The even-numbered sections in this and other townships in the same tier as far north as the Minnesota line, were offered for sale in 1858, and most of them in Clinton were purchased by eastern investors during the months of June, July and August, 1858.

The first permanent residents of Clinton township, (92-31) were the Hammond, Harvey and Avery families in 1859. The family of Edward Hammond consisted of himself, wife and two children. He located on section 1, having lived the previous two years just across the line in Humboldt county. On Nov. 7, 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Harvey and their daughter Nellie, accompanied by his son-in-law, Oscar F. Avery, wife and son, Eugene, bought and located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10. During the year 1860, these were the only residents of the township.

In 1861 Mr. and Mrs. Elijah D. Seeley and three children, Harmon P., (soldier) Millard and Eliza, located first on section 10, and in 1863 on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11. In 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clason and ten children located on section 1. In 1864, Mr. and Mrs. William Sandy and five children, Minnie, James, Mary, George and Frank, located on section 17. In 1865, Mr. and Mrs. Parker C. Harder and two children located on section 11. In 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus H. Malcolm and one child, Ora, located on section 1. In 1867, Mr. and Mrs. William Matson and daughter Jennie, located on section 16. In 1869, Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Bendixen and four children located on section 33, and

Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker on section 1. In 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Van Alstine and five children located on section 25. In 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Barker and one child, and in 1873, Ira Scranton, Louis Nemecek and their families arrived.

A correspondent of the Times in 1879, of these and other new settlers, wrote as follows: "Our soil is light, inclined to be sandy; it is not marshy although we have a Reed. Our supply of bread is sure for we have a Baker, and timber shall not be wanting while there is left a Bush. We have one who has always been Sheriff, and when we want to doff this mortal coil we Drown."

The first election in Clinton township was held at the home of Edward P. Hammond, on section 1, Nov. 6, 1860, and nine persons voted, which included those living in what is now Lake and in the south row of sections in Des Moines township. Ora Harvey, Patrick Forey and E. P. Hammond served as judges; Oscar F. Avery and John A. James as clerks. Ora Harvey was elected a member of the board of county supervisors, and officers of the township were elected as follows: E. P. Hammond, Abiel Stickney and Patrick Forey, trustees; John A. James and Patrick Forey, justices of the peace; John A. James, clerk; O. F. Avery, assessor; E. P. Hammond, road supervisor; Abiel Stickney and Christ Smith, constables.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.**

The officers of the township have been as follows:

**COUNTY SUPERVISOR:** Ora Harvey, 1861-68; A. H. Malcolm, '69-70.

**TRUSTEES:** Edward P. Hammond, 1861-64; Abiel Stickney, '61-62; Patrick Forey, (Lake) '61-62, '64-67; John A. James, (Des Moines) '63-64; Samuel Clute, '63; Elijah D. Seely, '65-67; Joseph Clason, '65-71; A. H. Malcolm, '68-70, '85-94; D. W. Hunt, (Des Moines)

'69, '73-75; P. C. Harder, '70-72; Sewell Van Alstine, '71-72, '76-77; B. Messenger, '72; Ora Harvey, '73-75; Andrew Smith, '73-75; Alfred Baker, '74-77; P. H. Bendixen, '76-77, '88-92; Ira Scranton, '78-79; Wm. Matson, '78-79; H. A. Lind, '78-85; J. M. Bush, '80-84; Axel Gad, '80-81; J. M. Reed, '82-84; A. H. Malcolm, '85, '87-94; John Freeman, '87-88; A. R. Doxsee, '87; J. J. McGrath, '89-90; M. Lathrop, '91-92; W. C. Kennedy, '93-95; Geo. Behrendsen, '93-96; Julius White, '84-86, '95-97; P. J. Canon, '96-98; Anton Williams, '97-99; Richard Fouch, '98-1900; Geo. W. Henderson, '99-1900; C. P. Leithead, 1900.

**TOWNSHIP CLERKS:** John A. James, (Des Moines) '61-63; E. P. Hammond, '64-66; Parker C. Harder, '67-69; E. D. Seely, '70-75, '78-82; A. H. Malcolm, '70-74; P. H. Bendixen, '76-77, '83-84; John Sherman, '85-86; John B. Kent, '87-88; Geo. Challand, '89-90; O. P. Malcolm, '91-92; Charles E. Fraser, '93, '97-1900; O. K. Olson, '94; G. W. Rich, '95-96.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:** John A. James, (93-31) '61-62; Patrick Forey, (91-31) '61, '76-77; E. P. Hammond, Abiel Stickney, D. W. Hunt, (93-31) '68-71; E. D. Seely, '69-70, '74-75, '79-82; Joseph Clason, '71-73; Sewell Van Alstine, '72, '77-82, '89-92; P. H. Bendixen, '73-74; A. H. Malcolm, '75-76; J. M. Reed, '78-79; C. P. Leithead, '83-86; John Sherman, '83-84; John Lee, '85-92; L. M. Beebe, '87-88; Geo. W. Henderson, '93-95; J. J. Bruce, '91-92; M. Whitman, '93-1900; Robert Struthers, '96-98; H. W. Harris, '99-1900.

**ASSESSORS:** Oscar F. Avery, 1861; E. P. Hammond, '62-63; J. A. James, (93-31) '64-65; E. D. Seely, '66; B. H. Wood, (93-31) '67; John Rogers, '68; A. H. Malcolm, '69; Wm. Sandy, '70-72; D. W. Hunt, '71; P. H. Bendixen, '73; Axel Gad, '74; M. F. Seely, '75-76; Ira Scranton, '77-82; Wm. Matson, '83-84; Geo. Seifert, '85-86; Julius White, '87-88; Wm. C. Kennedy, '89-92; Alex,

Barker, '93-98; Sylvester Smith, '99; Robert Hunter, 1900.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The officers of the school board have been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS:** Joseph Clason, 1869-70, '73; E. L. Brown, '71; A. H. Malcolm, '72; Sewell Van Alstine, '74; E. D. Seely, Ira Scranton,, '76-77, '82-83; Alfred Baker, '78-79; C. Beacock, J. M. Bush, '81, 84-85; A. R. Doxsee, '86-87. I. C. Brubaker, '88, '91-92; S. Gish, '88; Axel Gad, '89, '93; Wm. C. Kennedy, '90; P. J. Canon, '94; B. C. Votluka, '95-1900.

**SECRETARIES:** P. C. Harder, 1869-72; P. H. Bendixen, '73-77, '80-95; M. F. Seely, '78-79; H. W. Harris, '96-1900.

**TREASURERS:** D. W. Hunt, 1869-71; B. Messenger, '72-73; A. H. Malcolm, '73-81; W. C. Kennedy, '82-83; H. A. Lind, 84; Julius White, '85-1900.

The directors in the several districts for the year 1900 were: No. 1—J. E. Schmaing; 2—W. C. Kennedy; 3—L. B. Herson; 4—P. J. Condon; 5—Niels Peterson; 6—Sewell Van Alstine; 7—Benjamin Behrendsen; 8—B. C. Votluka.

#### ROLFE.

"I live for those who love me,  
Whose hearts are kind and true;  
For the heaven that shines above me  
And waits my coming, too;  
For human ties that bind me,  
For tasks by God assigned me  
And the good that I can do."

The history of Rolfe begins with the month of May, 1881, when the survey of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R. crossed that of the Toledo & Northwestern. The survey of the latter railroad was made in December, 1880, and the right-of-way in Clinton was given in April, 1881. On Jan. 10, 1882, this track was laid to Rolfe Junction, the grading having been completed five days previous. A depot was soon afterward built, two miles further west, where, on Jan. 27, 1882, the Western Town Lot Co., con-

sisting of railway officials, platted the town of Rubens.\*

On May 21, Clinton township voted a 5 per cent tax in aid of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R., on Aug. 23, 1881, the right-of-way was secured and the track was laid to Rolfe Junction about June 1, 1882.†

On Sept. 8, 1881, Wm. D. McEwen, a practical surveyor, and county treasurer at that time, on the S½ NE¼ and W½ SE¼ of section 5, Clinton township, at the junction of these two railroads surveyed and platted the town of Rolfe. This survey was filed for record Sept. 19, 1881, by the Northwestern Land Co., of which J. J. Bruce was president and A. O. Garlock, secretary. The original plat contained 17 blocks, lacking only three blocks at the southwest corner of being a complete rectangle, extending eastward from the railroad five blocks and south four blocks.

The streets running north and south from the west side eastward were named Des Moines avenue (100 feet), Garfield street (80 feet), Grant (66) and Lincoln (66). The principal street running east on the south was called Broad (100 feet) and the ones north of it, Walnut (66 feet) and Elm streets.

This is a very pretty site for a town, one that possesses natural advantages that combine to make it desirable both as a commercial and residence center. Its location is 107 miles north-west of Des Moines.

As soon as the survey was completed lots were purchased by Geo. W. Horton, merchant and postmaster at Old Rolfe, who, in the fall of 1881, built the first store building, a two-story frame, on the northwest corner of Broad and Garfield, known as the National Bank building. Other purchasers were Jas. Parks, of Pochatan, who erected the first dwelling house, Messrs. Kelley and Foley, of Mason,



**C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE, ROLFE.**  
COUNTY AUDITOR, 1882-85.



**MRS. C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE.**

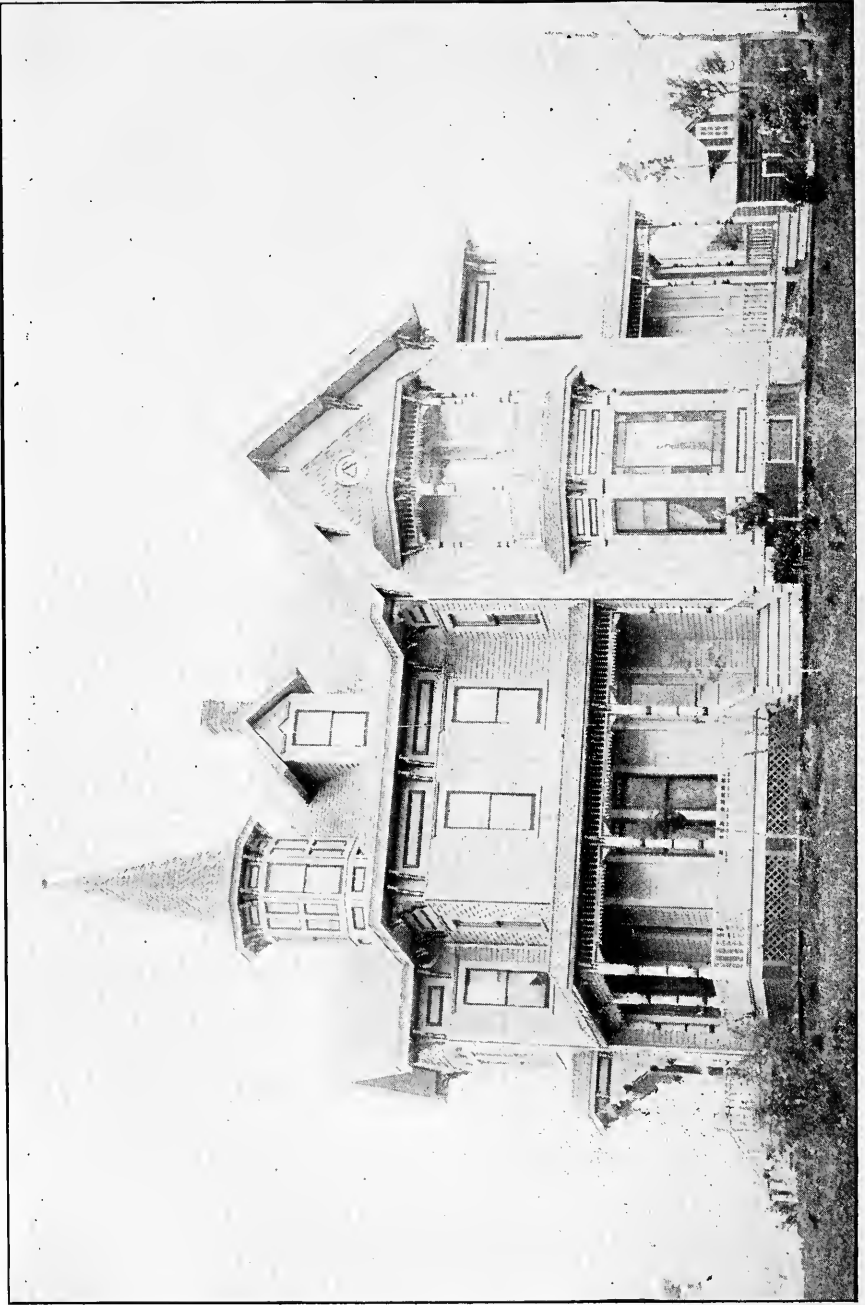


**COL. JOHN B. KENT, ROLFE.**  
MEMBER IOWA NATIONAL GUARD, 1894-95.



**MRS. J. B. KENT**

**RESIDENTS OF ROLFE.**



RESIDENCE OF C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE, ROLFE 1893.

Lou Schoonmaker, Henry and Charles Kelly, of Lizard, and Alexander Barker who, on Sept. 29, erected a barn large enough for the accommodation of twelve teams. The lumber for Horton's store building was hauled from Humboldt and Dakota City, the terminus of the Toledo branch of the Northwestern at that time.

The postoffice was established April 1, 1882, under the name of Rolfe, with Henry Tilley as the first postmaster. Previous to this date the name Arlington was often used to designate the place, but its use was dropped by request of the citizens the day the postoffice was established under the name of the first county seat in Des Moines township.

On Dec. 21, 1883, two years after it was founded, the citizens by a vote decided to incorporate. During those two years a wild prairie region had been transformed into an incorporated town of 300 inhabitants that enjoyed the advantages of two railroads, three general and two hardware stores, one bank, one drug store, one church edifice and a school building with two rooms.

#### ROLFE IN 1900.

Mayor, M. Crahan.

ATTORNEYS: Robert Bruce, since 1897; C. C. Delle, since 1886; S. H. Kerr, since 1889. W. D. McEwen, since 1870.

BANKS: State Savings Bank, incorporated Jan. 1, 1893, (established in 1886 as "Exchange Bank of Rolfe," by McEwen, Garlock & Grant; brick building erected in 1889) W. D. McEwen, Pres.; A. O. Garlock, Vice-Pres.; S. H. Kerr, Cash.; C. E. Fraser, Asst. Cash.

First National Bank, incorporated May 14, 1894, (established as "Bank of Rolfe" in 1882, by John Lee; building erected in 1881, the first one in the town) J. P. Farmer, Pres.; J. H. Charlton, Vice-Pres.; S. S. Reed, Cash.; J. K. Lemon, Asst. Cash.

BARBERS: J. L. Moore, Messinger M. P.) & Watopek (Henry), W. H. Strickler.

BAZAAR: Frank H. Sherman. (See Gen'l. Merchants.)

BLACKSMITHS: N. H. Williams, (established 1882) H. C. Holt, S. D. Stoddard.

BUTTER MANUFACTURER: Rolfe Creamery, W. R. Rogers, Prop.

BICYCLE SHOP: Archie M. White.

CARPET WEAVERS: Mrs. B. Hancher, J. J. Handel.

CARPENTERS: W. A. Grove, A. W. Ireland, Charles C. Seifert, Charles Johnson, John A. Baird, J. H. Wilson, C. C. Depew, Alex. Barker.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS: Edward Wood, A. W. Ireland, W. A. Grove, J. A. Baird.

CITY ENGINEER (water works): A. G. Albright, (also city marshal.)

CIVIL ENGINEER: Fred A. Malcol.

CLOTHING: Kaufman Bros., 'Globe,' D. M. Palmer, Mgr.; J. P. Farmer.

CHOP-HOUSES: Mrs. W. F. Smith. (See restaurants.)

CHURCHES: M. E. (1884), Presbyterian (1888), Catholic, Baptist (1896), Danish Lutheran (1900).

DENTISTS: C. Wesley Siefkin, Dr. Frank King.

DRESSMAKERS: Mrs. Charles Perigal, Mrs. Wm. White, Mrs. A. A. Merrill, Miss Louisa Hayward, Camille Paulson, Mrs. F. H. Symes.

DRAYMEN: Charles E. Matteson, John Spear, F. C. Walston.

DRUGGISTS: Geo. W. Core, since 1882; Charles M. Webb, since 1889; Charles H. Beam, since 1895.

ELEVATORS: Northern Iowa Grain Co., M. C. Brown, Mgr.; Counselman & Co., H. M. Underwood, Mgr.; Joe White.

EGG HOUSE AND COLD STORAGE: Crahan & Co., R. P. Brown, Mgr.

FEED AND SEED: W. B. Saunders, J. L. Hall.

FURNITURE: C. P. Leithead & Sons

(W. C. and A. E.) since 1886; McIntire Bros., (W. P. and S. L.)

GENERAL MERCHANTS: M. Crahan, since 1889; (sold in 1900 to J. P. Farmer) D. Ferguson & Son, (Ward) since 1891; Weible & Hauck, (August W. and Valentine H.) since 1883; J. T. Lange. The "Bazaar," Frank H. Sherman; the "Racket," E. E. Vest; the "Hub," H. F. Mills.

GROCERS: Pollock Bros., (J. H. & G. R.) O. B. Fuller.

GRAIN DEALERS: M. C. Brown, Northern Iowa Grain Co.; H. M. Underwood, Counselman & Co.; Joe White.

HARDWARE: A. R. Doxsee, & Bro., (J. L.) since 1895; A. B. Symes, since 1883.

HARNESS SHOPS: Ed McMahon, since 1888; J. E. Gill.

HOTELS: "Tremont," George Wengart, Prop.; "Oxford," Wm. Pauline, Prop.

HOUSE MOVER: C. H. Roberts.

ICE: W. B. Saunders.

IMPLEMENTS: E. R. Wiswell, Joe White, Mgr.; J. E. Gill, H. C. Holt, A. B. Symes, John Albright.

INSURANCE: J. B. Kent, J. M. Smith, Robert Bruce, C. E. Fraser, S. H. Kerr, M. Whitman, John Albright, J. A. Whitaker, J. H. Campbell, W. P. Wheeler, Frank E. Jorgenson, S. S. Reed, J. K. Lemon.

JEWELERS: J. White & Son, (C. J.) John M. Lind.

JANITOR: (public school) E. J. Wheeler.

LAUNDRY: (Chinee) Hong Lee, Prop.

LIVERYMEN: Peter Johnson, C. E. Stover.

LIVE STOCK: Weible & Yetter, (M. W. & Jacob Y.) J. E. Gill & Co., G. W. Rich & Co.

LUMBER AND COAL: C. A. Grant & Son, (J. T.) since 1892; J. & W. C. Shull, W. F. Smith, Mgr. Coal—J. E. Gill.

MAIL MESSENGER: Des Moines &

Hawarden Div. C. & N-W. Ry., E. A. Messinger.

MASONS AND PLASTERERS: E. Buxbom, Ed Wood, D. Wood.

MEAT MARKETS: "Palace," J. H. Price; "North Side," Jas. Cuff.

MILL: Rolfe Roller Mills, Patterson & Fouch, (G. A. & D.)

MILLINERS: Mrs. J. A. Lemon, Mrs. Florence Utley, Miss Mae White.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: R. B. Fish, McIntire Bros., (W. P. & S. L.) H. A. Lind.

MUSIC TEACHERS: Mrs. W. P. Wheeler, Miss Lucille Wheeler.

NEWSPAPERS: "The Reveille," since 1888, A. R. & Lottie Thornton; "Rolfe (twice a-week) Tribune," since 1897, J. H. Lighter.

NURSE: Miss Anna M. Smith.

PAINTERS: Kelts & Son, (Jas. & Phil B.) Ross Dennis, W. H. Shirk, Henry Jensen.

PASTORS: Rev. O. S. Bryan, M. E.; Rev. D. McKeogh, Catholic; Rev. N. H. Burdick, Presbyterian; Rev. F. O. Bump, Baptist; Rev. M. C. Jensen-Engholm, Danish Lutheran.

PHOTOGRAPHER: C. F. Garrison; building erected in 1886.)

POULTRY: F. C. Thomas, John L. Hall, M. C. Ransom, Charles Gruble.

POSTMASTER: Marion Bruce.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS: W. W. Beam, since 1881; E. W. Wilson, E. R. Ames, (homeopath.)

ROLFE TELEPHONE Co: W. P. Wheeler, Pres.; C. E. Fraser, Sec'y and Treas.; 115 subscribers; stock, \$10,000.

RAILWAY AGENTS: H. D. Smith, C., R. I. & P. Ry.; L. A. Dash, C. & N-W. Ry.

REAL ESTATE: J. B. Kent, John Albright, J. H. Campbell, F. E. Jorgenson, J. A. Whitaker, W. P. Wheeler, Jas. Smith.

RESTAURANTS: Wm. Harris, M. W. Coffin, I. T. Hall, T. D. Challand, Fox Bros., (James & Thos. J.) Mrs. W. F. Smith, (chop house.)



**ROLFE BOTTLING WORKS:** C. M. Webb, Mgr. '87-88, '98; W. F. Bright, '89; John Lee, '90-91; Wm. D. McEwen, '92-95; Ferdinand C. Thomas, '96-97; Robert

**SADDLERY:** (See Harness Shops.)  
**SHOEMAKERS:** A. J. Denend, J. H. Hartman. Struthers, '98; (died in office) M. Crahan, '99-1900.

**TAILORS:** J. M. McPetrie, Charles Josephson. **COUNCILMEN:** F. H. Symes, '84-87, '90-92; V. Hauck, '84-86, '90-92; Wm. Jarvis, '84, '87-89; M. Lathrop, '84-87; J. Lamb, '84-86; C. P. Leithead, '84-87;

**TELEPHONE OPERATORS:** Miss Lulu F. Ransom, M. W. Coffin, Charles H. Beam, (Ia. Tel. Co.) M. W. Coffin, '85-91; C. A. Grant, '87-

**UNDERTAKERS:** C. P. Leithead, W. P. McIntire. -89, '97-99; A. S. Mygatt, '88-92; M. Crahan, '88, '91-93, '96-98; Frank G.

**WAGON MAKERS:** N. P. Jensen, S. D. Stoddard, H. C. Holt, N. H. Williams. Thornton, '88; D. D. Day, '89-90; E. P. Hammond, '89; J. H. Charlton, '91-92, '94-95, 1900; F. C. Thomas, '91, '99-1900;

**WELL DRILLERS:** J. H. Hancher, Thos. Heather, (successor to N. F. Russell.) F. M. Flynn, '92; Ed McMahan, '93; J. H. Lighter, '93-97; Thomas Rogers, '93-95; W. A. Grove, '94-95; J. A. Whitaker, '94-96; R. Chambers, '95-96; Chas. Johnson, '96, '98-1900; Frank King, '96-

**VETERINARY SURGEON:** H. Barnes. '98-99; H. D. Smith, '96-97; D. Fouch, '97-99; A. B. Symes, '98-1900; W. F. Smith, '99. 1900; Ward Ferguson, 1900.

At the first election held in Rolfe, the following persons were chosen as the first officers of the incorporation: Mayor, J. J. Bruce; councilmen, F. H. Symes and Wm. Jarvis, one year; J. Lamb and M. Lathrop, two years; V. Hauck and C. P. Leithead, three years; recorder, E. W. Duke; treasurer, John Lee. The first meeting of the council was held March 19, 1884. At this meeting the council arranged for a sidewalk, and at the second one, held March 24th, following, they determined the boundaries of the incorporation as including all of section 5, 640 acres. On Dec. 1, 1884, they gave the Toledo & Northwestern R. R. Co. a strip of land thirty feet in width on Railroad street extending from the west side of Grant street to the east line of section 5, for depot grounds and side-tracks; and the depot was then moved there from Rubens. On Feb. 2, 1882, D. D. Day was appointed as the first assessor of the town, and James Hall, marshal.

**RECORDERS:** E. W. Duke, '84-86; J. L. Warden, '87-89; F. H. Plumb, '90; J. H. Lighter, '91; E. R. Wiswell, '92-94; Marion Bruce, '95-96; August Weible, '97-1900.

**TREASURERS:** John Lee, '84-88; J. J. McGrath, '89-90; S. S. Reed, '91-1900.

The first addition to Rolfe was made Aug. 26, 1884, by the Northwestern Land Co., south and east of the original plat. It included the north-east fractional quarter and the N½ SE¼ Sec. 5, and was platted by L. C. Thornton, surveyor. On Sept. 11, 1888, the second addition, consisting of blocks 10 and 11, north of 4 and 5 of original plat, was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., W. D. McEwen, president, and it was platted by E. A. Caswell, surveyor. On May 29, 1890, the third addition, consisting of blocks 12 to 22, west of the depot grounds of the D. M. & Ft. D. Ry., was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., and on Aug. 18, 1890, the Kent addition, consisting of blocks 1 and 2, west of the D. M. & Ft. D. Ry., and north of Elm street, was made by

**SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.**

The succession of officers of the incorporated town of Rolfe has been as follows:

**MAYORS:** James J. Bruce, 1884; D. D. Day, W. C. Ralston, John B. Kent,

was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., and on Aug. 18, 1890, the Kent addition, consisting of blocks 1 and 2, west of the D. M. & Ft. D. Ry., and north of Elm street, was made by

John B. Kent. Aug. 14, 1893, the fourth addition, comprising blocks 23 to 38 on section 5, was made by the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co. The Lothian addition on the northeast, consists of a part of the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Des Moines township, and was made by William M. Lothian.

#### NO SALOON.

On Dec. 1, 1884, the council passed an ordinance providing for the payment of a license of \$25.00 a month or \$300 a year for the sale of pop, cider and other drinks not prohibited by law. The tax on billiard tables was fixed at \$12.00 each a year, minors were prohibited from frequenting places where pool, billiards, cards or other games of chance were played, and it was made the duty of the marshal to arrest all minors found playing these games. These ordinances are still in force.

The local land company that platted the town, put forth a laudable endeavor to found a city that would be free from the blighting presence of the liquor saloon, by inserting in all their deeds a clause the object of which was to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on the premises. No provision has ever been made by the town council for its establishment, and it is a matter of local pride worthy of note that Rolfe has never had a saloon. The fact has also been noted that during the first eighteen years of its history not a business block or private residence was completely destroyed by fire. By protecting the youth of the town from the dissipating and demoralizing influences of the gaming table and saloon, a sober, clear-headed and industrious citizenship has been developed and a good class of people has been attracted to the town and community, so that the growth has been both substantial and rapid. At the general election in the fall of 1899, Rolfe took the lead by casting 412 votes, which

was 27 more than the number cast by any other town in Pocahontas county.

#### THE CEMETERY.

The Clinton township cemetery, containing nine acres, is located on the southwest corner of section 4, one-half mile southeast of Rolfe. It is under the supervision and care of the township trustees, who in 1890, made arrangements with Henry Packman, of Eagle Grove, to plant a row of evergreens around it and a few through it. These trees are now growing nicely, they produce a very pleasing effect upon the landscape, are eminently appropriate and invariably attract the attention and call forth the admiration of every observer. This city of the dead has become the last resting place of representatives of many of the pioneer families of the north part of this county, and during recent years a large number of beautiful monuments have been erected to their memory.

#### RAILROAD AID.

A number of special elections were held in this township to vote aid in favor of railway projects. On June 19, 1872, a 5 per cent tax was voted the Fort Dodge & Northwestern R. R. Co. On Nov. 30, 1872, that project having been abandoned, this aid was voted to the Iowa & Dakota R. R. Co. This project was also abandoned and on May 21, 1881, this aid was voted the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R. Co., who built the road from Tara to Ruthven and received it. On June 7, 1887, at a special election held in Rolfe, another 5 per cent tax was voted to aid in the construction of the Sioux City & Northeastern R. R., payable when a continuous line of standard gauge road should be completed from Sioux City to the southwest corner of section 7, Clinton township. This project was abandoned after the survey was completed.

On June 20, 1876, W. D. McEwen, editor of the Times, wrote as follows



**JAS. J. BRUCE, ROLFE.**  
COUNTY TREASURER, 1870-73.  
REPRESENTATIVE, 1886-87.



Mrs. J.J. BRUCE.



HENRY JARVIS



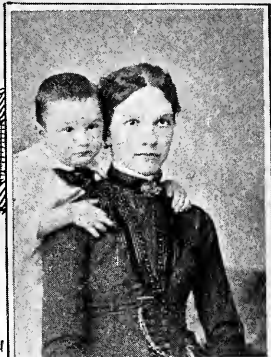
Mrs. HENRY JARVIS



ELLEN W. STRUTHERS MATHER  
FIRST CHILD



Mrs. W. C. KENNEDY.



Mrs. L. E. ENGLAND



W. E. STRUTHERS



W. E. CAMPBELL.



Mrs. W. E. CAMPBELL.

ROLFE, GILMORE CITY AND VICINITY.

concerning this matter of railroad aid:

The McGregor & Missouri R. R. Co. a few years previous induced the citizens to vote aid in some of the townships to a paper railroad running from Fort Dodge in a northerly direction, ostensibly taking the place of the Des Moines Valley railroad. Circumstances that occurred later led those citizens, who advocated this aid, to feel that in so doing they were the dupes of a designing corporation of men, whose sole object was to secure control of the local aid in those counties in which lay the land grant of the McGregor & Missouri R. R. Co., expecting thereby to crowd out legitimate projects and to save the above named company from paying tax on its grant. This experiment led them to feel that rushing into a railroad excitement was somewhat like interfering with the business end of a wasp. A natural consequence of an over-desire to have a railroad, often leads men to grasp at straws handled by shrewd men who have axes to grind, and would have the grindstone turned by those who should hold the axe.

#### HISTORIC INCIDENTS.

The first child born in Clinton township was Nettie Clason, whose birth occurred July 25, 1865.

The first marriage occurred in the log house of Joseph Clason, Dec. 25, 1869, when his daughter Sarah became the wife of George Heald, Rev. David S. McComb performing the ceremony.

The first school house in Clinton township was built by W. D. McEwen and Henry Jarvis, carpenters, in 1865, on section 11, in the Malcolm district, and the first teacher in it was Edward Strong. Previous to this date many of the children in this township who attended school, went to the brick school house in Des Moines township. Clinton was included in the Des Moines school district until the end of 1868.

In 1881, the first religious services were established in the township by the organization of a union Sunday School in the Pilot Creek district, under Joseph Hatton, superintendent. In 1883, when he moved to Rolfe, Wm.

C. Kennedy became his successor as superintendent, and he maintained the Sunday School at that place during the next five years. Later, the Danish Baptists secured the erection of a church building on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34.

At the first meeting of the trustees of Clinton township, held in April, 1861, the time was occupied in discussing work on the roads and it was decided the wages per day should be for a man, \$1.00; for one yoke of cattle fifty cents, and for two yoke of cattle, \$1.00. The amount expended on the roads that year was \$89.50.

It was in Clinton township that the following amusing incident, illustrative of the old-time way of thinking and too good to be lost, is said to have occurred:

As the time of the annual election drew near one of the few early settlers went to his neighbor and inquired if he would not be willing to take the office of justice of the peace. The one whom he addressed was a deacon in the church and he asked that a reasonable amount of time be given him to consider a matter of so much importance. A few days later he was overheard musing aloud or talking with himself over the matter and as follows: "The people now call me 'Deacon X,' and that sounds well in the ears of the Lord. If I were elected justice of the peace they will call me 'Squire X,' and that will sound well in the ears of the people. I believe I had better take the office."

During December of 1881 the first religious services were held in Rolfe by William C. Kennedy and Rev. L. C. Gray, of Fort Dodge. The former, as superintendent, secured the organization of a Sunday school and it met in the most convenient one of the new buildings in process of erection, he making the selection and cleaning it for that purpose on the previous Saturday evening. Mr. Gray held divine services at the same time and

place on alternate Sabbaths.

In December 1881 the first public school was established under Maggie Hall in a building that stood north of the First National Bank building, and for some months afterwards this building was used for the Sunday school and church services. It is now used as a stable by Dr. W. W. Beam.

In 1883, when J. J. Bruce built the double two story frame building at the south end of Garfield street from the lumber of the old court house and later known as the Tremain House, the services were transferred to the the public hall over the store of Weible & Hauck in the north half of this building.

**PUBLIC OFFICERS:** The following persons have been elected or appointed to serve as public officers from Clinton township: Sheriff, Edward P. Hammond; superintendents, Oscar E. Avery, Ora Harvey, J. H. Campbell; coroners, Edward P. Hammond, Joseph Clason, Dr. W. W. Beam, C. C. Delle, Esq.; surveyor, Fred A. Malcolm; clerks of the court, E. P. Hammond, A. H. Malcolm, F. H. Plumb; representative, James J. Bruce; senator, George W. Henderson; county supervisors, Ora Harvey, A. H. Malcolm, J. J. Bruce, Robert Hunter

**POSTMASTERS AT ROLFE.**

Henry Tilley established the office April 1, 1882, and his successors have been James Hatton, D. D. Day, '86-90; George F. Spence, '90-97; Marion Bruce since July 1, 1897.

**RAILWAY AGENTS.**

**C. & N. W. RY:** At Rubens, T. C. Morbeck, '82-83; J. Z. Benson; at Rolfe, J. Z. Benson, '84-90; Frank M. Flynn, '90-91; J. Z. Benson, '91-92; C. H. Slaughter, '92-93; George Staynor, '93-96; W. F. Smith, '96-99; J. G. Kahl, '99; A. B. Jones since Jan. 1, 1900.

**C. R. I. & P. RY:** E. S. Darling, '82-84; H. D. Smith since 1884.

**INDEPENDENT DISTRICT OF ROLFE.**

In response to a petition presented

to the board of directors of Clinton township in January, 1884, the Independent District of Rolfe was established, embracing all the territory on sections 5 and 6, the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 7, N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 8, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9, in Clinton (92-31), all of section 32, the S $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31 and W $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33 in Des Moines (93-31) townships.

Since that time several additions have been made to this district. On Sept. 15, 1884, at the request of Henry Hayward, owner, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, Clinton; on Jan. 16, 1891, at the request of J. Denend, the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Clinton, and on Sept. 16, 1895, at the request of Thomas Heather, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, Des Moines township, were added.

On March 10, 1884, at the first meeting of the electors of the independent district, the first board of directors was elected as follows: James J. Bruce, Frederick H. Symes and M. W. Coffin. The board organized by the selection of M. W. Coffin for Pres.; James J. Bruce, Secy., and John Lee, Treas.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

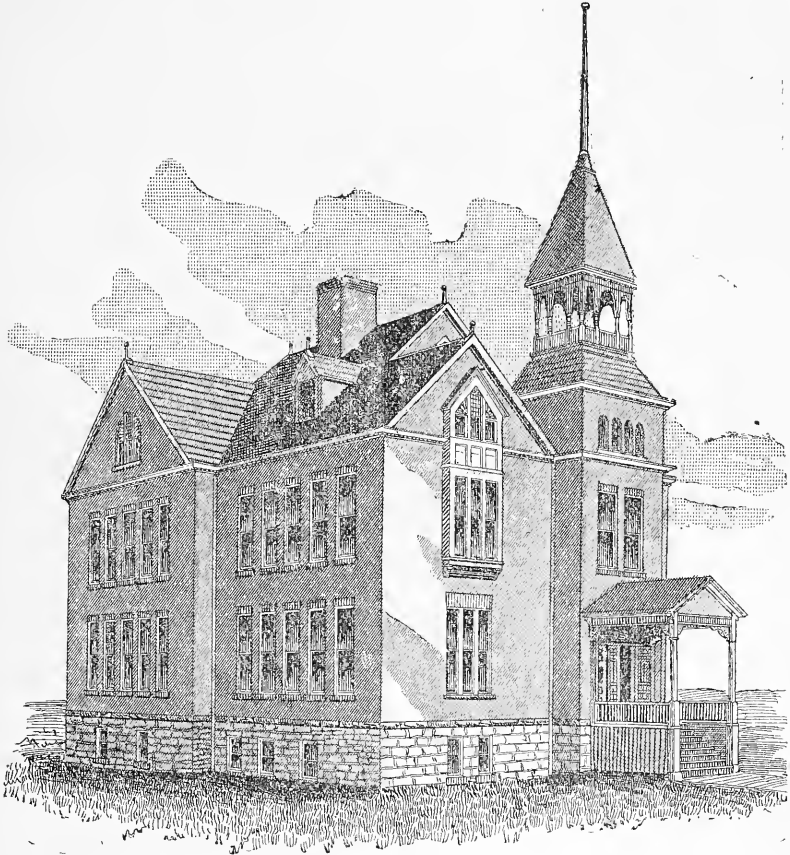
**PRESIDENTS:** M. W. Coffin, 1884-85; F. H. Symes, '86; M. Lathrop, '87-90; J. J. Bruce, '91-92; W. F. Bright, '93-94; F. C. Thomas, '95; John Ratcliff, '96; Wm. D. McEwen, '97; Michael Crahan, '98-99; W. W. Beam, M. D., 1900.

**SECRETARIES:** James J. Bruce, '84; M. Lathrop, '85; J. L. Warden, '86-92; J. H. Lighter, '93-96; A. L. Schultz, '96-97; H. D. Smith, '97-98; F. C. Thomas, '99-1900.

**TREASURERS:** John Lee, '84-89; J. B. Kent, '90-99; W. P. Wheeler, 1900.

Others who have served as members of the board are, C. A. Grant, '87-89; M. Weible, '89; H. A. Lind, '89-90; G. W. Dickinson, '89-91; C. C. Delle, '89; D. D. Day, '90-92; Geo. F. Spence, '90,

'94-96; W. A. Grove, '90-92; A. O. Gar- Crahan; F. C. Thomas, Sec., and W. lock, '91; H. D. Smith, '91; W. F. P. Wheeler, Treas. Bright, '92-95; C. J. Doxsee, '92-93; PRINCIPALS: J. L. Warden, '84-85; John Ratchiff, '92-96; C. E. Gill, '93; L. M. Beebe and Amos Hoffman, in W. B. Sanders, '93-95; E. M. Wilcox, '86; A. W. Sargent, '87; Fred C. Gilchrist, '88-89; J. L. Martin, '90; S. A.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, ROLFE. BUILT 1890,

'95-97; W. P. Wheeler, '96-1900; A. B. Emery, '90-93; J. M. Humphrey, '94 Symes, '98-1900. In 1889, the board was increased from three to six members, and in 1900 it consisted of W. W. Beam, M. D., Pres.; M. C. Brown, J. B. Kent, A. B. Symes and Michael T. J. Loar, '95; A. T. Rutledge, 96-1900. The assistant teachers have been, Roy Wilkinson, '84; Jennie Charlton, '85; Ida Charlton, '85-87; Jennie Bod-

enham, '87-90; Mabel Lucas, '89; Mrs. J. H. Campbell, '90; May Palmer, '90-'91; Anna Grove, Francis Beam, '90-91; Lillie Gordon, '92; Grace McMartin, '92-93; Mrs. Lucy Messenger, '93; Mary Woodward, '94; Hortense Ratcliffe, '94-98, 1900; Nellie Connor, '94; Mrs. B. Montgomery, Bertha James, Mrs. M. Barnes, '95-96; Mamie Baxter, '95-96; Alice Sherman, '95-97; C. G. Wilcox, '96; F. L. Cassidy, '97-98; Emma Sirene, '97; Mrs. May Rich, '97-1900; Mrs. Rose Crow, '98-1900; Mrs. Gelia Rutledge, '95-98; Lucetta Armstrong, '98; Lillian Porterfield, '99-1900; Julia Sinnett, '99-1900; Jennie Beam, '99; Viola Quint, Sybil Spencer and Mrs. G. A. Bickell.

#### GRADUATES.

In 1897, Grace Grove, Nellie Grant, Alfred Ireland, Benjamin Sherman, William Ratcliff, Lyle Burgess—6.

In 1898, Lottie Fisher, Jennie Roberts, Sue Hayward, Celia Hanlon, Verdie Fouch, Pearl Smith, Arthur Parvin, Fred Sherman—8.

In 1899, Bertha Williams, Wm. Wilcox, Hugh Beam, Oscar Everson—4.

In 1900, Mary Strong, Mabel Rogers, Litta Ireland, Lulu Perigal, Lizzie Nelson, Anna Tilley, Harris Thomas—7. Total, 25.

Two teachers were employed at the time the independent district was organized. The third school was added in 1889. On March 31, 1890, by a vote of 54 to 2, it was decided to erect a new and brick building for which the site was purchased of A. O. Garlock, May 17, 1890. The new two-story brick building containing four rooms was erected by T. H. Connor, contractor, for \$7,973.00. In 1898 a two-story addition containing four more rooms, was added. This is now the largest and one of the finest school buildings in the county.

The course of instruction embraces five departments—first and second primary, intermediate, grammar and high school. The high school includes

four grades of one year each—the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. The school year is thirty-six weeks and the present enrollment of pupils is 31½, who are cared for by a faculty of eight instructors. The rules provide for the suspension of any pupil who is absent more than six half-days in any four consecutive weeks, unless detained by sickness or some urgent cause; also for using tobacco in any form or profane or improper language on the school-grounds. Prof. A. T. Rutledge is now serving his fifth year as principal and the efficient work done in their public schools is a source of pride to the people of Rolfe.

In November, 1900, Mr. G. W. Schee, of Primghar, a liberal friend of education, offered the people of Rolfe \$100.00 if they would raise \$250.00 more, for the purpose of putting a good library in the Rolfe high school. With the approval of the board of education, Prof. A. T. Rutledge began the work of solicitation, the people responded liberally and in a few days the required amount was raised. This library, costing \$350.00 and obtained before Christmas, 1900, forms a valuable literary equipment for the Rolfe schools. These books were bought for use and pupils may take them to their homes, but if they are not returned in good condition they will be charged to the head of the family. They are under the care of the school board and it is its duty to check them up once a year.

#### PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The public spirit of the citizens of Rolfe has been manifested in various ways and on every occasion that has called for its expression. One of the most liberal and commendable instances of its expression was in the spring of 1891, when Messrs. W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and C. A. Grant, proprietors of the Savings Bank, took the lead in making to the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, in behalf



of the citizens of Rolfe, an offer of a beautiful site of nine acres of land, upon an elevation north and west of the junction of the two railroads, and \$12,000 additional, making a gift of \$15,000, in the event the Collegiate Institute, then located in inadequate buildings and grounds at Fort Dodge, should be moved to Rolfe. This liberal offer was a genuine surprise to the citizens of Fort Dodge, was greatly appreciated by the Presbytery and proved an effective stimulus to the larger town of Storm Lake, that secured it, to offer still greater inducements for that institution now known as Buena Vista College.

#### ROLFE'S PUBLIC PARK.

Soon after the town of Rolfe was founded, some thoughtful and observing citizens expressed regret that a public square or park had not been left in the center of it for the pleasurable and healthful enjoyment of the people. In February, 1898, this expression of desire for a park was more munificently met by Wm. D. McEwen, Esq., and Hon. A. O. Garlock than others had previously anticipated; they tendered and the city council accepted from them the valuable tract of land containing forty acres, located within the corporate limits and known during the previous ten years as the Rolfe Driving Park.

About the year 1888, this land was sold to the Rolfe Driving Park Association for a fair ground and race course. No money, however, except the annual interest, was ever paid on the contract, for although yearly meetings were held for races they almost invariably proved a source of financial loss to the stockholders. After ten years of unsatisfactory experience and greatly to the relief of the stockholders, the original owners volunteered to take back the land, returning to the stockholders all the interest they had paid on their contract and remunerating them also for

all the improvements they had made. They then deeded this entire tract of land to the town of Rolfe for a public park.

That which Warrick Price did for Pocahontas when he platted that village in 1870, making it the first and for twentyeight years the only one in Pocahontas county having a beautiful, shady park, has now been done for Rolfe by those who platted the town in 1881. The greater size and value of the gift is suggestive of the real and personal interest of the donors in the present and future happiness and welfare of the people of Rolfe. This park, in a few years, when it has been laid out, improved and planted with trees, will become a very beautiful place; and the interest of the people in it will increase with the progress of the years.

#### GOOD ROAD'S MOVEMENT.

In the fall of 1898, when opportunities for employment were scarce and workmen plenty, under the leadership of Col. John B. Kent, \$650.00 were pledged by the citizens and business firms of Rolfe for the purpose of grading and hauling gravel on the streets and highways within the incorporation. On Nov. 10th the matter was laid before the town council and it further encouraged this movement by providing that an amount from the general fund, not exceeding \$650, should be added to the amount voluntarily contributed by the citizens. As a result, over \$1200 were expended for the permanent improvement of the streets and highways in Rolfe and vicinity. The committee having the matter in charge purchased two gravel pits in the neighborhood for a small sum so that almost the whole amount contributed was expended merely for labor. A number of farmers contributed liberally to the fund and during that winter the four principal roads leading into Rolfe, as well as its streets, were thoroughly worked.

graded and graveled. When spring came and the roads leading into neighboring towns were impassable because of the mud, the four main roads leading into Rolfe were dry and hard. The permanent value of this public spirited improvement is perceived when it is known that the gravel was put eighteen inches deep on the grades.

Every feature of this movement was one of real and substantial benefit to the people of Rolfe and vicinity. The laboring men who performed the work, in less than sixty days, by the payment of their bills for groceries, etc., brought back to the donors the money they had contributed. The merchants of the city realized an increase of trade, the farmers coming to town in the family carriage, or with wagons heavily laden with the products of the soil, experienced a grateful relief from the former bad roads, and the town received commendatory congratulations from the public press of the State that were greatly enjoyed by all.

In 1899 crude oil was used on some roads at Keokuk and some of the suburban streets of Des Moines as a sprinkler for settling the dust and making the surface of the unpaved dirt roads less liable to washing. Crude oil settles the dust and makes such a coating that the rain does not wash away even the finest dust.

The new departure of free rural mail delivery means better roads in the rural districts. The successful delivery of mail in the country depends on having long routes, over which the carriers can pass at all seasons of the year, delivering and collecting enough mail to obtain sufficient revenue to cover the cost of the service. Other States in the Union are moving not only for good roads but for rural free delivery. The farmers of Iowa, the State having the greatest and most varied natural resources, should endeavor to have the best roads possible. In this county the attention

hitherto has been directed chiefly to grading the low places while the knolls have been left comparatively undisturbed. The time has now come when the knolls should be removed as far as possible and the grades graveled. In many instances the removal of the knolls will furnish considerable gravel for the grades. Those supervisors will be remembered as public benefactors who shall now expend the greater part of one year's tax in removing the knolls on the highways, in their respective districts, that lead to town.

#### FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ROLFE.

In 1882 John Lee established the Bank of Rolfe, the first one of the town, and maintained it alone seven years. On Jan. 1, 1889 Samuel S. Reed bought a one third interest in it and became its cashier. On March 3, 1893, it was sold to Farmer, Thompson & Helsell, of Sioux Rapids, who continued it as a private bank until May 14, 1894, when, with a paid up capital of \$50,000 it was organized as the First National Bank of Rolfe, J. P. Farmer, President; J. H. Charlton, V. P.; J. W. Warren, cashier and S. S. Reed, assistant. When J. W. Warren died, Jan. 27, 1896, S. S. Reed became cashier, J. K. Lemon, assistant and Clark Brower, clerk. The directors in 1900 were J. P. Farmer and F. H. Helsell, of Sioux Rapids, J. H. Charlton W. W. Beam, M. D., Thomas Rogers and S. S. Reed, Rolfe.

The citizens of Rolfe who are now identified with this bank are well known as among the most enterprising, successful and substantial in that community.

J. P. Farmer, O. P. Thompson and F. H. Helsell in 1882 established the Bank of Sioux Rapids. During the next eighteen years they extended the field of their operations from time to time and from town to town until they have become one of the strongest and most widely known banking firms in northwestern Iowa. They

own all the stock in the bank of Siouxs Rapids, where their general office is located, in the Bank of Havelock and Greenville; and a controlling interest in the First National Banks of Rolfe and Laurens, and of other banks located at Marathon, Peterson and Spencer. The rapid expansion and growth of their business suggests that they are men of sound financial standing and have a talent for business. In each of the communities where they are doing business their banks are managed by courteous and popular officials and the banking interests of the people are well served.

#### STATE SAVINGS BANK OF ROLFE.

On March 1, 1886, the Exchange Bank of Rolfe was established by Wm. D. McEwen, Pres; A. O. Garlock, V. P., and C. A. Grant, cashier. In 1892 it was reorganized as the State Savings Bank of Rolfe, with a paid up capital of \$30,000 under the same officers. The officers since June 1, 1900 are Wm. D. McEwen, President; A. O. Garlock, V. P.; S. H. Kerr, Cashier and Charles E. Fraser, assistant cashier; and the directors are W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock, C. A. Grant, A. V. Grant, J. M. McEwen and M. E. Kerr.

C. A. Grant, who had the special charge of this bank during the first three years of its history, continued as its cashier until June 1, 1900, a period of fourteen years. He began its business with a deposit of \$2,300. On the first day no drafts were sold and the business transacted consisted in taking a note for a small loan and receiving \$303 from three depositors. On the last day he rendered service the deposits amounted to \$112,000 and the general footings were the highest in its history. He still retains his interest in the bank, but gives his special attention to another important business enterprise. C. H. Tollefsrud was the assistant cashier of this bank

for several years previous to June 1, 1900.

The establishment of this bank was one of the natural outgrowths of a bond of mutual co-operation that has existed between Wm. D. McEwen and A. O. Garlock during the last twenty-four years. In 1876, when the county seat was moved and they were filling the offices of county treasurer and auditor, respectively, they bought three lots at Pocahontas, erected a large house and occupied it together thirteen years, or until 1889 when the latter moved to Rolfe. In 1881 they became leading partners in the Northwestern Town Lot Co. that platted the town of Rolfe. In 1883 they erected a stone building and established the Pocahontas Savings Bank, the pioneer bank at Pocahontas. Mr. Garlock, as cashier, managed its affairs while Mr. McEwen continued to perform the duties of county treasurer. In 1886 they established the Exchange Bank of Rolfe under the management of C. A. Grant, cashier, and in 1891 the Savings Bank of Plover, the latter under the management of W. S. McEwen, cashier. Both of these men were among the sturdy pioneers who settled in this county during the sixties and they have rendered long periods of efficient and important public service. They have achieved an eminent degree of success in their business enterprises and have become equally prominent for the liberality of their responses to the calls of charity, benevolence, patriotism and philanthropy.

The stock of these three banks established by them is all owned by the directors that have been named, and they need no introduction or words of commendation to the citizens of Pocahontas county, who, among other things, have learned the propriety of patronizing their own home institutions. In 1892 all of these banks were reorganized, and among the changes made at that time was the

enlargement of the one at Rolfe to the State Savings Bank, the spacious offices of which have become the official headquarters for the general management of all.

By an invariable adherence to honorable business principles, on the part of its proprietors, the State Savings Bank has constantly grown in public favor. Its name is suggestive of sterling integrity, economical administration and abundant resources. "Its policy has always been to keep its business entirely within its own control and its resources available for any emergency. Its excellent management has evinced a knowledge of finance that reflects credit upon its proprietors and also upon the community in which it is located."

#### THE CHURCHES OF ROLFE.

The people of Rolfe and vicinity believe in the public worship of Almighty God, in having good churches for that purpose and in making a good use of them. Everybody at Rolfe goes to church. As a result their churches are filled with devout and reverent worshippers during the hours of public worship. During the hour of Sunday school they are again filled with an assemblage of parents, young people and children for the purpose of studying "the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."\* As a natural result all the people, old and young, have an intelligent knowledge of the law of God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; and herein is found the secret of that high moral sentiment for which the people of Rolfe and vicinity have always been noted.

The Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Baptists and Danish Lutherans have secured the erection of commodious church buildings, and they are now served by resident pastors.

The Norwegian Lutherans who have been worshipping in the Presbyterian

\*11 Tim. 3, 15.

church and are now served by Rev. O. Halgrims, of Thor, have arranged for the erection of a church building in 1901, on lots donated for that purpose on Elm street by Niels Johnson.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Rolfe is the oldest organization of that denomination in Pocahontas county. Services were established in the court house at Old Rolfe during the sixties by the Des Moines conference, a parsonage was erected there during the year 1874, and the charge embraced the inhabited portions of the northern part of this county. Owing to the lack of local records, the facts relating to the early history of this organization elude the search of the historian.

The succession of pastors at Old Rolfe, so far as we have been able to ascertain them, was as follows: Rev. D. M. Beams, 1869; John E. Rowen, Rufus Fancher, William McCready, Oct. 1875, 2yrs.; R. W. Thornberg, '77; C. W. Clifton, '78, 2yrs; T. J. Cuthbert, '80, 2 yrs. The county records show that the board of county supervisors on June 7, 1869, extended to this organization the courtesy of holding a quarterly meeting in the court house after that date.

In 1883 the services were transferred to the new town of Rolfe. On Oct. 29, 1883, Elijah D. Seely, James J. Bruce and James S. Hatton, trustees, were appointed a building committee to superintend the erection of a church building. The frame of this building was erected that fall and it was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies by presiding elder, Rev. W. F. Gleason, June 20, 1884. This building has since been enlarged by the addition of a pulpit recess and class-room. These additions in connection with a re-arrangement of the main audience room have nearly doubled its seating capacity. A large and comfortable parsonage has also been built on lots

adjoining the church, the old one having been sold soon after its removal to Rolfe.

The succession of pastors at Rolfe has been: A. W. Richards, Oct. 1, '82, 3 yrs.; W. Rice, '85, 2 yrs.; F. W. Ginn, '87; Charles Artman, '88, 3 yrs.; T. S. Cole, '91, 2 yrs.; Joel A. Smith, '93; T. S. Carter, '94, 2 yrs.; F. J. McCaffree, '96, 2 yrs.; R. C. Glass, '98; O. S. Bryan, '99, 2d year.

The work of this church is well organized under the leadership of capable persons and it is accomplishing its mission in a manner highly creditable to its pastors and membership.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Rolfe was organized at the old town of Rolfe, Oct. 31, 1880, during the ministry of Rev. L. C. Gray, of Fort Dodge, with a membership of fourteen persons,



METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, ROLFE.

The roll of this church contains the names of a number of the first settlers in the north part of this county of whom Mr. and Mrs. John Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus H. Malcolm and a few others are still living. They have been loyal to the interests of the church and it has exerted a potent influence in the development of the moral and spiritual forces of that community. Every department of

namely: Robert Struthers, Susan (McEwen) Struthers, Robert Lothian, Sr., John B. Lothian, George Anderson, Robert Anderson, James J. Bruce, Mary J. Bruce, Joseph Clason, Ellen Mather, Alexander McEwen, Delilah McEwen, Emiline Broadwell and Peter Williams.

Robert Struthers, James J. Bruce and Robert Lothian, Sr., were elected elders. James J. Bruce served as

elder and clerk of the session until Oct. 1, 1883. Alexander McEwen, George Henderson and Robert Anderson were elected trustees.

This was a reorganization of the Unity\* Presbyterian church that had

Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe. The succession of Pastors in it has been Rev. Lyman C. Gray, Fort Dodge, 1880-83; Simeon B. Head, Pomeroy, '84-86; George H. Duty, '87-90; Augustus C. Keeler, '91-93; George Ainslie,



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROLFE.

been maintained in the northeast part of the county from 1859 until the year 1879, when it was allowed to lapse. To distinguish the new organization from the old one it was called the \*See page 218.

'94-97; W. Rollin McCaslin, '98-99; Newman H. Burdick, the present pastor, since August 1, 1900.

During the ministry of Rev. G. H. Duty, the first one to reside on the field, the work developed very rapidly:

On July 19, 1888, the corner stone for the church building was laid with appropriate ceremonies and an address by Rev. R. E. Flickinger, of Fonda, and on Dec. 9th, following it was dedicated, the address being delivered by Rev. T. S. Bailey, D. D. In 1889 a large and spacious parsonage was erected in the vicinity of the church, as a home for the pastor's family.

This church has in its membership those who have become well known all over this county as recognized leaders in Sunday-school work. It was the first in the county to organize and successfully maintain a home department of the Sunday-school, for the benefit of those parents and others who could not attend its sessions, and it has hitherto been in charge of William C. Kennedy who, for many years previous, was the efficient superintendent of the school. It has been served by a succession of able and earnest pastors, under whose ministrations, it has increased rapidly in numbers and resources so that it is now one of the strongest and most influential in the county.

The elders in 1900 were George F. Spence, clerk and Sunday school superintendent; William C. Kennedy, superintendent of the home class department, D. Fouch and John T. Grant.

Trustees: W. C. Kennedy, Geo. F. Spence, E. Buxbom, R. S. Mathers and Mrs. C. A. Grant.

The rapid development of the work during the three and one-half years' ministry of Rev. George H. Duty, forms not only the most interesting chapter in the history of this church but the most notable one in some respects, in the annals of the church in Pocahontas county. His field of labor included the north half of this county and those portions of Palo Alto, Kosuth and Humboldt counties of which West Bend and Gilmore City were then the natural trade centers:

At the request of the people to serve them one-half time he located at Rolfe, May 1, 1887. He was in the prime of life and enjoyed robust health. He also enjoyed the cooperation of a talented and noble-hearted wife, who shared with him his trials and the joy of his successive achievements. He threw himself without reserve into the work of developing the new fields in the vicinity of Rolfe as they called for his cooperation, and the permanent results of his self-sacrificing missionary labors in laying foundations in them have not been exceeded by any christian worker in this county during the same short period.

On his arrival he found no foundations laid except that at Rolfe and West Bend churches had been organized that had a membership of twenty-five and thirteen respectively, but they had no church buildings. He began his ministry by dividing his time between Rolfe and West Bend. After a few Sabbaths Plover, Pocahontas and Gilmore City claimed a part of his time. By preaching three times and riding twenty-five miles each Sabbath he was able to give one service to Rolfe every Sabbath and to the other places named one service every other Sabbath, making the trips in his own one-horse buggy.

The services were held in the Methodist church at Rolfe, in the court house at Pocahontas and in school houses at the other places. They were well attended by both men and women except during the severe portions of the winter of 1887 and 1888. The terrible blizzard of Jan. 12, 1888 that caused the loss of many lives, blocked the railroads and filled the highways with impassable drifts, and some succeeding stormy days prevented him from leaving home on a few Sabbaths, but many long and cold journeys over the frozen or snow-covered prairies did he make in meeting his widely separated appointments.

During that winter the propriety of building a church became the subject of discussion at each of his appointments. At Rolfe a rock foundation had been built some years previous but owing to its unfavorable location it was deemed inadvisable to build upon it. As spring advanced these building schemes began to take definite shape by the solicitation of funds at Rolfe, West Bend and Gilmore City. During the summer the erection of the buildings was undertaken, the corner stone at Rolfe being laid July 19th. At the fall meeting of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, a committee was appointed that effected the organization of a church at Plover with twenty-six members on Oct. 11th, and at Gilmore City with eleven members, on Oct. 15th. The church at Rolfe was completed and dedicated Dec. 9th; the one at West Bend Dec. 30, and the one at Gilmore City Feb. 3, 1889.

The erection of these three houses of worship prepared the way for holding evangelistic meetings and, as a result of those held continuously from Dec. 30, 1888, to April 1, 1889, with the exception of the week preceding the dedication at Gilmore City, more than fifty persons were added to the membership of these churches.

Some of the people of Rolfe now began to think they ought to build a parsonage. This new enterprise was successfully launched, and just before it was completed the people at Plover expressed a desire to build a house of worship. Their request for his cooperation in this undertaking met with his hearty approval. Funds were raised, workmen were engaged and on the 8th day of December following, another beautiful church building was dedicated. During the ensuing year, 1890, he began to hold services at Laurens on occasional Tuesday evenings and a church of eight members was organized there Sept. 1, that year.

From these narratives it will be per-

ceived that during the short space of three years, in the development of his own field of labor, he secured the organization of three churches and the erection of a large parsonage and four beautiful houses of worship. He received seventy-four persons into the membership of these churches during the year ending April 1, 1889.

His tact in overcoming those little embarrassments that are liable to appear when forward movements in the church are undertaken, was nicely illustrated in the way in which the parsonage movement at Rolfe was launched. At the first meeting held to arrange for the erection of the parsonage only a few persons were present and it seemed to them inadvisable to take any action except to adjourn to a later date. Two weeks later another meeting was held and a less number being present they again adjourned until a later date. At the third meeting only one man, George Melson, was present in addition to Mr. Duty. This meeting, however, was harmonious and enthusiastic. They agreed that a parsonage was needed and that the people were then ready to "rise up and build it." They prepared and adopted resolutions to that effect, appointed the necessary committees and the enterprise was successfully launched.

During the summer of 1890 he experienced the loss of his horse in a surprising manner. Realizing that his field of labor was too large and taking Rev. N. Feather with him to view the appointments to be set off, he started in his buggy to visit Plover and West Bend. As they were approaching Plover they were caught in a thunder shower and a bolt of lightning killed his horse. This was a loss that was deeply felt, but kind friends enabled him to purchase another one soon afterward.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Baptist church of Rolfe was organized Sept. 29, 1895, as a re-



sult of special meetings conducted by Dora Livingston and Miss Ellen Oker-  
 Rev. J. W. Thompson, with thirteen strom.  
 constituent members, namely: R. P. R. P. Brown and D. M. Palmer were  
 Brown, Mrs. R. P. Brown, D. M. Pal- elected deacons; R. P. Brown, N. F.



CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROLFE.

mer, Mrs. D. M. Palmer, O. W. Garri- Russell and D. M. Palmer trustees;  
 son, Mrs. O. W. Garrison, Mrs. M. E. Mrs. Dora Livingston, clerk; and C.  
 Kerr, Mrs. N. F. Russell, C. A. Green, H. Roberts, treasurer.  
 Mrs. C. A. Green, C. H. Roberts, Mrs. On Jan. 1, 1896, Rev. Charles Gilbert

Wright was called to the pastorate and he continued until Jan. 1, 1900, when he was succeeded by Rev. George Yule who served nearly one year and was succeeded by Rev. F. O. Bump, the present pastor. On Dec. 20, 1896, a house of worship was completed and dedicated at a cost of \$1,800. The enrollment now shows a membership of sixty communicants and the work of the church is progressing very encouragingly.

DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The United Danish Evangelical Lutherans completed and dedicated a house of worship in Rolfe May 27, 1900. At the dedicatory services which lasted three days, addresses were delivered by Rev. G. B. Christiansen, of Omaha, president of the denomination, Rev. N. Hansen, of Cedar Falls, president of the eastern Iowa district, by eight other visiting brethren and the pastors of the other churches in Rolfe. A few months later that same year the erection of a parsonage was undertaken and carried to a happy completion. Rev. M. C. Jensen-Engholm, the pastor under whose leadership these buildings were erected, began his ministry at Rolfe March 1, 1900 and has been giving half his time to the church at Callender. He is serving an industrious and sociable people, and is to be congratulated on the rapid material development of his work during the year 1900.

THE COUNTY MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The office of the Pocahontas County Fire and Lightning Insurance Association was at the home of its secretary, J. J. Bruce, Rolfe, until Oct. 19, 1897; and it has been at the home of P. J. Shaw, near Plover, since that date. The history of this association begins with a meeting held in the court house at Pocahontas, March 26, 1890,\* when a constitution was adopted and a committee appointed to prepare

\*See page 313.

suitable by-laws. At a second meeting, held April 21st, following, the by-laws were adopted and a permanent organization was effected by the election of C. M. Saylor, president; James J. Bruce, secretary; George Watts, treasurer. The others who were associated with them as founders or original directors, were P. J. Shaw, Geo. W. Henderson, Alexander Peterson, J. W. O'Brien, W. F. Atkinson, Wm. Brownlee and James Clancy. At the first annual meeting, held on the second Tuesday of October, 1890, the number of directors was increased to sixteen, one for each township in the county.

On Jan. 1, 1891, the required amount of applications having been received, this association began to do business and issued policies to the amount of \$50,000. During the first four years, owing to the opposition encountered from old stock companies and even from loan associations, the growth was comparatively slow, but nevertheless encouraging. During the past few years its growth has been very rapid, as may be seen by the following exhibit of its assessable risks:

Jan. 1, 1891.....	\$ 50 000
“ “ 1896.....	350 310
“ “ 1898.....	511 293
“ “ 1899.....	637 665
“ “ 1900.....	900 611
May 14, “ .....	1 000 000
Jan. 1, 1901.....	1 163 411

The cost of an insurance of \$1,000 in this association during its first ten years, appears in the following exhibit:

During 1891.....	No assessment
“ 1892.....	\$1 75
“ 1893.....	No assessment
“ 1894.....	\$1 00
“ 1895.....	No assessment
“ 1896.....	\$2 00
“ 1897.....	3 00
“ 1898.....	No assessment
“ 1899.....	\$2 00
“ 1900.....	2 00

Total for ten years \$11 75  
The membership fee in this associa-

tion is \$1.00, and the contingent fee collected at the time the policy is issued is two mills on each dollar of insurance. This association was formed in response to the request of many farmers, who had been members of mutual companies in other parts of this and other states, where it was found that reliable insurance was furnished at one-half the cost charged by the old line companies. It insures farm property, including buildings, their contents, machinery, farm produce and live stock, but does not take any single risk of over \$2,000. It is an auxiliary to the Iowa Mutual Insurance Association and its agents write policies for the Iowa Mutual Tornado, Cyclone and Windstorm Association. The annual meetings are held in the month of October, and whilst the officers are elected by the directors, every member has a vote in the selection of the directors.

The officers in 1900 were, C. M. Saylor, president; George Watts, vice-president, and P. J. Shaw, secretary and treasurer. The other directors or local agents, were Swan Nelson, James Mercer, Alexander Peterson, Carl Steinbrink, Charles Elsen, Wm. C. Kennedy, Charles L. Gunderson, Anton Hudek, O. F. Olson, W. E. Pirie, M. T. Nilsson and L. E. Hanson.

This association is no longer an experiment, but a permanent institution founded on a sound financial basis. The management of its affairs is in the hands of men who have been successfully working out their own destiny by a long residence in this county, and they have already saved their friends in the rural districts hundreds of dollars by affording them safe insurance at greatly reduced rates.

No farmer should take the chance of being financially embarrassed by the loss of his buildings and property by fire, when good protection can be secured for a few dollars. It is as

good a policy for the farmer to carry a reasonable amount of insurance as it is for the business man. It is also the best way of contributing one's share toward helping those who are so unfortunate as to lose their property by fire or tornado, and when one is contributing in this way to help others, he is paying for his own protection.

An incidental benefit from this and similar organizations has been the tabulation of losses, the study of their causes and the adoption of precautionary measures to minimize them. Thus in this county it was found that 23 of 25 losses sustained in 1899 were due to lightning, and that wire fences, which are good conductors of electricity, were an important factor in causing them. The secretary therefore advised all farmers to place ground wires every ten or twenty rods along their fences to conduct the electric fluid into the earth, and thus lessen the danger to their stock from this cause. Human genius has been able to grapple with this most subtle and terrific force of nature. It has harnessed the lightning to cars, put it to work in mills and factories and made it an obedient and powerful servant of man's will; and it is believed the time is not far distant when it will be able to construct ample safeguards against its destructive manifestations during electric storms.

#### THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The entrance of thy Word giveth light.—DAVID.

In the fall of 1867, Mr. Conrad, the Iowa State Superintendent of the American Bible Society, held a meeting at the old town of Rolfe and received \$13.25 for the purchase of Bibles. A county society was partially organized by the appointment of Wm. D. McEwen, secretary and treasurer. At a second meeting held soon afterward, Robert Struthers was appointed

president, John Fraser, secretary; and Edward P. Hammond, depositor and treasurer; and the organization of the Pocahontas County Bible Society was completed.

Until the day of his death, in 1899, Robert Struthers continued to serve as president of this organization, and John Fraser is still its faithful, efficient and highly honored secretary. The long periods of continuous service, covering more than thirty years each, rendered by these two loyal lovers of the Bible, has given stability and efficiency to this organization. When John Fraser in October, 1867, conveyed from Fort Dodge to Old Rolfe the first lot of books sent by the American Bible Society, (\$112.00) he carried the first supply of Bibles and Testaments into Pocahontas county. The successors of E. P. Hammond as depositor and treasurer at Old Rolfe, were Rev. Wm. McCready, Rev. R. W. Thornberg and Rev. C. W. Clifton. In 1880, James Hatton was appointed depositor, and James J. Bruce, treasurer. The latter has continued to serve in this capacity until the present time, and the succession of depositors has been, Joseph Hartman, F. H. Plumb, Geo. F. Spence and Frank Sherman. Other old settlers who contributed in the early days to the support of the good work of this society were, Henry Tilley, Joseph Clason, Wm. Stinsol, Robert Lothian, Hiram Seely, J. C. Strong, Rev. A. Whitfield, John Barnes, Rev. R. L. Kenyon, Harvey Hay, Joseph Hawkins A. W. Dart, C. M. Saylor, Mrs. Wm. Jarvis, Mrs. T. and Susie Fisher, Mrs. Ira Scranton, Ellen Struthers, Alice Barnes and Jessie Fraser.

In May, 1879, the entire county was canvassed for the purpose of leaving a Bible in every home, by Rev. H. Pilbeam, an agent of the American Bible Society. His report showed that he traveled 776 miles and visited 503 families, of whom 87 had no copies of the

scriptures. He supplied 59 of them and left copies in many other homes. He distributed 338 volumes worth \$129.99 by donating 115 volumes (\$39.09) and selling the others for \$90.90. He also received voluntary offerings from the people to the amount of \$25.30. He left with the county society the balance of his supply, valued at \$65.54, of which books to the value of \$38.89 were left in the care of A. W. Dart, custodian, for Fonda and vicinity. A supply was also left with C. M. Saylor at this time for the center of the county and the parent society canceled a debt of \$73.19 due from the county society.

At the fourteenth anniversary held at Old Rolfe Aug. 20, 1882, Rev. John Hood, the state superintendent, was present and \$42.00 were contributed for new books. The depository, in care of James Hatton, was transferred to the new town of Rolfe and A. W. Ireland presented the society with an upright showcase for keeping the books.

In 1883, the parent society, through its state superintendent, made a proposition to donate as many more Bibles as the county society should pay for, for the purpose of replenishing the local supply of Bibles. As a result of this effort \$60.00 were raised and the society received books to the amount of \$120.00. Since that date a good supply of books has been maintained in the depository. The total value of books received has been \$756.96, for which there has been paid the parent society \$494.03 and donated to it \$22.22. There have been donated to Sunday Schools books to the value of \$61.86, and the expenses paid have been \$91.63. An auxiliary branch has been maintained at Plover for several years and it is now in charge of Mrs. George N. Loughhead.

This County Bible Society is one of the oldest organizations in Pocahontas county and one of the most bene-



**WM. D. MCEWEN, ROLFE.**

CLERK OF THE COURT, 1867-72. COUNTY AUDITOR, 1869-73.  
COUNTY TREASURER, 1874-83, 1886-87.



**OSCAR I. STRONG, 1844-85.**  
COUNTY SURVEYOR, 1871. RECORDER, 1877-78.  
COUNTY SUP'T, 1874-78; 1880-81.



**GEO. W. HENDERSON, ROLFE.**  
STATE SENATOR, 1894-95.



**C. F. GARRISON, ROLFE.**  
PHOTOGRAPHER.



**C. P. LEITHEAD, ROLFE.**  
UNDERTAKER.

ficial in its influence and results. It merits the cordial and liberal support of all christian people. The annual membership fee is \$1.00 and the annual meeting is held during the last week in February.

#### ROLFE EGG PACKING HOUSE.

In 1895 R. P. Brown, of Grand Junction, one of the oldest and most skillful egg packers in this state, came to Rolfe, built a three story frame building 26X100 feet and supplied it with the most approved appliances for packing eggs in pickle during the summer season. An ice house having a capacity of 900 tons was also erected and the business of packing eggs was inaugurated at Rolfe. This is the only establishment of this kind in Pocahontas or adjoining counties and the amount of business done surprises the visitor. Lucrative employment is given fifteen to thirty persons and forty to fifty carloads of eggs may be found in storage representing an annual investment of \$50,000. The eggs are purchased when the price is low and they are immediately placed in pickle in the cellar, in large vats that hold 8000 dozen each. The pickle is a compound that preserves them as fresh in appearance as on the day they were laid, and they remain in it until the market promises a profitable margin. They are then lifted from the vats, carried upstairs, wiped and cased for shipment. They are always shipped in carload lots and usually to New York City.

By increasing the price paid for them when they are cheap, this establishment has maintained a local demand for eggs that has attracted them to Rolfe, from the various towns along the two railroads centering there, to the Dakota and Minnesota lines. When an establishment of this sort can be maintained with profit, it is always a great benefit to the community in which it is located. The

founder of this establishment has been very free to say that one of the principal inducements that led to its location at Rolfe was the fact that, in connection with the excellent railroad facilities afforded, his employes there would be free from the dissipating influences of the open saloon.

Whilst R. P. Brown has continued in charge of this establishment since it was founded, in later years he has had several of Rolfe's leading business men associated with him as proprietors. In June, 1898, and for one year thereafter, W. D. McEwen, A. O. Garlock and C. A. Grant became proprietors of it under the firm name of the Rolfe Egg Company. Since June, 1900, M. Crahan has been associated with Mr. Brown under the firm name of M. Crahan & Co.

#### ROLFE TELEPHONE COMPANY.

On Dec. 9, 1899, the Rolfe Telephone Company, with a capital of \$10,000.00, was organized by the election of W. P. Wheeler, president; Ward Ferguson, vice-president, and Charles E. Fraser, secretary and treasurer. The other directors were C. M. Webb and E. R. Ames. The other stockholders were J. B. Kent, M. Crahan, S. H. Kerr, C. A. Grant, W. W. Beam, M. D., A. W. Weible, George O. and V. Hauck, C. J. and Archie M. White, A. L. Wiewel, S. S. Reed, F. King and Fred A. Malcolm. On Jan. 29, 1900, the council made provision for the people to extend this company a franchise that includes the right to maintain a local telephone system in Rolfe for a period of twenty-five years. In June, 1900, eighty-five instruments were located and the system was put in working order with the central office in the room over the drug store of G. W. Core. Miss Lulu E. Ransom and M. W. Coffin were appointed operators for the day and night work respectively. The annual meeting of the stockholders is held on the first Monday in April.

## ROLFE ROLLER MILLS.

In May, 1895, D. and Richard Fouch, of Manning, completed the erection of a three-story frame building 30x40 feet with an engine room of brick 30x24 feet, and established the Roller Mill near the Rock Island depot at Rolfe. It had three grinders, three stands of double rollers, one three-pair high feed mill, a capacity of fifty barrels of flour a day and cost \$8,000.00. The good satisfaction afforded the public by the excellent quality of flour manufactured was from the first the harbinger of the subsequent success that has attended this enterprise. It has attracted farmers with their grain from far distant places and has materially aided in increasing the trade at Rolfe.

On April 9, 1898, a fire, originating in the engine room, rendered most of the machinery useless, seriously injured the building and caused the loss of 700 bushels of wheat and a carload of flour. This loss was a heavy one to the proprietors, but they immediately repaired the building and supplied it with new machinery. In January, 1900, Richard Fouch sold his interest to G. A. Patterson and moved to Perry. Since that date the firm of Fouch & Patterson has made some important improvements, rearranging the machinery so as to make flour according to the latest system and increasing the capacity to 75 barrels a day. The two leading brands of flour are called "Pocahontas" and "Ideal Patent." They also manufacture fine grades of Graham, rye and buckwheat flour; also cornmeal and all kinds of feed. The quality of the flour is second to none on the local market and a demand for it is found not only in many towns and villages in Iowa, but also in Illinois, Minnesota and the Dakotas. The liberal patronage accorded this manufacturing enterprise has been well merited.

## ROLFE NEWSPAPERS.

Rolfe has had two newspapers—the Reporter and Argus—that have already ended their careers, and two others—the Reveille and Tribune—that are still fulfilling their mission. The fact that only one-half of the newspapers started at Rolfe continue to be published, suggests that there may be more of sarcastic irony than truth in the following familiar lines:

"A lawyer slept in an editor's bed,  
When no editor chanced to be nigh;  
And he said, when he rolled out of bed,  
'How easy these editors do lie.'"

THE REPORTER, a local republican paper, established by E. W. Duke in 1882, was the pioneer newspaper of Rolfe, and until the establishment of the Reveille in 1888, was the only one published in the town. On Oct. 15, 1886, M. W. & P. O. Coffin became its editors and proprietors, and its publication was discontinued May 8, 1890, when the outfit was purchased by James J. Bruce and added to the Reveille equipment.

THE ARGUS, a democratic paper, was established Feb. 3, 1891, by Lawrence J. Anderson, as a nine-column folio. In November, 1892, J. A. Faith bought it, but after four months left it in the hands of the mortgagees—M. Crahan, C. P. Leithead, V. Hauck and A. B. Symes. M. Crahan then purchased the outfit and the paper was managed by Wm. Porter until April, 1894, when it was purchased by A. L. Schultz, who continued as its editor and proprietor until Dec. 1, 1898, when its further publication was discontinued. The outfit was sold to S. E. Sage, of Sibley, the subscription list to J. H. Lighter, of Rolfe, and A. L. Schultz, moving to Pocahontas, established the Pocahontas Herald.

## THE REVEILLE.

The Reveille, a republican paper, was established at Rolfe to meet its growing business demands, by James



J. Bruce and Frank H. Plumb, July 12, 1888, and they continued as co-editors and proprietors until May 1, 1890, when the latter sold his interest to the former. On Oct. 1st, 1890, J. H. Lighter became a half owner with J. J. Bruce and this partnership continued until Jan. 1, 1894, when Marion Bruce, who had been a workman in the office from the time it was founded, bought his father's interest in it. On Sept. 1, 1895, A. R. Thornton bought the half interest of J. H. Lighter, and the partnership of Bruce & Thornton continued until Aug. 4, 1900, when A. R. Thornton became the sole owner of the paper and then sold a half interest in it to Lottie Thornton, his wife. Thornton & Thornton have been its editors and proprietors since that date.

The office that was once supplied with only a handful of type and second-hand machinery, is now finely equipped. It has a full supply of modern type faces, pretty ornaments and borders for job work. The workmen employed have made the art of putting them together artistically a special study, and they take pains and pride in their work. The Country Babcock press, purchased in October, 1897, at a cost of \$1,200, prints 1300 impressions in an hour and does newspaper, book and job work in the neatest possible manner. The Reveille is well equipped for promoting the interests of Rolfe and Pocahontas county and, during nearly every year since it was founded, it has been one of the official papers of the county.

Its editors have issued two special Christmas editions, one on Dec. 16, 1896, containing twenty pages filled with original stories of the pioneer days and large local advertisements, and the other an illustrated one of twelve pages, on Dec. 13, 1900, containing an account of some of the leading citizens and business inter-

ests in the towns in the north part of this county, by Geo. W. Williams.

Amid all the changes in the editorial management of this paper, it has manifested a lofty aim by advocating the causes of education, morality and religion, the local prohibition of the liquor traffic and the local support of every worthy local enterprise. It has not aimed to please everybody, but to advocate certain approved principles, and it has frequently happened that those who have manifested a feeling of unfriendliness one day have become its friends the next. The aim of its present editors is to make the Reveille worthy of the continued confidence and support of the people of this county.

#### THE ROLFE TRIBUNE.

The Rolfe Tribune, a republican paper, was established March 1, 1898, by Joseph Henry Lighter, in response to an oft repeated request on the part of advertisers and others for a paper that would make their announcements and give the news twice a week. It is the first and only semi-weekly paper published in this county and it is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is devoted to the best interests of the community, has already won its way to a favorable recognition on the part of the public and is now receiving a cordial and liberal patronage. Among other things it has noted that Rolfe, hitherto a temperance town, has made more improvement during recent years than any town in Northwest Iowa having saloons. It has been free to stamp the saloon as a curse, because it absorbs the earnings of a great number of persons who cannot then pay their just obligations to the merchants and other legitimate tradesmen.

#### FIRST POSTOFFICES.

The first postoffice in Clinton township was established in 1876 at the home of William Matson on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, on the route from Pocahontas

to Old Rolfe. The name of the office was "Ben Lomond," and Wm. Matson continued to serve as postmaster until March 1, 1878, when the office was discontinued. Blooming Prairie post-office was maintained on the semi-weekly mail route from Pocahontas to Humboldt at the home of Sewell Van Alstine on section 25 from March 1878 until the spring of 1882.

The valuable quarries of building or limestone rock, opened on section 25, in 1881 by C. J. Carlson, and belonging to the Kinderhook beds,\* and the county drainage district No. 1, on Crooked creek,† the south branch of Pilot creek, have already been described.

According to the census of 1900, the population of Rolfe was 994, and, including its suburbs, 1,175.

From Rolfe and vicinity there went forth to engage in the war with Spain in Cuba in 1898, the following volunteers:

Louie Peterson, enlisted April, 1898, Co. F, 49th Reg.

John Everson, enlisted at Rock Rapids, June 24, Co. H, 52d Reg.

Benjamin Everson, enlisted June 24, Co. H, 52d Reg.

Geo. W. Tremain, enlisted June 10, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Edward R. Ashley, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Andrew Denend, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Mid Roberts, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Homer Sanford, enlisted June 23, Co. G, 52d Reg.

Louie Peterson became a corporal in July. Co. F, H and C were known as the Davenport, Sioux City and Webster City companies, respectively. On June 23d, when the last four left Rolfe, a farewell meeting was held at the depot and, after music by the band, an address was delivered by C. C. Delle, Esq. The 52d regiment, to which most of them belonged, was

\*Page 144.

†Page 306.

from Northwestern Iowa, was mustered in at Camp McKinley, Des Moines, May 25, 1898, and arrived at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, May 31. It was assigned to the campaign in Porto Rico as a part of the third brigade, second division of the third army corps, but was returned to Des Moines August 30th, and the men from Rolfe were mustered out, Oct. 30, 1898, after a service of four months in camp.

The Northwestern Land Co., that platted the towns of Rolfe, Plover, Gilmore City, Clare, Mallard, Curlew, Ayrshire and Ruthven, consisted of J. J. Bruce, President; A. O. Garlock, Secretary; Wm. D. McEwen, Charles E. Whitehead, Geo. W. Ogilvie, C. N. Gilmore and B. F. Kauffman, and was organized in 1881.

#### PIONEERS OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

In the account of the early settlement of the north part of this county, sketches have already been given of the following early settlers or residents of Clinton township, namely, Oscar F. Avery, Ora Harvey, Wm. Jarvis, Augustus H. Malcolm, Wm. D. McEwen, Perry Nowlen and Robert Struthers.

**Beam** Watson Wilna, M. D., (b. June 26, 1858,) Rolfe, is a native of Jones county, Iowa. After receiving a good common school education, and studying medicine with his father, Dr. Wm. O. Beam, he pursued a collegiate course at Cornell College and graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University. In the spring of 1881 he located temporarily in the old store building and Hotel de Telford at Old Rolfe, in anticipation of the coming of the first railroad in that part of the county. When the railroads came and the new town of Rolfe was founded, he secured a permanent location as the first resident physician of that town. His office is now located in a fine suite of rooms in the east end of the State

Savings Bank, and its equipment includes a complete set of surgical instruments and a valuable medical library. He owns a fine home in Rolfe and an improved farm of 160 acres in that vicinity.

He is one of the pioneer physicians in this county and the period of his professional career at Rolfe is longer than that of any other business man in the town. His skill as a physician, public spirit as a citizen and long residence in the community have caused him to be widely and favorably known. He has taken an active part in both local and county politics, but has never been an aspirant for political honors, although he has served as a member of the Rolfe school board during the past four years and as president of it in 1900. His ambition has been to rise in his profession and, in this respect, he has succeeded admirably. He has been the surgeon for the C. & N. W., and C., R. I. & P. railways for a number of years.

On May 12, 1886, he married Emma Brown, at Rolfe, and his family consists of two daughters, Hazel and Wilna Winnifred.

**Beam** C. H., druggist, has been a resident of Rolfe since 1885. In 1890, after teaching school a few years, he entered the employ of Geo. W. Core, as a pharmacist. Later he was proprietor of a drugstore at Plover and, since 1895, of one at Rolfe. He has a talent for business and is achieving well-merited success.

**Bruce** James Jeremiah, (b. Nov. 6, 1843,) resident of Rolfe, is a native of Oswego, N. Y., the son of Thomas and Mary Bruce. His parents, who were of Scotch-Irish descent, emigrated from the north of Ireland to Oswego in 1842, and soon afterward located in Hastings (then called Simcoe) county, Ontario, where his mother died Aug. 15, 1845. After the death of his mother he was taken care of in the homes of other people. At nine

he entered the public school and at sixteen received a second-grade teachers' certificate. At eighteen he taught his first term of school, and then taking a three months' Normal course, taught the same school in Simcoe county during the next three years. He then commenced a term of school in the adjoining district, but at the end of one week—Jan. 10, 1866—the school house was burned. This occurrence was attributed to a prejudice developed by his unfavorable criticism in the public press of the drunkenness that appeared at the celebration of the Orangemen, July 12th, previous. He relinquished his contract and on March 16th, 1866, started for Chicago, stopping at Toronto a few days to visit some schoolmates on the way. He carried with him a first-grade teachers' certificate issued by the board of education of Simcoe county, that was good for three years, and attested his good moral character and excellent literary attainments. At Chicago he concluded to go west in the hope he might locate in a community where there were no Irish people. He passed by rail to Ackley and thence by stage to Iowa Falls, where he met several Canadians who wished to locate in Pocahontas county. In company with David Wallace he carried his luggage and walked from Iowa Falls to section 8, Lizard township, a distance of 77 miles, selecting a homestead and fording the Des Moines river at Fort Dodge. He was surprised to find his new location was in another Irish settlement, and where there were even persons who knew his parents when they lived at Monagan City, Ireland.

At the time of his arrival in Lizard there were only four school houses in Pocahontas county, namely, in the Robert Struthers and (Old) Rolfe districts, Des Moines township, and in the Calligan and Walsh districts in

Lizard township. On Aug. 20, 1866, he was examined and received a teachers' certificate at Old Rolfe from W. D. McEwen, county superintendent, and in 1867 taught the summer and winter terms in the Walsh district. In the fall of 1867, he was elected county superintendent and also county supervisor from the Lizard district.

On March 4, 1867, he married Mary J. Price, one of the pupils in his first school in Lizard township. In the fall of 1869, he was elected county treasurer and moved to Old Rolfe where, on Jan. 1, 1875, he and W. D. McEwen established a store. In 1881 he became president of the Northwestern Land Co., and on Feb. 14, 1882, was admitted to the bar by Judge Edward R. Duffie, at Pocahontas. In 1882 he erected the building known later as the Tremain Hotel, and became one of the first residents of the new town of Rolfe, where for a few years he engaged in the mercantile business.

He took a leading part in the first newspaper enterprise and was identified with the public press of the county a number of years afterward.

On June 14, 1869, he rode to Fort Dodge with Dennis Mulholland, of Lizard, and on the next day arranged with B. F. Gue to print the Pocahontas Journal for one year for \$450.00. On the next day, June 16, 1869, W. D. McEwen, the other editor, arrived and the first issue of the Pocahontas Journal was printed and placed in their hands for distribution. The second issue of this paper was received in Lizard township July 25, 1869, and the subsequent issues were printed as regularly as the mails could carry copy to the printer and return the printed sheets for folding and distribution. This was the official paper of the county during 1869, 1870 and 1871.\* He was a regular contributor to the columns of the Poca-

\*See page 144.

hontas Times for several years after its removal to Fonda and took the lead in establishing and maintaining the Rolfe Reveille from July 12, 1888, to Jan. 1, 1894.†

His public career in this county covers a period of thirty years and began Oct. 8, 1867, when he served as a clerk at the general election in Lizard township. On that day he was elected to three public offices, namely, justice of the peace and county supervisor from Lizard township, which then embraced nearly the south half of the county, and superintendent of the public schools of the county. As a resident of Lizard township he served as justice of the peace in 1868, as county supervisor in 1868-69, county superintendent 1868-69, and county treasurer four years at Old Rolfe in 1870-73. As a resident of Clinton township he served as the first mayor of Rolfe in 1884, president of the Rolfe school board in 1891-92, justice of the peace in 1891-92, representative of the 78th district, which included Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, in 1886-87, and county supervisor nine years, 1880-85, '95-97. He was president of the board of supervisors five of the eleven years he was a member of it.

In the various offices to which he was called he rendered the people of this county a faithful and efficient service. None ever questioned his ability or his integrity of purpose, and no one was either better acquainted with the county's affairs or endeavored to promote them more unselfishly than he.

On May 15, 1897, he had a tumor the size of a man's hand, removed from the back of his head, that began to appear soon after his recovery from typhoid fever in 1882. A few months later he retired from business and politics and now devotes his attention to the cultivation of his farm on which he lives at Rolfe.

†See page 306.

In 1857, at the age of fourteen, he united with the Wesleyan M. E. church, Canada. In 1876 he became an elder in the Unity and later in its successor, the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe. In 1883 he united with the M. E. church of that place. He has been a life-long advocate of the cause of prohibition and has taken a leading part in promoting that cause in this county.

His family consists of nine children, one having died in childhood.

1—William Ulysses Bruce married Belle Fisk, lives in Omaha and has a family of two children.

2—Marion Bruce married Gussie Wilcox, lives in Rolfe and has one child. He became a workman in the Reveille office at the time it was established and owned a half-interest in it from Jan. 1, 1894 to Aug. 4, 1900. He was recorder of Rolfe '95-96 and has been postmaster since July 1, 1897.

3—George Washington Bruce married Ella Wallace, lives at Rolfe and has four children.

4—Robert Bruce in 1897 graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University and is now practicing law at Rolfe. On Oct. 11, 1899 he married Carrie Ritchey of Des Moines township.

5—James Bruce graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1898, was engaged in a law office in Denver a few months and since Jan. 1, 1900 has been book-keeper for the Pocahontas Savings Bank at Pocahontas.

6—John E. Bruce in 1899 married Anna Miller, has one child and lives in Des Moines township.

Bertha Belle, Edward E. and Harold are still at home.

**Campbell** Will E., (b. 1858) of Gilmore City, is a native of Crete, Will Co., Ill., the adopted son of John F. and Emily S. (Hewes) Campbell of Manteno, Ill. In the spring of 1883, he came to Pocahontas county, pur-

chased and improved the E½ Sec. 15, Lake township, and directed his attention to raising draft horses of the English Shire and Norman varieties. Three years later he bought the SE¼ Sec. 36, (160 acres) Clinton township, adjoining Gilmore City, improved and arranged this farm for raising stock and still lives upon it. He also owns 305 acres on Sec. 26, adjoining, that were bequeathed to him by his father, who died Feb. 26, 1896, at his home in Illinois.

Perhaps no one has done more to promote the draft horse industry in Pocahontas county than Will E. Campbell, of Gilmore City, since he was one of the first to introduce the Percheron breed in this section. In the fall of 1889 he made a trip to France and imported direct to this county three fine Percheron stallions.

On March 25, 1886, he married Mary H. Bain, of Peotone, Ill., and has a family of three children—Mildred, Gladys and Bernice.

He is an elder in the Presbyterian church of Gilmore City, and has been a trustee since its organization in 1888. His estimable wife has always been a faithful worker in this church, serving as its first treasurer, president of its aid society two years and as its organist nearly all the time.

**Carroll** James Andrew, (b. Feb., 1852,) who has been identified with the mercantile interests of Fonda and Rolfe, since 1884, is a native of Macon, Georgia, the son of Patrick H. and Frances K. (Tucker) Carroll. In 1867 he moved with his parents to Jackson county, Iowa, where in 1870, he married Anna Mary Daly, a native of that place, and located on a farm. He remained there until 1880, when he moved to Clinton county, and found employment in a general store. In 1884 he moved to Fonda, two years later to a farm in Dover township, then successively to Rolfe, Fonda and Incline where, for two years, he had

charge of a general store. In 1900 he returned to Rolfe, where he and his son James are employed in the department store of M. Crahan. His brother, P. J. Carroll, was the first resident priest of the Dover and Fonda Catholic churches in 1882-87.

His family has consisted of nine children of whom Anna died at the age of sixteen and Francis at four.

1—Zachary Taylor (b. Dec. 4, 1871) in 1899 married Mina Negus, of Des Moines, and lives at Rolfe.

2—Patrick Henry (b. Feb. 22, 1874,) in May, 1898, enlisted in Co. K, 1st Reg. S. D. infantry at Madison and rendered military service in the Philippines until October, 1899, when he was honorably discharged as a sergeant. During a portion of his time he was a messenger for Brig. Gen. H. G. Otis, at the arsenal at Cavite, and he was accorded a public reception in McKee's hall, Oct. 27, 1899, on his return to Fonda. He is now located in South Dakota.

3—Emma Theresa on May 18, 1897, married Charles F. Linnan and lives in Fonda, where he is engaged in the real estate business.

James Michael, Emmet Robert, Ella and Regina are at home.

**Charlton** Jesse, (b. July 2, 1818,) was a native of Butler county, Ohio. In March, 1850, he married Sarah Ann Brenton, (b. Ind., Jan. 20, 1828.) In 1857 he moved from Butler county, Ohio, to Davis county, Iowa; in 1863 to Dallas county, where his wife died in 1868; and in 1883 to section 11, Center township, Pocahontas county. His family consisted of nine children, of whom William, Hettie and an infant died early in life, and Rebecca Jane, wife of James H. Campbell, died at Rolfe April 10, 1896. Martha Elizabeth in 1889 married William Callon and lives in Center township. Mary Ann (Maulsby) lives at Earlham, Iowa; James Henry at Rolfe; Ida Bell

\*See page 463.

(Loughead) at Plover, and Charles Alvin at Pocahontas.

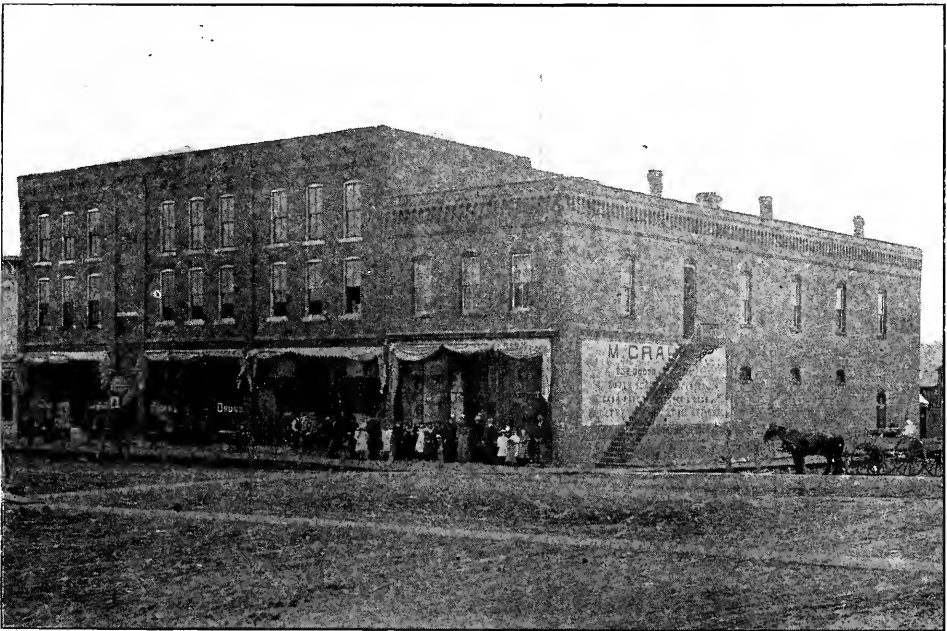
**Charlton** James Henry, (b. June 24, 1856,) is a native of Butler county, Ohio, accompanied his parents (Jesse and Margaret) to Davis and Dallas counties, Iowa, and in 1882 purchased eighty acres and prepared a home on section 11, Center township, for his father and family who arrived the next spring. In the fall of 1889, he located at Rolfe. In September, 1891, he married Franc Lenore, daughter of Dr. Wm. Otterbein and Esther Ann (Stewart) Beam and a native of Linn county. In the spring of 1895 he moved to the old home on the farm in Center township, but in the fall of 1899 returned to Rolfe. He was for several years the manager of the Shannon ranch in Center township. He is now vice-president of the First National Bank of Rolfe and owner of ten improved stock farms\* in that vicinity that contain 3,060 acres and on which he has put about fifty miles of tiling. His family consists of four children—Lucile Beam, Shannon B., Frank B. and Clyde B.

**Charlton** Charles Alvin, (b. March 17, 1865) is a native of Dallas county, Iowa, the son of Jesse and Sarah Charlton. In the fall of 1882, he located with his brother on a farm in Center township. In the fall of 1893 he was elected treasurer of Pocahontas county and being twice re-elected, served in that capacity six years, 1894-99. In 1895 he married Minnie, daughter of Henry and Mary Jarvis, of Rolfe. He lives at Pocahontas and owns 502 acres of land in that vicinity.

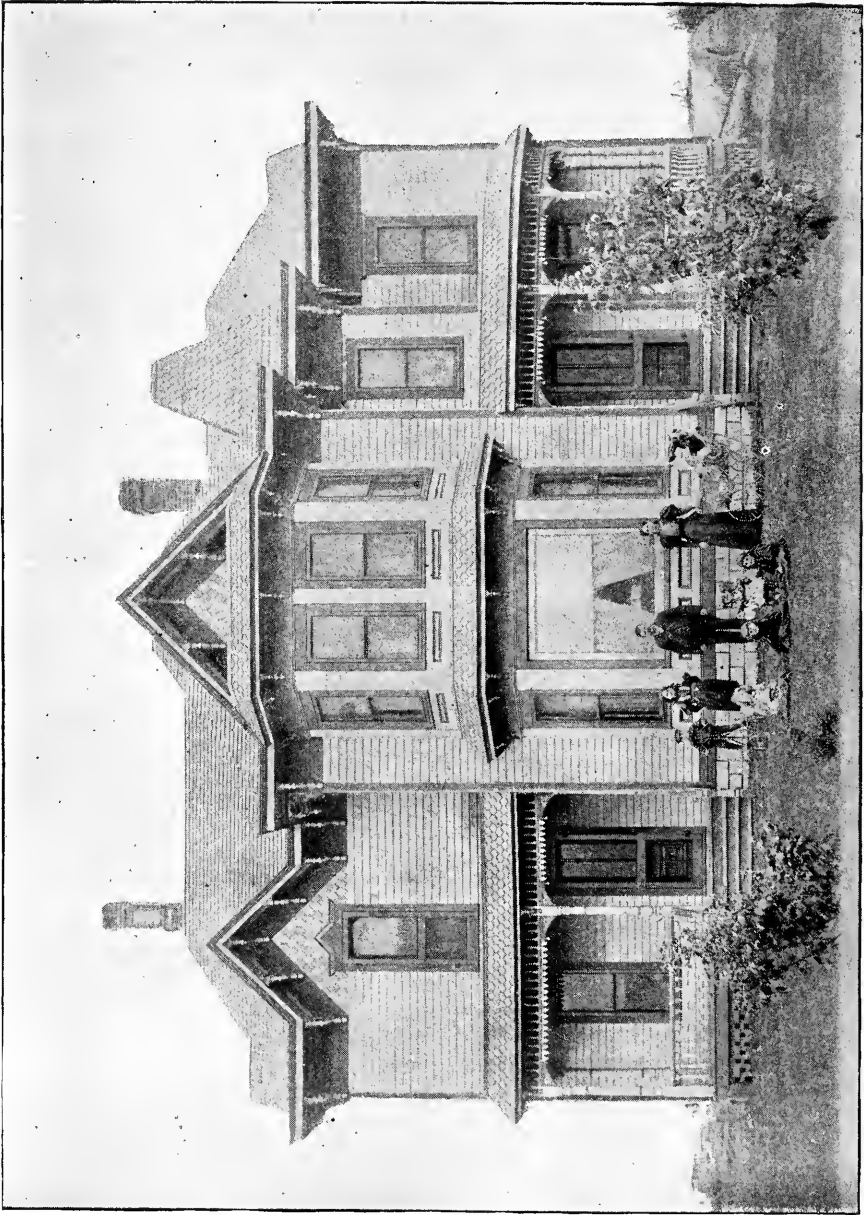
**Clason** Joseph, one of the early pioneers of Pocahontas county, in the spring of 1863, located on a farm of 80 acres on section 1, Clinton township, with a family consisting of his wife (Rebecca Kinyon) and ten children. Upon an unbroken prairie, covered with tall grass and inhabited by mosquitoes, he built a log house and oc-



M. CRAHAN AND FAMILY



CRAHAN STORE BLOCK. Rolfe.



RESIDENCE OF MICHAEL CRAHAN

Rolfe.



cupied it until June, 1874, when he sold the farm and moved to Kansas. He died in 1880 and his wife in 1888. In Clinton township he served as a trustee, 1865-71; as the first president of the school board, '69 '70; as justice of the peace, '71-73.

Ann Clason, his eldest daughter, in 1864 married Richard Chatfield and located in Wisconsin, where she died Sept. 26, 1884, leaving a family of six children, of whom Dora married James Thompson and located in southern Iowa; Rose married Wm. Blain and located in Kansas; George entered the regular army; Edward located in Lizard township; Cora and Alfred are at home.

Sarah Clason on Dec. 25, 1869, married Geo. W. Heald. (See Heald). The wedding occurred at her father's home and was the first one in the township.

Mary Clason on March 30, 1872, married Carl John Carlson, who for a number of years was proprietor of the quarries on section 25, and later located on a farm near Havelock. Their family consists of eight children—Carl J., Florence R., Emma H., Worden J., Minnie M., James A., William A. and Wilfred Bert.

**Core** George Wellington, (b. Dec. 15, 1859) druggist, Rolfe, is a native of Marion county, received his education in the public school and learned the drug trade as an apprentice with his uncle. In the spring of 1882 he opened a drug store in Rolfe and has maintained it ever since. On Dec. 26, 1882, he married Birdie Bedell, of Marion county, and has one child, George Clinton. In the fall of 1895 he was the nominee of the democratic party in this district for representative and lacked only a few votes of election.

**Crahan** (b. July 12, 1858,) general merchant at Rolfe, is a native of Manchester, Delaware county, Iowa, the son of Patrick and Margaret (McMahon) Crahan. In 1869 he moved

with his parents to Lizard township, Pocahontas county. At the age of eighteen he began to teach school, and at twenty-two, in the fall of 1880, was elected and served two years as recorder of this county. On Jan. 10, 1883, he married Mary J. McSweeney, of Fayette county, and located at Fonda, where as a general merchant and manager of the Fonda creamery, he became the successor of Geo. L. Brower. In 1886 he relinquished his interests at Fonda to John R. Welsh and a few months later established a small



GEO. W. CORE, ROLFE.

general store in the First National bank building at Rolfe. In 1888 he and J. J. McGrath erected a two-story brick block, (44x100 feet) the first one in Rolfe, and later increased it to 100x100 feet. He is now the sole owner of this building and proprietor of the large department store conducted in it. The arrangement of this store is very convenient, and the variety of its large and constantly changing stock of goods is suited to meet every want and their quality every taste. Eight to ten persons are constantly employed and goods are delivered free

to all purchasers residing in the city. He has achieved a remarkable degree of success as a merchant, and the secret of it may be attributed to his personal knowledge and oversight of all the details of the business and his superior facilities both for making purchases to good advantage and many sales at a small profit. He always keeps his promises and never advertises what he does not have.

He has a controlling interest in the Rolfe egg packing house, does considerable business in land and lives in one of the largest and finest houses in the county. He has served seven years as a member of the Rolfe town council, was president of the Rolfe school board in 1898-99, and mayor of that city in 1899-1900. He has always voted the democratic ticket and is a member of the Catholic church.

His family consists of eight children—Maggie, Mamie, Nellie, Nora, Edward Leo, Esther G., William C. and Grace Irene.

**Duty** George H. Rev., (b. Aug. 13, 1849,) pastor of the Presbyterian church, Rolfe, May 1, 1887, to Oct. 1, 1890,\* was a native of Clark county, Mo., where he was brought up on a farm. After attending the public school until he was seventeen he spent two years in an academy and four in Westminster College, Mo. He was licensed to preach in 1873 and in Sept., 1877, was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Since his transfer to the ministry of the Presbyterian church he has served Rolfe, West Bend and Leeds in Iowa; Bolivar, Joplin and Ironton in Missouri. He is now located at Bonaparte, Iowa, and is planning the erection of a large church building.

On Oct. 5, 1880, he married Isadore Ellis, and of his family of three children, Grace and Ethel are still living.

**England** Llewellyn Edward, (b. \*Page 499.

May 11, 1858,) is a native of Iowa City, the son of Thomas and Margiana (Nightingale) England. On May 16, 1881, while keeping a shoe store at West Dayton, he married Ida M. Rugg, of Grand Junction. In 1882, he moved to Grand Junction and, during the next four years, was engaged in the drug business. In Oct., 1885, he established a drug store in a small building in which for a while he also lived at Gilmore City. In 1889 he erected and began to occupy as a druggist the two-story brick building, in the rear of which his law office is now located. In 1895 he entered the law department of Drake University, graduated in 1896, and in January, 1897, was admitted to the practice of law by the supreme court of Iowa. Since that date he has been devoting his time and attention to the practice of law in this county. He is the owner of a good residence and several other properties in Gilmore City.

During the period of his business career, by his honesty and integrity, he won the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he lives. In the fall of 1898, when he was not a candidate, he was accorded the nomination for county attorney at the democratic convention in this county. He is guided by strong and intelligent convictions that lead him to take the side of good morals in all local issues. He is recognized as a man of ability and noble aspirations, a logical thinker and a forcible public speaker.

His family consists of two children, Bessie and Max. His amiable wife was chosen one of the trustees of the Presbyterian church of Gilmore City, when it was organized in 1888, and has continued since that date one of its most faithful and efficient workers.

**Ferguson** Duncan, (b. July 4, 1837,) merchant at Rolfe, is a native of Andes, Delaware county, N. Y. He was brought up on a farm and re-

ceived a good education in the public schools and academy of that place. At the age of twenty he began to engage in mercantile pursuits by serving an apprenticeship of ten years in a store in New York. In 1866 he married Margaret Agnes Richmond. Three years later he came to Iowa and located at Clarence, Cedar county, where for six years he was engaged in the mercantile business. In 1875 he located at Oxford Junction and remained there seventeen years. In 1892 he became one of the general merchants in Rolfe, his son, Ward Ferguson, being associated with him under the firm name of D. Ferguson & Son.

The enlargement of the business represented by this firm has kept pace with the growth of the community and the demands of the times. In every city or town there are certain firms that are regarded as leaders in their respective lines of business and their influence commands the respect and admiration of their cotemporaries. This firm is among the number of those that have been accorded this distinction at Rolfe. In this rushing age of rife local competition and cosmopolitan stores, the conditions under which a drygoods business may be successfully and prosperously conducted require a special genius for it, untiring energy, unceasing vigilance in noting prevailing styles, a sagacity that can unerringly anticipate the future needs of patrons by judiciously selecting appropriate goods of standard value, and the ability to purchase them advantageously. These requirements have been so happily met by this firm in the management of its business, that the visitor is delighted at what he sees and the purchaser with what he buys.

Mr. Ferguson is the owner of a beautiful home in Rolfe and several fine farms in Iowa and Minnesota. He has been a member of the M. E. church since he was twenty-six years

of age and a life-long republican, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. His family consists of two children, Ward and Agnes.

1—Ward Ferguson, (b. Feb. 5, 1867,) after completing a high school course, spent three years, 1886-89, in Cornell College. He became a partner with his father in the mercantile business in the spring of 1891 at Oxford Junction and in December following moved with him to Rolfe. On Oct. 24, 1893, he married Jennie M. Bell, of Hampton, and has one daughter, Margaret Bell. He lives in a handsome cottage and has one of the largest private libraries in Rolfe. He is secretary and treasurer of the Rolfe Telephone company and was a member of the city council in 1900-1901.

2—Agnes Ferguson, after graduating at Cornell College in 1894, took a post-graduate course of one year for the special study of the German language and then taught it two years in the University at Fort Worth, Texas. Since Sept. 1, 1900, she has been general secretary of the Y. W. C. A. of Omaha, Neb.

**Fish** Romeyn B., (b. April 18, 1847,) dealer in musical instruments, Rolfe, is one of the early pioneers of Pocahontas county, having located at Old Rolfe June 7, 1866. He is a native of Rensselaerville, N. Y., the son of Ethridge M. and Laura Ann Fish.

On April 11, 1864, at eighteen, he entered the naval service of the United States as a landsman and was assigned a position on the steamer Mendota, of the North Atlantic blockading squadron, James River division.

When the army of the James advanced on Petersburg, May 5-6, 1864, the Mendota proceeded up the James river above Aiken's Landing and on May 7-16th assisted in the removal of the torpedoes in that vicinity, at Deep Bottom and Dutch Gap. On May 16-17th it was under the fire of the batteries at Chapin's Bluff and

the next day it opened fire on working parties at Trout's Neck. On May 22d it opened fire on the batteries near the Howlett Home. From that date until April 1, 1865, it was stationed near the barricades at Deep Bottom, and participated in the operations against the rebel gunboats, iron-clads and the Howlett Home battery on June 21st; against the batteries at Four Mile creek, June 30-July 1; at Tilghman's Gate, July 16; at Deep Bottom and Strawberry Plains, July 27-29; protected working parties at Dutch Gap, Aug. 10-14, and the forces moving from Dutch Gap to Deep Bottom, Aug. 15-18. It participated in all the operations of Graham's Naval brigade in the James and Appomattox rivers during the siege that resulted in the capture of Petersburg and Richmond, April 2-8, 1865. On July 28th, Maj-Gen. Hancock complimented the men on board this vessel for their effective work that day as follows: "The fire from the gunboat, Mendota, was very effective, nearly every shell alighting in the enemy's works."

On July 16, 1864, Mr. Fish received an injury in the right eye, by the explosion of a shell from a masked battery of the enemy, while serving as a sharpshooter near Four-Mile creek, Virginia. On Dec. 20, 1864, he was assigned service on a schooner that transported coal to the fleet off Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Afterward he was transferred to the steamer, Montgomery, and on Jan. 12-15, 1865, participated in the capture of Fort Fisher and the other defences of Cape Fear river in that vicinity. He was then returned to the Mendota on the James river, and was honorably discharged at Norfolk, Va., July 18, 1865.

After the war he decided to locate in the west, and traveling by rail to Boone, thence by stage to Fort Dodge, he arrived in Des Moines township in June, 1866. He secured and improved a homestead on section 28. He has

been engaged in the sale of pianos, organs and sewing machines since the year 1881. As a representative of Des Moines township he was a member of the board of county supervisors in 1872 and '73.

On Dec. 29, 1866, he married Ann, daughter of David Slosson, and his family has consisted of six children, three of whom died in childhood.

1—Laura R., in 1888 married Wm. J. Fraser, lives at Mt. Vernon, Skagit county, Wash., and has a family of eight children.

2—Elvira G., in 1894 married Frank Murray, who died at Rolfe May 19, 1898. She then moved to Skagit county, Wash., where on Oct. 18, 1899, she married Jasper Parker and still lives.

3—Burt Fish (b. 1876) lives at Lacomber, Washington.

**Grant** Cyprian Adelbert, (b. Dec. 18, 1841,) banker and lumber dealer at Rolfe, is a native of Bradford county, Pa., the son of Josiah Nelson and Julia (Taylor) Grant. He was the oldest son in the family and in the spring of 1843, in his second year, moved with his parents to Carroll county, Ill. This long journey to the "far west" was made in a prairie schooner, the most familiar mode of travel in those days, and the place where they located was then only sparsely settled. Here the family experienced all the vicissitudes and privations of pioneer life for seventeen years. During this period the home of his father was a conspicuous landmark to the scattered population of that new country and his hospitality was known far and wide. As a result of the hard times that prevailed previous to the war, and the dishonesty of a money shark, this home was lost.

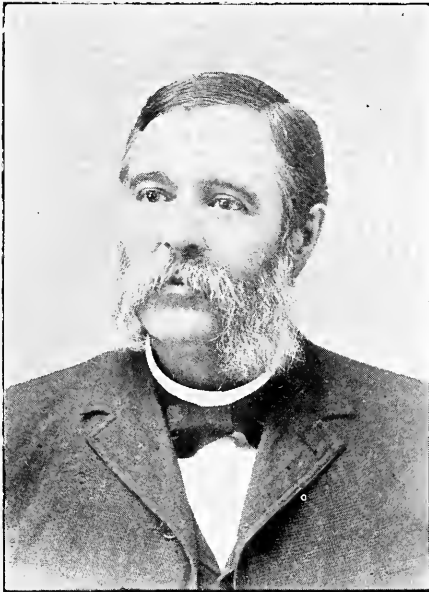
On May 3, 1860, having two yokes of oxen, a wagon, a few personal effects, \$125 and a family consisting of his wife and seven children, his father started for the southwest to begin anew the battle of life. He crossed



C. A. GRANT  
Lumber Dealer and Cashier.



MRS. C. A. GRANT

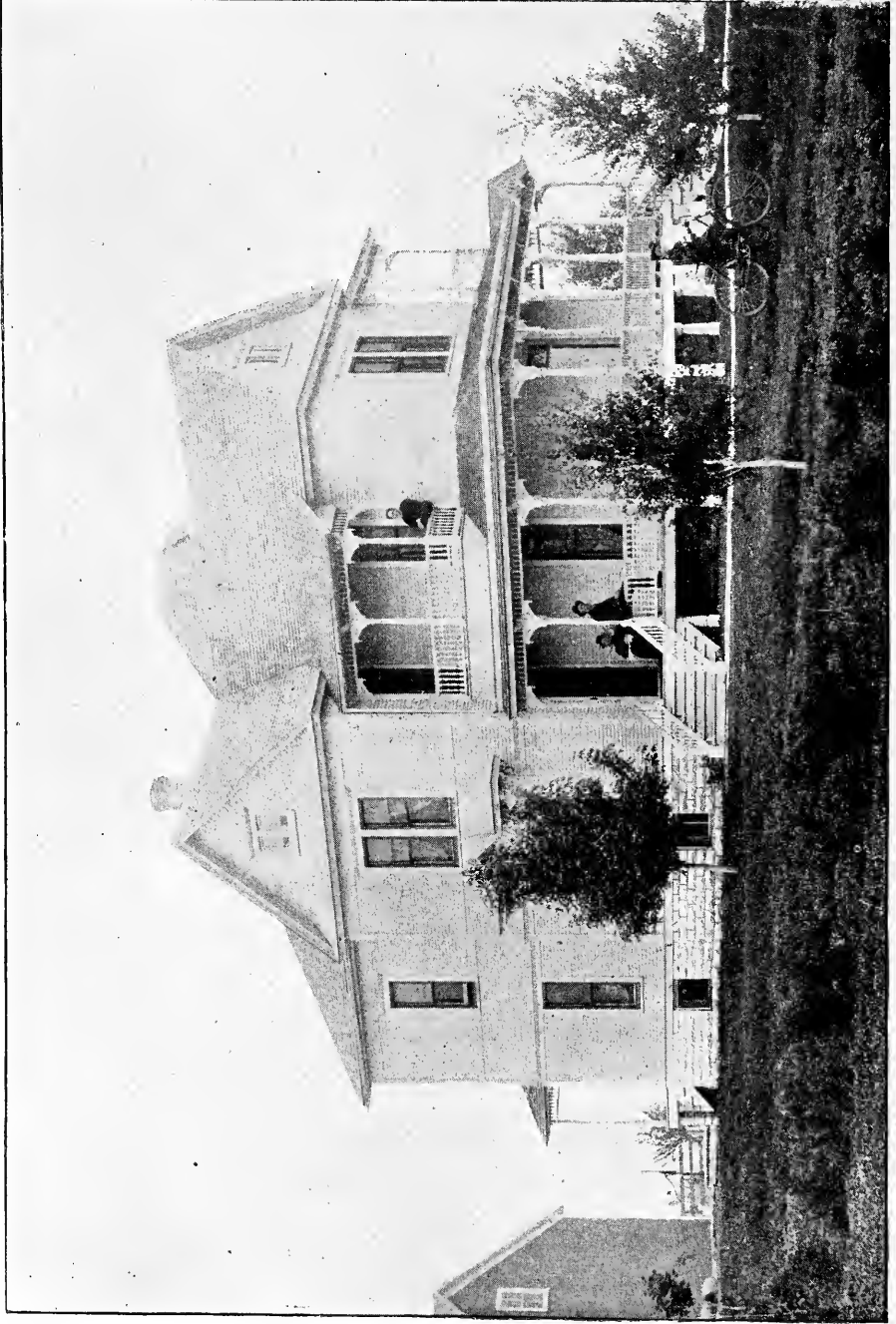


D. FERGUSON  
General Merchant.



R. P. BROWN  
Egg-Packer.

ROLFE.



RESIDENCE OF C. A. GRANT, ROLFE, 1895.

the state of Missouri, the northwestern part of Arkansas and the northeastern part of Indian Territory, but finding no favorable location, turned northward and arrived at Webster City, Iowa, in November following. In 1862 he located more permanently in Marshall county. Here C. A., being the oldest of the children, was called upon at an early age to assist in the effort to secure a home for the family. He did this manfully by breaking prairie, running a threshing machine and by engaging in other available employment. As soon as he was able he purchased eighty acres of land. He helped to cut the trees for the sawed lumber in the house that was then built of natural timber.

On Dec. 12, 1871, he married Arvilla V. Terrill, a native of Crawford county, Pa., whose parents, John and Helen Terrill, now reside at Pomeroy, where they experienced the disastrous cyclone of 1893. In the spring of 1875 he deeded this his first home to his parents and moved to Carroll county, where he undertook to establish another home of his own. The house he erected here was the fourth one in Warren township, a fact that suggests a renewal of the usual routine of pioneer life. His wife taught school during the period of hard work and rigid economy that ensued.

In 1881 two railroads were built through that township and the town of Manning was founded two miles south of his home. The next year he moved to Sheldon, where he invested his capital in the cheap lands of the Northwest and found employment in the hardware business.

In 1886, forming a partnership with Wm. D. McEwen and A. O. Garlock, he as cashier started the Exchange Bank at Rolfe, which, Jan. 1, 1893, was incorporated as the State Savings Bank.\* He continued as cashier of this bank until June 1, 1900, and still

\*See page 495.

retains his interest in it, but gives his special attention to the lumber and coal business at Rolfe, in which since 1891 his son, John T., has been associated with him as a partner under the name of C. A. Grant & Son. This lumber yard, covering one acre and a quarter near the Rock Island depot, is the largest one in this county and is well stocked with every kind of building material, including supplies of coal, brick and tile. He is also the owner of a farm of 80 acres in Clinton township and 320 acres in Davison county, S. D.

He has always been a total abstainer, a steadfast republican and a prominent co-operator in every worthy movement to promote the public welfare of his adopted city. His noble wife, by her unselfish endeavors to promote the happiness and welfare not only of her own family, but of relatives and friends, has won the affection of those who know her; both fill an important place in the esteem of the people of Rolfe.

His father died at Manning in August, 1881, and his mother at Cole-ridge, Neb., in 1892. His family consists of three children:

1—John T. (b. Feb. 11, 1873,) the junior member of the firm of C. A. Grant & Son, is a native of Marshall county. On June 26, 1895, he married Elizabeth C. Montgomery, of O'Brien county. He has been a resident of Rolfe since 1886, and has one child, Forest Ellsworth. He has been an active promoter of the Sunday School and temperance causes from his early youth, and a deacon in the Presbyterian church several years.

Nellie S., a graduate of the Rolfe high school in 1897, and Florence M. are at home.

**Hammond** Edward P., (b. Feb. 11, 1823) located in the Des Moines settlement, but across the line in Humboldt county in the spring of 1857. In 1859

he moved to section 1, Clinton township, where he became the owner of 186 acres. He continued to occupy this farm until 1887, when he moved to Rolfe and engaged in the livery business until he died, two years later Oct. 10, 1889.

The first officers for Clinton township were elected in his pioneer home Nov. 6, 1860. On this occasion he served as one of the judges, and nine persons voted. At this first election he was chosen road supervisor and a trustee of the township. He served as one of the first trustees four years, 1861-64, and as assessor two years, 1862-63. He was clerk of the court of Pocahontas county in 1861, sheriff in 1864 and coroner four years, 1864-67. He was depositary and treasurer of the Pocahontas County Bible Society at Old Rolfe three years, 1867-69.

He was a native of Caldwell county, N. Y., where he married Mary Hammond, (b. 1823) Nov. 2, 1843. He resided a few years in Warren county, N. Y., before coming west. His family consisted of two children, of whom one died in childhood. His daughter, Anna Jane, married Edward Tilley, (see Tilley) lives at Havelock and her mother lives with her.

**Heald** John Averill, (b. Jan. 17, 1816) one of the early pioneers of Des Moines township, was a native of Granville, Washington county, N. Y. His mother was a descendant of the seventh generation of an ancestor that landed at Plymouth at the time of the arrival of the Mayflower. Dec. 3, 1841, he married Aurilla Underwood (b. Vt., March 5, 1819,) and located on a farm. In 1856 he moved to Sterling, Whiteside county, Ill., and remained there until June, 1866, when, with a family of four children, George W., Laura, Mary and Lucia, three of whom were married, he located on section 36, Des Moines township, this county. During their later years he and his wife lived with their son

George W., in Clinton township, where he died Oct. 22, 1899, and his wife, Oct. 1, 1900.

He was a hard worker and gave as his reason the old adage, "It is better to wear than to rust out." He endured many hardships and privations during the early settlement of this county. Sometimes when he had wheat he could not get it ground. At other times the corn in the crib would be prepared for food by shaving it from the cob with a carpenter's plane or if soft in the field, by pulverizing it with a grate made by puncturing the bottom of a tin pan. He adopted the religious views of the Friends in early life and proved himself a faithful friend and an honest man.

His family consisted of four children:

1—George W. Heald, on Dec 25, 1869, married Sarah Clason, and located on section 10, Clinton township, where he still resides. He is the owner of a finely improved farm of 250 acres on which he built a large barn in 1900, and there is still growing on it a large grove of natural timber along Pilot creek. His family consists of five children: (1) Olive married Sanford Snodgrass, owner and occupant of a farm on section 3, and has three children, Virgil, Lulu and Vivian; (2) Emma married Fred Barth, owner of a farm on section 1, and has two children, Hattie and Raymond; John Wesley and Luana.

2—Laura married Amos Cornish in Ill. and after a residence of four years in Clinton township, moved to Kosuth county, where she died in 1888.

3—Mary married William F. Seaman, who is now the owner and occupant of a farm of 170 acres on section 36, Des Moines township, and her family consists of five sons and five daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter are married.

4—Lucia, in 1865 married Andrew S. Harp, lives near McNight's Point



and has raised a family of three children, Elma, Lizzie and Martha.

**Henderson** George W., (b. April 19, 1833,) state senator 1894-97, is a native of Sangamon county, Ill., the son of John H., (b. Ken., 1806; d. 1848,) and Elizabeth E. (Powell, b. N. C., 1811,) Henderson. His parents, after their marriage in Tennessee about the year 1827, located in the north part of La Salle county, Ill., and at the time of the Black Hawk war, 1831-32, were compelled to flee from that part of the state. He lacked the opportunity of attending public school until he was twelve years of age, and the death of his father three years later compelled him to take the lead in assisting his mother to provide for a family of six children younger than himself. In lieu of an education he learned the "art of doing things" and to depend on himself. He became a hard worker and has lived long enough to perceive that all things come to him who works while he waits.

On Dec. 18, 1856, he married Martha A. Randall, of Mason City, and during the next twenty years, as a resident of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, was engaged as a miller, millwright and bridge builder. Since 1875 he has turned his attention to farming and fruit culture. In January, 1882, he located on his present farm on section 12, Clinton township, where he has planted a large orchard and erected fine buildings. It is known as Highland Farm and contains 240 acres.

On Sept. 25, 1861, he enlisted as a member of the 14th Iowa infantry, but later was transferred to the 41st and finally to Co. M, 7th Iowa cavalry, and spent three years and forty days in the army. He lost no time by sickness or absence and was on duty every day of that period. His knowledge of bridge building greatly increased his labors and the value of his services while on the march, but

did not lessen his responsibility on the day of battle.

As a pioneer on the frontier and soldier in the army he has manfully met and heroically endured the hardships through which in early life it providentially became necessary for him to pass in order to achieve success. He has known no such word as failure and his sterling integrity has been fittingly recognized.

In Cerro Gordo county he was president of the school board of his township twelve years, and was a member of the board of county supervisors. In this county he has filled the offices of trustee and justice in Clinton township; and during the four years, 1894-97, had the honor of representing this 50th district in the senate of Iowa, during the 25th and 26th General Assemblies. In the extra session of the latter, held in 1897 to revise the code, he was assigned the chairmanship of the committee on the Fish and Game laws.

His family has consisted of four children:

Kate H., a teacher, Dec. 24, 1879, married Selumiel J. Melson, who located in Kansas, and in 1883 in Lake township, this county, where he died in 1885, leaving three children, Randall, Mearl and S. Jesse, who then found a home with their grandparents on Highland Farm. Mrs. Melson resuming her favorite occupation, has been steadily engaged teaching during the last thirteen years. She has paid particular attention to primary methods and was one of the first in the state to receive a primary state teachers' certificate.

2—Jem, in early youth married John C. Bowen of Early, Iowa, who died in 1884, leaving no children. On June 21, 1893, she married G. W. Barnes of Powhatan township, and he is now an M. E. minister. They have four children, Ruth, Joyce, Marian and Robert Lytton.

Gail and John are at home.

**Hunt** Daniel Webster, on Jan. 2, 1858, entered for pre-emption 141 acres on section 36, Des Moines township, for which he received the patent Aug. 15, 1860. During this period he lived in a shanty along the Des Moines river. During the war he returned to the east but, about 1867, located in Clinton township, purchasing lands on sections 2 and 11. He lived alone on section 2 in the old log cabin of W. H. Hait (still owned by the latter) until the early 80's, when his father died and he returned to Waterford, Erie county, Pa., to take possession of the old homestead. He still owns his timber lands on the west bank of the Des Moines river. During his residence in Clinton township he was a justice of the peace, 1868-71, trustee 1869, '73-75, and assessor in 1871. He was a candidate for sheriff of this county in 1873. When he became a resident of this county there were not more than ten families living in it.

**Jarvis** Henry, (b. Jan. 1, 1832,) Rolfe, the second sheriff of Pocahontas county, is a native of England, a brother of William\* and Charles, who were also early residents of Des Moines township. Henry was one of the little band who left Fort Dodge in May 1857, and founded the first permanent settlements in the north part of this county. On May 25, 1858, having located his home he made a trip to Dyersville, married Mary Tilley, (b. June 19, 1839,) and they commenced keeping house in a log cabin on section 24, Des Moines township. A few years later 115 acres more were purchased on section 25. Subsequently the cabin was replaced by a large and comfortable dwelling house that was the home of the family until 1894, when he built a residence and moved to Rolfe. He was the most popular sheriff of this county in the early

\*See page 158.

days, having held that office seven years, 1860-63, and 1865-67.

His family has consisted of eleven children:

1—George, (b. Nov. 13, 1859,) in 1880 married Minnie M. Flory and located in the state of Washington, where he died leaving two children, Eda and George, who now live with their mother at Denver.

2—Sarah Ann, Dec. 25, 1882, married Carmi Vaughn, owner and occupant of a fine farm in Des Moines township, and has three children, Dell, Ernest and Leila.

3—Nellie E., Feb. 21, 1881, married Edward H. Vaughn, who, after a few years, moved to the state of Washington and engaged in keeping store. On March 8, 1892, she died at Rolfe, leaving a family of three children, Frank, Arthur and Myrtle.

4—Rosa Bell, in 1886, married Albertus Doe, lived in Powhatan township and died at Rolfe Sept. 7, 1900, leaving four children.

5—William (b. June 7, 1867,) located in Washington, where he is farming and has a family of three children.

6—Minnie married C. A. Charlton. (See Charlton.)

7—Frank (b. June, 1872,) in 1899, married Minnie Alberts, of Lincoln township, and is farming near Rolfe.

8—Charles (b. 1873) died in 1895, and John (b. 1876) in 1896.

Bert is at home and Carrie, the youngest, May 29, 1900, married Robert Freel and lives at Rolfe.

**Jarvis** Charles, brother of William and Henry, located east of Old Rolfe in the Des Moines settlement in 1861. During the war he enlisted as a member of Co. B, 4th Iowa cavalry and spent three years in the service. He then returned to his homestead, which was across the line in Humboldt county, and occupied it until 1897, when he moved to Bradgate, where he died in November, 1899. On coming to America at the age of sev-

enteen, he located first in New York state and then six years in Illinois. In 1860 he married Charity O. Van Natta, of Kirtland, Ind., and his family consisted of seven children, one of whom died in infancy, and William H., at Havelock in 1893 at the age of twenty-nine. Nellie M. (Atherton), Minnie (Boyden), James C., Elmer and George are married and live in Humboldt county.

**Garrison** Charles F., (b. Dec. 12, 1856,) Rolfe, has become the veteran photographer of Pocahontas county. His fine brick block, complete equipment and superior quality of work place him in the front rank as a first-class artist; and by securing the patronage of a section of country that embraces more than the north half of this county he has built up a lucrative business.

He is a native of Elkhart, Indiana, the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Garrison. He acquired a practical knowledge of the photographer's art in Chicago and practiced it for several years in Detroit. In 1884, coming with his brother to Fort Dodge, under the name of Garrison Bros., they established a fine studio and their name was a guaranty of the finest workmanship. In May, 1886, he began to do business at Rolfe in a portable gallery that was located on the lot where the brick building now stands. At that time this lot was worth \$300, but when he bought it, ten years later, he had to pay \$1000 for it. At first he spent one month of each year at Rolfe in the portable gallery. In 1889 he purchased a building for a gallery; and in April, 1890, dissolving partnership with his brother, moved to Rolfe with his family, which consisted of his

wife and his father and mother. In 1896 he erected the two-story brick block he has since occupied. There is not a finer suite of gallery rooms in Northwest Iowa, and he is well prepared to supply the wants of the people with fine pictures in every size and style. He has established branch galleries at Marathon, Laurens and Ruthven.

In October, 1888, he married Adah D. Fulcher of Three Rivers, Mich., and she has rendered him valuable assistance in the studio. His father died at Rolfe, July 12, 1896.

**Gunderson** Charles L., (b. Oct. 13, 1859,) Rolfe P. O., is a native of Norway, the son of George and Helen Gunderson. In 1881, he came to Pocahontas county, bought 320 acres of land on section 25, Center township, and began to reside upon it. He was then a single man. Gunder B. Gunder-son, his brother, lived with him during the first three years of his residence on the farm, and then went to the state of Washington, where he has filled with credit to himself the office of superintendent of public schools. Gunder taught school during the winter months for a number of years and taught the first school in the Brinkman school house, District No. 6, Center township.

In 1884 Charles L. married Dena, daughter of Iver and Nellie Christiansen, of Wisconsin, and his family consists of six children: George I., Arthur H., John C., Ruth J., Naomi H. and Martha C.

He is now one of the most highly respected and substantial farmers of Center township, being the happy possessor of 480 acres of land on which he has erected fine improvements. He

served six years as a trustee of Center township, 1890-92, '95-97; six years as a justice of the peace and was secretary of the school board in 1898. He is recognized as a man of sterling integrity, a staunch republican and a firm believer in the cause of prohibition.

**Kennedy** William Campbell (b. Oct. 20, 1854,) an enthusiastic Sunday School worker, has been a resident of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, Clinton township, since March, 1881. He is the son of David and Martha (Campbell b. June 19, 1823) Kennedy, who, subsequent to their marriage in 1850, lived four years near Fort Wayne, Ind., where W. C. was born. In 1857 his parents located near DeWitt, Clinton county, Iowa, where his father died in 1875. His mother was a native of County Down, Ireland, came to America with her father at eighteen, raised a family of seven children, six of whom are living, and died at Goldfield, Sept. 27, 1898. W. C., Feb. 16, 1881, married Catherine P. Seifert and a few days later, locating on his present farm, began the work of its improvement. He has since increased its size to 386 acres, and no one can view the fine buildings erected or note their capacity and conveniences without perceiving that it is one of the most conveniently arranged stock farms in that part of the county. In the home he has endeavored to combine beauty with comfort, and on the farm winter protection for all his stock and an abundant supply of good water.

He was treasurer of the school fund of Clinton township in 1882-83, assessor in 1889-92, president of the school board in 1890 and a trustee in 1893-95.

He is a successful raiser as well as feeder of cattle, and finds he obtains the best results by putting two calves to one cow evenings and mornings until they are eight or ten weeks old, providing them other suitable food according to their age and needs. The arger cattle in the fall of the year,

are fed corn on the ear until they are observed shelling it from the cob. After this the corn is shelled, mixed with oats ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) and placed in large self-feeders where they can get it at any time of the day and as much of it as they want. He feeds about six months, and it is not unusual for the cattle to make an average daily gain of four pounds each during that period. He raises annually about seventy head of hogs, and though he uses no stock food or patent medicines he has hitherto escaped the cholera. During the feeding period many of them are allowed to roam in the large feed yard with the cattle. The hay-racks around the inside of the open cattle-sheds rest on wide troughs or tables, and underneath these the hogs find at night a dry and comfortable resting-place, that causes them to be widely distributed. Salt is placed where they can get it and a little lime occasionally in their troughs.

He was raised in a home where he enjoyed the sweet and blessed influence of the family altar. At the age of sixteen he presented himself for union with the United Presbyterian church to which his parents belonged. The fact that he was a comparative stranger did not prevent him from taking the lead in establishing and maintaining a Sunday School in the new town of Rolfe in 1881, and he was annually re-elected superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School of Rolfe from the time it was organized until Jan. 1, 1897, when he organized and became superintendent of the Home department in it, the first one in the county. During the fifteen years he was superintendent of the church school he was always present, except when prevented by sickness or absence from home. During the summer seasons he has devoted his Sabbath afternoons to the maintenance of Sabbath Schools in the school-houses in the vicinity of his home.

When the Pocahontas County Sunday School Association was organized at Pocahontas in 1881 he was present, was elected vice-president, has attended every meeting of the association since that date, and has enjoyed the honor of serving as its president during a period of ten years. He is now a prominent worker in the Iowa State S. S. Association. He is a loyal friend of the Bible cause and has been president of the Pocahontas County Bible Society since 1899. He has been an elder in the Rolfe Presbyterian church since Oct. 7, 1883.

His intelligent interest and never failing enthusiasm in the Sunday School work is suggestive of his public spirit. It finds in him its expression and field of opportunity in a faithful endeavor to give a moral and spiritual uplift to the present rising generation. As a natural result of his philanthropic efforts for the benefit of the young he has become a strong advocate of the cause of prohibition.

He has one son, Leonard William. Since the spring of 1880 his wife's mother, Mrs. Geo. Seifert, and her daughter Anna have occupied a part of his home. On Feb. 20, 1901, the latter married Edward H. Weigman and located near Barlow, N. Dak.

**Kent** John B. Col., (b. Oct. 26, 1859,) is a native of Harrison county, Ohio, the son of Andrew Jackson and Rebecca H. (Arnold) Kent. His father was of English and his mother of German descent. He was brought up on a farm and received his early education in the public school. In 1879, at the age of eighteen, he entered the regular army of the U. S. as a member of the 7th infantry commanded by Gen. John Gibbon and spent five years in the military service on the frontier. He first attended the military school at St. Paul, Minn., and then participated in several expeditions against the Indians in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and Wyoming. He held the

position of orderly sergeant at the time of his discharge at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, March 10, 1884.

He then located at Rolfe, where he first engaged in the hay business in partnership with his brother, D. A. Kent. Perceiving that the business in wild prairie hay would gradually decrease as the country became more thickly settled, he soon changed to the real estate and loan business, to which farming was added later. He has been quite successful in business, having accumulated more than 700 acres of good farm lands, and lives in one of the fine residences at Rolfe.

He is a fine looking man, has made a good record and is popular with all classes of people. He has rendered efficient service in all the local offices at Rolfe from school director to mayor. During the period Frank D. Jackson was governor of Iowa, 1894-96, he was a member of his military staff, holding the rank of lieutenant colonel. When the Spanish-American war began in Cuba he enrolled a company of men and expected to go with them to the front until the order was received that no new Iowa regiments were needed. He was the representative of this 76th district, composed of Pocahontas and Humboldt counties, in the 28th General Assembly of Iowa in 1900-01.

He is a man of sterling good sense and a close student of public affairs. He has taken an active part in the politics and business of this county during the last seventeen years and his popularity is no doubt due to his recognized ability, public spirit and the fact he always speaks well of others. He has been a loyal republican from principle and has spared neither time nor money to achieve an honorable success for his party by the nomination and election of honest and capable men in town, county and state. The five years spent in the regular army was to him a period of valuable

training and his military recognition was honorably won.

On May 21, 1885, he married Susan Struthers, and his family consists of three sons, Arnold McEwen, Don C. and Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver.

**Kerr** Samuel H., (b. Nov. 26, 1862,) attorney and cashier, Rolfe, is a native of Highland county, Ohio, the son of James E. and Clara A. (Beatty) Kerr, who were of Scotch-Irish descent. In 1869 he moved with his parents to Saline county, Mo., where his father died, leaving a family of five sons and three daughters. In 1875 his mother and family moved to Jasper county, Iowa. In 1889 he graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University, and located at Rolfe. He engaged in the practice of law until June 1, 1900, when he became cashier of the State Savings Bank of Rolfe. On March 24, 1892, he married Mary E., daughter of A. O. Garlock. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are very highly esteemed by all who know them.

**Leithead** Calvin Page (b. Dec. 10, 1849) undertaker, Rolfe, is the son of William and Sophia Leithead. He is a native of Vermont, where he grew to manhood and on June 1, 1870 married Philena, daughter of Calvin and Susan Holt. After marriage he was engaged as a carpenter and contractor, and lived in several different localities. In September 1881 when the town of Rolfe was indicated by only one little shanty he purchased the lot on which his house (erected in 1885) now stands and built thereon one of the first houses in Rolfe. In 1886 he purchased a small building and lot on the west side of Garfield street and embarked in the furniture and undertaking business. Later he purchased the adjoining lot and in 1897 completed the double two story building all the rooms of which have since been stocked with an assortment of furniture and undertaker's

supplies, the largest and finest in this section of the country. Here may be found, at prices within the reach of all, the latest artistic designs in furniture and articles of all kinds and styles for the adornment of the home. The business is transacted under the firm name of C. P. Leithead and Sons and this firm, in 1900, established another large furniture store at Pocahontas that has since been managed by his second son, Elbert A. Leithead.

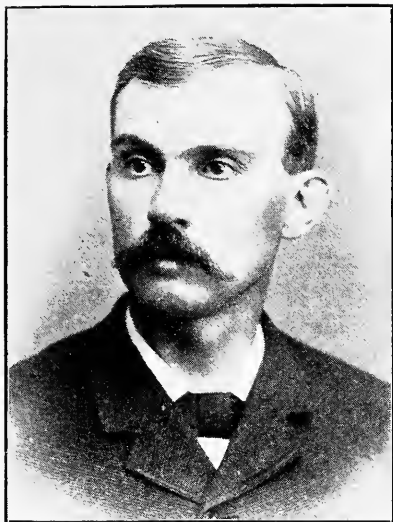
He helped to build the first house in Rolfe. It was built for James Parks and is now owned by George Challand. He has seen an unbroken wild prairie, covered with tall native grasses, transformed into a thriving little city that has some of the most beautiful homes and largest business houses in this county. He has the satisfaction of having nobly performed his part in the work of effecting this transformation. He has helped to erect many buildings and has developed an important business interest until it has become the pride of the community. He was a member of the first council of Rolfe and served four years, 1884-87. He is now a trustee of Clinton township and served as a justice four years, 1883-86.

His father was a native of Scotland and the rest of his children are dead. So far as he knows, C. P. and his family are the only ones that bear the family name in this country. His family consists of three sons all of whom are married.

1. William C. (b. Orange, Vt., May 25, 1872) married Pearl Denend, lives at Rolfe and has four children.

2. Elbert A. (b. Barre, Vt., 1876) married Lilly Chase, located on a farm in Center township, and in 1900 in Pocahontas where he is engaged in the furniture business.

3. Charles Ellsworth (b. 1878) physician and surgeon, after a four year's course in the Iowa State



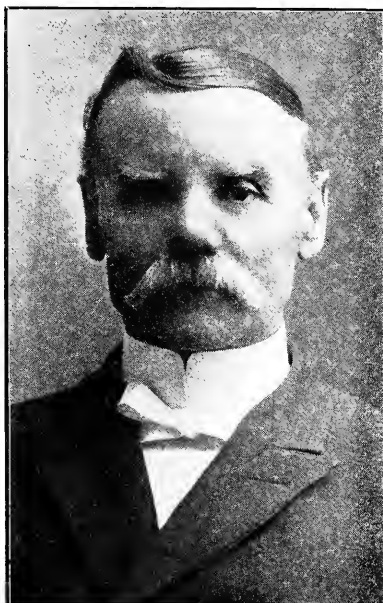
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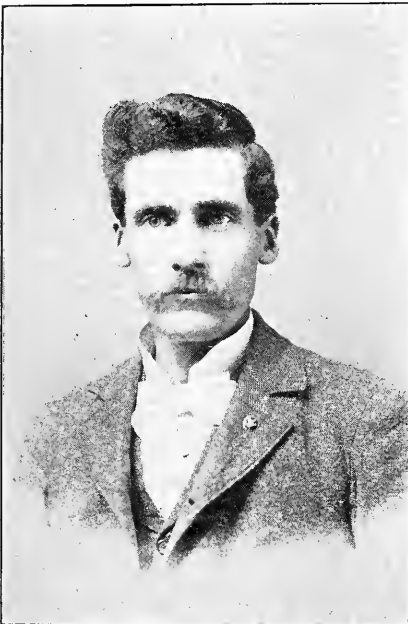
**ROLFE AND VICINITY.**



SAMUEL H. KERR, ESQ.



MRS. S. H. KERR.



CHARLES E. FRASER.



MRS. C. E. FRASER.

**ROLFE.**



University, graduated from its medical department in 1895 and located at Rolfe. On March 1, 1898, he located at Highmore, S. D. He married Queen B. Furman.

**Lighter** Joseph Henry (b. Oct. 8, 1853) editor, Rolfe, is a native of Carroll Co., Ill., the son of Jacob H. (d. 1883) and Sarah A. Lighter. In 1865 he moved with his parents to Grundy Co., Iowa, where he received his education which included two terms in the Friends college in Hardin Co. On Oct. 3, 1876 he married Emma F., daughter of Solomon Wilhelm, and located on a farm. In July 1880 he moved to Conrad and engaged in the lumber business. In 1888 he moved to Hubbard, Hardin county, where he purchased the two papers then published—the Times and Enterprise—and in their place commenced the publication of the Hubbard Journal. In September 1890 he moved to Rolfe and during the next five years was a partner in the publication of the Reveille. In connection with the management of a job printing office he then prepared and in 1897 published a plat book of Pocahontas county, that contains a description of every farm in the county and the names of the owners at that time, alphabetically arranged by townships. On March 1, 1898 he commenced the publication of the Rolfe Semi-Weekly Tribune and is still its editor and proprietor.

During his residence at Conrad he served as the first mayor of that town and also as a trustee and justice of the township. At Rolfe he served as secretary of the school board in 1893-97. He is a man of conscientious convictions and has faithfully performed every trust committed to him.

His family consists of six children, Clarence G., foreman in the office of the Reveille since 1900, Arthur G. and Ervil C. in the office of the Tribune, Cora, Mabel and DeBida.

**Lothian** Robert (b. 1814, d. May 21, 1896) a pioneer and long-time resident of the northeast part of this county was a native of Fifeshire near Edinburgh, Scotland, where Dec. 6, 1839 he married Janet Bruce (b. Jan. 4, 1815, d. Rolfe, Feb. 1888). In 1852 with a family of five children he emigrated to upper Canada. This voyage was made on the Shandon, the first iron clad ship that crossed the Atlantic, and on that trip, losing its course among ice bergs, it was delayed three weeks. In 1866 with a family of seven children (all except Janet, the eldest) he located on a homestead on the S W $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, Des Moines township, this county. Three of his sons, John W., James B. and William became owners of other homesteads or farms in the vicinity of Rolfe. In the spring of 1894, six years after the death of his wife, he went to the home of his son, Robert at Seymour, Mo., and died there in 1896.

The early career of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lothian was marked by trials and privations, such as the young people of this day will never know. At the time of their settlement in this county Boone was the nearest railway station and it took a week to haul a load of lumber with oxen. In the spring of 1869 he was compelled to pay \$2.00 a bushel for corn at Springvale (now Humboldt) and grind it at home as best he could for bread. It was not unusual for them to walk long distances to church. It was while making such a journey that his wife, while crossing a foot bridge, fell in the creek and sustained injuries from which she never fully recovered. They were never known to turn the needy away from the door.

He united with the Presbyterian church early in life and was loyal to it as long as he lived, giving cheerfully much of his time and money to promote its interests. He was an elder

in the Unity Presbyterian church at old Rolfe, a charter member and one of the first elders of the Second Presbyterian church of Rolfe, and in his old age, became a trustee of the Plover Presbyterian church at the time of its organization in 1888.

His family consisted of eight children:

1. Janet L. (b. Sept. 2, 1840) married William Addison in Canada and died there in 1876. Her children died also.

2. John W. Lothian, Rev. (b. Scotland April 14, 1843) in 1853 emigrated with his parents to upper Canada and in 1865 located with them in Pocahontas Co., Iowa. On April 25, 1866, he entered as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Des Moines township, and in 1872 his right was transferred to his brother, William, who obtained the patent for it March 30, 1888. On Nov. 28, 1868 he married Mary Jane Gilman, of Medford, Minn., and during the next three years occupied his farm which was so near, that he often chased his oxen over the place now covered by the town of Rolfe. In 1873 he entered the ministry of the M. E. church as a member of the Northwestern Iowa Conference. As a pastor he has served the churches at Peterson, Forest City, Spencer, Emmetsburg, Sibley, Sheldon, Hartley, Correctionville, Sac City and the Whitfield M. E. church Sioux City, his present field. He was presiding elder of the Ida Grove district six years, 1894-1900, was a member of the general conference at Cleveland in 1896 and at Chicago in 1900. His family consists of two daughters, Bertha (Overholtzer, Ireton) and Myrtle.

3—James B., (b. Sept. 18, 1845,) shoemaker, on Sept. 19, 1867, married Rhoda Van Natta and occupied for many years a homestead on section 20, Des Moines township. He is now a resident of Rolfe, and his family consists of four children, William M., who

married Lilly Rose, Rolfe; James R., John A. and A. Guy.

4—Robert B. (b. March 14, 1848,) on May 27, 1873, married Kate Farmer, lives at Seymour, Mo., and has two children, Clarence and Sadie.

5—William, (b. March 7, 1850,) in 1876 married Sarah Bickle, and raised a family of six children: Janet, who married Ira DeWitt and lives at Spirit Lake, Robert, Charles, Mary, Richard, Alexander; and their parents live in Wisconsin.

6—Margaret, in 1868 married George Stevens, lived near Plover and died in 1899, leaving no offspring.

7—Alexander, (b. Can., 1857,) died at Rolfe in February, 1882.

8—Mary L., in 1877 married Calvin Hilton, lives at Hawarden and has a family of five children, Laura, Pearl, Ward, Calvin and Ina.

**Malcolm** Augustus H., (b. 1832,) is one of the very first residents of the county. (See page 171.) He located in the spring of 1857 in Des Moines township, after the Civil war on section 1, Clinton township, and in 1900 in Rolfe. He is the son of James (b. Scotland, Nov. 30, 1786,) and Elizabeth (b. N. Y., July 20, 1792,) Malcolm. His family consisted of eight children, one of whom died in childhood.

1—Ora P. Malcolm, (b. Old Rolfe, Nov. 21, 1865,) after growing up on the farm, served as deputy treasurer of this county four years, 1896-99. He lives at Pocahontas and is now engaged in the abstract business. On Jan. 23, 1895, he married Clara P. Spence and his family consists of two sons, Homer and George.

2—Fred A. Malcolm, (b. Mar. 1, 1867,) Rolfe, was county surveyor four years, 1894-97, and is now engaged as a civil engineer. On Dec. 25, 1885, he married Carrie M. Brown and has one child, Daphne.

3—Addie E., Sept. 21, 1887, married John Seifert, resides in Clinton town-

ship and has three children, Myrtle, Fern and Thurlow.

4—Carrie E., Aug. 26, 1892, married Fred A. Mullen, superintendent of the electric light and water plant, Webster City, and has two children, Jean and Malcolm.

5—May, Aug. 26, 1892, married Wm. G. Bennett, lives at Ft. Dodge and has two children. Evan and Robert,

6—Leon, Dec. 21, 1898, married Matie Kellogg and has one child, Leone.

7—Frank lives at Livermore.

During the Civil war A. H. Malcolm participated in the siege of Yorktown, the battle at Blackwater river and siege of Suffolk in 1862; in the engagements at Frazer's Farm and Beaver's Dam in connection with Butler's expedition to Richmond in 1863; and in engagements at Bottom's Bridge, Ream's Station, in Kautz' raid on South Side railroad, Petersburg, June 10-15, in Watson's raid and at the Welden railroad in 1864.

**Matson** William, in 1867, coming from Chicago with wife and two children, located at Old Rolfe and was the first to establish a blacksmith shop in Pocahontas county. After a few years he moved to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, Clinton township, where his wife died May 10, 1884. "Ben Lomond," the first postoffice in Clinton township, was located at his home from 1876 to 1878. His son William died May 27, 1885, at the age of 24 years, and Jennie, his daughter, became the wife of William D. McEwen. (See McEwen.) He died at Pocahontas May 6, 1888.

**Ratcliff** John, (b. July, 19, 1843. d. Rolfe, Jan. 8, 1900.) Ex-Sheriff of this county, was a native of Morgan City, Ohio. His parents were Virginians and members of the Friend's church. During the civil war he enlisted in an Ohio regiment, the one that was sent against Morgan when he made his famous raid into West Virginia and threatened the North. In 1866 he located at

Humboldt, Ia., where in 1874 he married Hattie Connor. In 1889 he moved to Rolfe, where he died in 1900. He was sheriff of Humboldt County from 1873 to 1875, and of this County two years, 1898-99. He was a member of the Rolfe school board five years. In 1879 he was the mail carrier between Pocahontas and Humboldt. He possessed many excellent traits of character, was a conscientious official and won many friends both in this and Humboldt Counties.

His family consisted of five children, of whom one died young and Julia, a graduate of the Rolfe high school in 1893 and subsequently a teacher of unusual talent and success, died Feb. 16, 1900, at the age of 23. Hortense, a teacher, William, a Rolfe graduate in 1897, and Nellie are at home.

**Reed** Samuel Seibert, (b. June 29, 1848), banker, Rolfe, is a native of Franklin County, Pa. and in 1861 moved with his parents to a farm near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In 1880 he moved to Dallas County where in December 1881 he entered the employ of S. P. Mellick. A few months later he became a partner with him and on April 27, 1882, landing at the new town of Rolfe Junction with a stock of dry goods, began to keep store in what is known as the First National bank building. In June 1883 he sold his interest in the store and engaged in the grain business until Jan. 1, 1889, when he became a partner with John Lee in the banking business that in 1893 was sold to Farmer, Hessel & Co., but with which he continued to be identified until March 1, 1901, when he moved to Mitchell, S. D. to engage in farming and stock raising. He was treasurer of Rolfe during the last ten years of his residence there, 1891-1900.

On Dec. 11, 1889, he married Anna D. Whittaker of Ill. and has two children, Earl and Fay.

**Sandy** William (b. April 14, 1834) Rolfe, a native of South Brent, Eng.,

in 1856 came to America with his sister Mrs. Wm. Jarvis and located at Dubuque, Iowa, where he married Charlotte Durston (b July 25, 1839) Aug. 11, 1863. The latter had come to America with her parents in 1858. On Sept. 1, 1864 he bought a farm on section 1, Clinton township and occupied it from that date until 1900, when he moved to Rolfe, leaving three of his sons on the farm which now contains 200 acres. He also owns 160 acres in Minnesota. During his residence of 36 years on the farm he experienced with others the trials of pioneer life and has proved himself a good farmer. He was assessor and justice of the peace in Clinton township in 1870-72.

His family consisted of seven children all of whom were born on the farm in Clinton township. The second and fifth died in childhood. 1—Minnie M. Nov. 18, 1891 married F. H. Sherman, merchant and lives in Rolfe. 2—Mary Alice, 3—James W., 4—Geo. H. (b. 1876) on April 14, 1900 married Gertie Sanford and has one child; 5—Frank A. George and Frank cultivate the old home farm and James looks after everything relating to the cattle.

**Seely** Elijah Davis (b. 1813) was a native of Oneida county N. Y., where in 1848 he married Almira Frink (b. 1814) and soon afterward located at Rome, Wis., where he found employment as a cabinet maker. In 1860 he moved to Border Plains, Webster county, Iowa, and in 1864 to section 11 Clinton township. In 1879, after a residence 19 years on this farm he went to Sauk Center, Minn., but after one year returned to Rolfe where his wife died July 14, 1891. He died in the summer of 1898 in Wisconsin. His record shows that he took a very active part in the management of the affairs of Clinton township in the early days. He was a trustee three years, 1865-7; assessor two years, 66-67;

justice of the peace eight years, 69-70, '74-75, '79-82; township clerk seven years, '70, '75, '78-82 and was president of the school board in 1875.

His family consisted of six children, three of whom are living.

1—Eliza in 1862 married Park C. Harder and lived in Clinton township until 1876 when they moved to Sauk Center, Minn., and in 1898 to Nebraska. Mr. Harder in 1869-72 served as the first secretary of the school board of Clinton township. He was township clerk, 1867-69 and a trustee, 1870-72. His family consists of seven children, Clifton, Evarts, Daniel, Fred-eric, Hattie, Lilly, Maude and Clara.

2—Harrison P. Seely, a carpenter, in 1876 married Henrietta Norman and has lived at Meriden since 1895. His family consists of three children of whom Buzzwell has been rendering military service in the U. S. Army in the Philippines.

3—Willard F. Seely, married Effie Hayden and lives at Rolfe. He has one son, Claude, who has become well known as a local correspondent of several of the newspapers in this county. Willard was assessor of Clinton Township in 1875-76, and Secretary of the school board in 1875-79.

**Schultz** Alva L. (b. Dec. 26, 1861) editor, is a native of Clinton county, Iowa. In 1886 he began to engage in newspaper work at Winfield, Kan., and the next year became part owner of the Winfield Daily Visitor. In 1889 he returned to Iowa and the next year started the Blade at Wall Lake. Three years later he went to Traer and with H. C. Mann, as a partner, started the Traer Globe. In April 1894 he relinquished his interest in this paper, bought the Rolfe Argus and continued its publication until Dec. 1, 1898, when he moved to Pocahontas and established the Pocahontas Herald. At Rolfe he served as secretary of the school board two years, 1896-97, and at Pocahontas has

been justice of the peace and secretary of the school board during the last two years.

**Struthers** Robert, (see page 172), the first representative from this county in the legislature of Iowa, was a resident of Des Moines township from 1857 to 1893, when he moved to Rolfe where he died Sept. 18, 1898, and his wife June 9, 1897. He was one of the very first pioneers to locate in the northeast part of this county and his wife joined him a few months later. By their sterling integrity and noble lives this worthy couple, during the first forty years of the history of this county, exerted a potent influence for good that was felt not merely in their own neighborhood but throughout this county and in the legislative halls of this commonwealth. The good are a mighty power and they exert an influence long after their departure from earth. They are gratefully remembered in the home, the social circle and the church.

"That man exists but never lives,  
Who much receives but nothing gives,  
But he, who marks his devious way  
By generous acts from day to day,  
Treads the same path his Saviour trod,  
The path to glory and to God."

His family consisted of three sons and four daughters.

1. William E. (b. Mar. 19, 1857) is a native of Aurora, Ill., where his parents tarried a few months while on the way to the frontier. He is the owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres on section 3, Des Moines township. He has been secretary of the school board in this township since 1889. On April 6, 1882 he married Alice Price of Lizard township and has three children, William, Alec and Ernest.

2. Ellen (b. Jan. 1, 1859) on March 19, 1878 married Richard S. Mathers owner and occupant of a farm of 320 acres on Sec. 3, Clinton township. Her family consists of seven children, William, Susie, Mary, Robert, Archie,

Maggie and Nellie.

3. Susan married Col. John B. Kent. (See Kent.)

4. Maggie J. lives at Rolfe.

5. Andrew J. (b. Aug. 22, 1865) occupies a farm of 220 acres, Sec. 11, Des Moines township. April 26, 1893 he married Etta Parkin of Humboldt county and has one daughter, Mary.

6. Grace, Sept. 12, 1887 married James McClure, a mechanic, lives at West Bend and has a family of two children, Gilbert G. and Walton M.

7. Robert A. (b. Feb. 1, 1871), farmer, lives at Rolfe.

**Spence** George Francis, (b. Aug. 23, 1842,) Rolfe P. O., is a native of Kenosha county, Wisconsin. In 1869 he located in Hamilton county Iowa, and remained fourteen years. In 1883 he located on his present farm of 200 acres on section 11, Center township, two and one-half miles southwest of Rolfe. He has erected good improvements on this farm and made it a delightful home. He has been identified with the history of Center township, having served as a trustee five years, 1885-89, and as a justice of the peace and president of the school board in 1888. It is, however, by reason of the long continued and efficient public service rendered as postmaster at Rolfe that he became most widely and favorably known. He had charge of the Rolfe postoffice seven years and three months from April 1, 1890. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian church of Rolfe since 1889 and superintendent of the Sunday school during the past five years. He is a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted in May, 1864, at Kenosha, as a member of the 39th Wis. Volunteers and continued in the service in the western department of the army until the fall of that year.

In 1872 he married Etta Gould, of Grundy county, and his family consists of two children, Clara Bell, who married Ora P. Malcolm, (see Mal-

colm) and Walter A., who lives at Rolfe.

**Tilley** Matthew, (b. Dec. , 1811) and his wife, Sarah Pether, were both natives of Somersetshire, England, where they were married in February, 1836. In 1855 they came to America and located at Dyersville, Iowa, where they remained seven years. In the spring of 1862 they located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Des Moines township, later known as the Wm. Struthers farm, one and a half miles north of Old Rolfe. Here she died Feb. 16, 1868. In 1869 he married Abbie A. Blood and a few years later moved to Ness county, Kansas, where he built a fine stone house and remained seven years. On his return to this county he located at Rolfe, where he died April 18, 1901, in his 90th year. He was a stone mason all his life and a first-class workman. He built the First Congregational church, a stone building, at Dyersville in 1860, and later a stone school house in Humboldt county. He served twelve years as a clerk in one of the churches of England, and as a tax-collector before he came to this country. He treasurer of the school funds a few years in Des Moines township during the sixties, and was identified first with the Methodist and after removing to Kansas with the Presbyterian church.

His family consisted of four children:

1—Mary, the eldest, in 1858 at Dyersville, married Henry Jarvis. (See Jarvis.)

2—Ellen Tilley (b. July 17, 1837,) is a native of Ware, Somersetshire, England, where she learned dressmaking. At twenty she came with her parents, sister and two brothers to Dyersville, Iowa, the trip across the ocean occupying eight weeks. In 1857 she married Henry Hayward of Dyersville, and about five years later moved to a farm in the northeast part of Pocahontas county. He was proprietor of a meat market during the first ten

years of their residence at Rolfe. Their family consisted of ten children, of whom three died in infancy.

Albert James, a farmer, married Lizzie Pike of Fonda, has two sons and lives near Emmetsburg.

Darley Cornelius, a farmer, married Mary Schirgogle of La Conner, Wash., where he now resides, and has three children.

Abbie Louisa, a dressmaker, Rolfe.

Watson Henry, a butcher, married Florence Drake of Rolfe, lives at Eagle Grove and has two daughters.

Mary Isabella.

Hephzibah Sarah married Wm. O. Forsythe, a cigar-maker, lives at Mason City, and has one daughter.

Susan E., Rolfe graduate in 1898, has since been a compositor in the Reveille office.

3—Henry Tilley, in the fall of 1862, at the age of nineteen, enlisted with three others from Old Rolfe—Wm. S. Fegles, Charles Jarvis and Dennis Quigley—as a member of Co. B, 4th Iowa cavalry. He was bugler for the regiment and remained in the service until the fall of 1865. On his return to this county he entered as a homestead the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, Powhatan township, 160 acres, and received the patent for it Sept. 25, 1872. A few years later he moved to Kansas, where he still resides. He learned masonry from his father and when not otherwise engaged sought employment as a mason. He married Belle Hancher and his family consists of two sons and one daughter.

4—Edward Tilley, a farmer, Havelock, on Sept. 15, 1867, married Anna Jane, daughter of Edward P. Hammond, and they occupied the Hammond farm on section 1, Clinton township, until the year 1888, when they moved to Powhatan township, and in 1897 to Havelock.

His family consisted of twelve children, two of whom died young:

1—Mary E. in 1892, married John B.

Harris and lived at Havelock until 1901, when they moved to Ware.

2—Edward Wm., a merchant, married Celia Estella Campbell, and lives in the state of Washington.

3—Adlaide, Dec. 7, 1898, married John Johnson, (b. 1865) who has been superintendent of the Shannon ranch in Center township, since 1897. He is a native of Denmark, came to this country in 1887 and began to work on the Shannon ranch in 1893. They have two children, Grace and Grant; twins.

4—Agnes, in 1898 married Frank Spornetz, a harnessmaker, and lives in North Dakota.

Charles Henry, Sarah A., Minnie G., Harold B., Edna May and Olney D. are at home.

**Tollefsrude** Christian Hansen, (b. May 1, 1845,) Rolfe, is a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, the son of Hans C. and Bereth Tollefsrude, of Rusk. His early days were spent on the home farm. He attended Beloit college 1864-67, and taught several terms in the public schools of Wisconsin. In 1869 he married Maria G. Shirley, of Avon, Wis., and in 1870 settled on a homestead, the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Grant township, this county. He engaged in farming and teaching until 1882, when he became county auditor and moved to Pocahontas. At the end of four years of faithful public service he became the assistant cashier of the Farmers Bank at Pocahontas, and later its cashier, when it was reorganized as the Pocahontas Savings Bank. In 1888 he became also the accountant and corresponding secretary of the Pocahontas Land & Loan Co., and in 1893 the assistant cashier of the State Savings Bank of Rolfe, having moved to that place that year. He built and occupies a fine residence in Rolfe. He still owns the old homestead and altogether about 360 acres in Grant township. Owing to failing health he severed his connection with

the Loan Co. and State Savings Bank June 1, 1900, and since that date has given his attention to the care of his own interests.

He participated in the organization of Grant township in 1870, and had the honor of serving as the first justice of the peace in that township, serving altogether eight years, 1870-72, '77-81. He was clerk of that township eight years, '72-79; president of the school board in 1872, and secretary of it three years, 1874-75, '78. During his residence at Pocahontas he was president of the Center township school board three years, 1885-87, and county auditor four years, 1882-85.

He is a very neat penman, a ready writer and strictly methodical in the transaction of business and keeping accounts. In early life he formed the habit of keeping a diary in which he noted every important local event. By the aid of this diary he wrote a very minute and accurate history of the early settlement of Grant township, first for the public press of this county and later for this volume.

Shirley, the first postoffice in Grant township, established in 1876, was named in honor of his wife, and he was the postmaster until their removal to Pocahontas in 1882. They have one daughter, Charlotte I. B., whose birth in 1871, was the fourth one in Grant township. On May 19, 1897, she became the wife of Alonzo R. Thornton, Rolfe, and has two children, Norma Emily and Charlotte I. B. On August 4, 1900, she became associate publisher of the Reveille with her husband.

**Van Alstine** Sewell (b. Oct. 24, 1824), farmer, Gilmore City, came to Pocahontas county with wife and seven children in 1871 and located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 25, Clinton township. Later he purchased also the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36 on which he is now living one mile northwest of Gilmore City and

the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec 31 Avery township, Humboldt county. Some time afterward he purchased 200 acres more on section 25, Clinton township. Some of these lands have been transferred to members of his family, but he is still the owner of 640 acres of rich and highly improved lands in this and Humboldt counties.

He is a native of New York state, the son of Leonard and Sophia (Pratt) Van Alstine, who lived on a farm and had four children of whom he was the youngest. At fifteen in 1840, he moved with his parents to Illinois where Dec. 6, 1848 he married Ellen C. daughter of Edward and Harriet (Spicer) Hawley. He then located on a farm near his parents and remained on it twenty three years. All of his children were born on this farm.

When he arrived with his family in Clinton May 8, 1871 there were only about a dozen families in the township. He built a house 18x24 feet on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25 and occupied it till 1884 when he built the large mansion 34x34 feet on sec. 36 with verandas on three sides of it and supplied within with every necessary modern convenience.

He is recognized as one of the large and successful farmers of Pocahontas county. He has been a thorough tiller of the soil and has been accustomed to rest, renovate and enrich it with crops of clover every six years. He regards clover as the farmer's best sub soiler since it rests the surface while it draws nutriment from the sub soil. In a single year on the land farmed by himself and family he has raised 10,000 bushels of corn and 5,000 bushels of oats. He used to raise large numbers of fat cattle but during recent years has given more attention to raising hogs.

He has never had a desire to hold office but on the other hand has not refused to perform his duty as a citizen, having been president of the

school board one year, a trustee four years, a justice of the peace ten years. Mrs. Van Alstine in March 1878 was appointed postmaster of Clinton township and the office at their home was called Prairie View. She continued to be postmistress until July 1, 1881 when the office was established at Gilmore City.

Their family is located as follows:

1—Inez in 1870 married Ira Scranton of Greene county, Iowa, and they lived there three years. In 1873 they located on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 35, Clinton township, improved it with good buildings and fences and occupied it until 1893 when they moved to Polk county, Mo. They however still own this farm.

During their residence in Clinton township he was a trustee of the township two years, president of the schoolboard four years and assessor six years. She was an active christian worker and was secretary of the Pocahontas County Sunday School Association several years. They have a family of five children, Charles S. a teacher; Grace E. who in 1894 married Oliver Graves and having one child, Cecil, lives in Nebraska; Robert Graves, Harold L. and Catherine.

2—Clarence L., farmer, in 1885 married Gertrude Brooks of Humboldt county and lives on sec. 31, Avery township, near the old home. He has a family of six children, Edward C., Greta E., Annie H., Paul B., Ruth A. and Elizabeth, twins.

3—Rollin, proprietor of the Security bank at Gilmore City since 1894, in 1878 married Ada Jackson of Humboldt county and his family consists of two children, Winnifred P. and Robert L.

4—Altha, who died at the age of 30 in October 1875.

5—Leslie H., joint owner with his younger brother Howard, of the Exchange bank of Gilmore City, since



1881, in 1891 married May, daughter of Dr. F. W. Coffin then of Gilmore City now of Cleveland, O. He has two children Evid M. and Reginald M.

6—Blanch E. at home.

7—Howard S. banker, Gilmore City, in 1896 married Bertha, daughter of F. E. Beers an old settler of Lake township, and has two children, Lois and Dana.

Leslie and Howard established the Exchange bank and Rollin the Security bank when they embarked in the banking business, and they have erected substantial buildings, brick and stone, respectively, for them.

**Wright** Charles Gilbert, (b. Jan 14, 1864,) pastor of the Baptist church, Rolfe, from Jan. 1, 1896, to Jan. 1, 1900, was a native of Onondaga county, N. Y. In 1885 he graduated from Munro Collegiate Institute near Syracuse. In 1881 he came to Kossuth county, Iowa, and engaged in business. In 1893, assured of a call to the ministry, he became pastor of the Baptist church of Bradgate. Three months after its organization in 1895 he became pastor of the Baptist church of Rolfe and secured the erection of a church building before the close of his first year. He also supplied at intervals the Baptist church of Havelock. After an encouraging pastorate of four years at

Rolfe he relinquished the field that he might enjoy a couple of years of special training for the ministerial office.

In 1891, he married Addie A. Carter of West Bend, and his family consists of two children, Carroll C. and Jessie L.

#### CLINTON ASSESSMENT IN 1870.

In the spring of 1870, the 11th year of its settlement, there were only four persons in Clinton township liable to perform military duty, namely, D. W. Hunt, Wm. Sandy, Henry Clason and Mallard Seely.

The assessment of live stock for that year was as follows:

	Horses	Cattle	Hogs
A. H. Malcolm	2	4	2
Wm. Sandy	2	10	16
D. W. Hunt	1	4	
Ora Harvey	2	13	
Elijah D. Seely	1	1	4
Almira Seely	1	1	
Mallard Seely	1		
Harmon Seely		4	
Joseph Clason		3	2
Henry Clason	2	9	
Parker C. Harder		7	3
Benj. Messenger	2		1
Total	15	61	28
Assessed value	\$525	\$912	\$14
Total value			\$1,431

The assessment of 1900, not including Rolfe, shows 115 persons subject to military duty, 540 horses, 1,688 cattle, 1,255 hogs, 2,785 sheep; and their value is \$77,912.00.



## COLFAX TOWNSHIP.

## XVI.

"The wind on the prairie crept through the grass,  
A subtler sigh than in boughs of trees,  
The gray of the twilight fell, one great mass,  
Unbroken, blotting the pathless prairie."

—BATES.



COLFAX township was named in honor of Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, Speaker of the House of Representatives 1863-69, and Vice-president of the United States 1869-73. It formed a part of Lizard township until Sept. 6, 1870, when it was annexed to Cedar, and it was established as a separate township Sept. 4, 1871.

The surface of this township is a level or slightly rolling prairie. At the time of its survey it contained "a great number of irreclaimable marshes containing one to one hundred acres each," but now nearly all of them are under cultivation or have become profitable pastures. The soil is of the best quality.

Muskrat slough, that originally included nearly all of section 8 in the northwest part of it, used to be a great place for trapping. The little stream that flows from it, crossing the Garlock homestead in Cedar township and then emptying into Hell slough in Calhoun county, was called "Fast creek," because many teams stuck fast in the effort to ford it in the early days. The head of Purgatory slough appears in the southeast part on section 35, and its outlet in Calhoun county is called Lake creek. Hell slough in Calhoun county and Purgatory slough, a few miles east of it, were on the main route westward from Fort Dodge, and these significant names were given them by the emigrants who passed over these prairies before the time of their settle-

ment, on account of the difficulty experienced in crossing them. In the spring of the year horses would stick fast and fall in them, and the only sure means of drawing a loaded wagon through them was a string of oxen so long that when the wagon would be nearly covered with water in the deepest part of them some of the oxen would be on the more solid ground on the other side. Eight to ten yoke of oxen would sometimes be hitched to one wagon. Coal and other necessary supplies had to be hauled from Fort Dodge and, during the cold weather, many a teamster in breaking the ice before the oxen found himself in water to the armpits. Although they furnished an abundant supply of wild fowl of the best quality and other game both in the fall and spring of the year, they got the reputation of being the worst places in the whole country. They were drained in 1890 and have since been converted into productive and valuable farms.

There was not a tree in the township when the first settlers located in it and the first grove was planted in 1871 by R. C. Stewart on section 34. It consisted of one acre of forest trees.

#### FIRST SETTLERS—1869.

The first settlers of Colfax township were Fred C. Smith (Schmidt) and Fred Matheis, two young men who, locating on adjoining homesteads on section 28, March 1, 1869, built a frame shanty on the line between them and occupied it together. Fred Smith turned the first furrow in the township soon after their arrival with two yoke of oxen they bought in partnership. They broke about fifty acres on each of their homesteads that year, and then plowed for other settlers that arrived later. In the fall of that year Smith built a house and married Eliza Briggs, a native of England and a resident of Calhoun county.

In June Gad C. Lowrey, Jason his son, and Edward B. Clark his brother-in-law, arrived and they immediately began to improve their homesteads on section 28 by the erection of small houses. A month later Fred Jentz and family and Herman Speik, a young man, located on sections 14 and 22. Charles Peterson, John and Gus H. Johnson, Harry and John A. Nelson, five young men who came together from Sweden, walked from Des Moines, carrying their luggage and entered five homesteads on section 12 on the same day—March 3 1869. Andrew O. Long, a Swede, located on section 34, but after a few months moved to section 2, Bellville township.

August Prange, Rudolph and Amandus Zieman in 1869 located their homesteads on section 20, and then working on the railroad lived along it.

#### 1870.

Others that located and entered homesteads in the latter part of 1869, but did not occupy them until the spring of 1870, were Charles and Peter Peterson, Theodore Dunn, John A. and Charles Johnson, Julia A. Johnson, Ludwic D. Turner, John Reimer, John E. Morien, Joseph Fells, Devlin Brown, Carl F. Hillstrom, August Samuelson, John Soder, Wm. Zieman and August Malmburg. Other families that located in 1870, in addition to those just named were those of Robert C. Stewart, Charles G. Perkins, Thomas Walker, Henry Russell, John Murphy, James Little, Jacob L. Williams, Geo. W. Gearhart, Wm. Sanborn, James B. Chapin, James Hite, Fred Yohnke, N. C. Synstelien and John Russell.

#### 1871.

In 1871, or soon afterward, the following families located on homesteads: Torrence Murphy, John, Charles J. and August Johnson, Gustave Hagg, John Carlson, Peter J. Gustafsen, Andrew Wass, Augusta

Lindell, Richard Lory, Archibald Stigney, Swan P. Munson, George Guy, Wm. B. Harris, John Kruchten and W. C. B. Allen.

It will be perceived that nearly all of the early settlers of Colfax township were homesteaders. Geo. Wallace and a few others were purchasers.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The first election in Colfax township was held at the home of James B. Chapin, afterward owned by Daniel N. Boyd, on NW $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 15, and at the time of the general election, Oct. 10, 1871. The persons appointed to hold this election were Geo. Wallace, R. C. Stewart and James B. Chapin, judges, Theodore Dunn and Hiram H. Wallace, clerks. The local officers elected were Geo. Wallace, R. C. Stewart and Wm. B. Harris, trustees; Geo. Wallace and J. B. Chapin, justices; Theodore Dunn, clerk; Jason H. Lowrey, constable; and R. C. Stewart, assessor.

On March 2, 1872, Wm. Sanborn was appointed constable and Geo. Wallace a road supervisor. On Oct. 7th, following, the township was divided into four road districts, one road scraper was purchased for each district and for 1873 Geo. Wallace, L. D. Turner, Wm. Sanborn and Richard Hood were appointed supervisors. The annual levy for road purposes in '71, '73-75 was two mills; in '72 and '76-84 it was five mills, and it has been four mills since that date. In 1881 the township was divided into six road districts of six sections each, but on Oct. 5, 1896, it was re-districted and divided into two districts—east and west—and for the ensuing year J. F. Gustason and Amandus Ziemann were the supervisors. In 1889 a road grader costing \$196.00 was purchased.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES:** Wm. B. Harris 1872-73; Geo. Wallace, '72-75; R. C. Stewart,

'72; Charles G. Perkins, '73, '94-1900; Hiram H. Wallace, '73-75, '78; Geo. W. Gearhart, '74-76; Jason H. Lowrey, '74; John Murphy, '75; Fred Smith, '76, '90-92; John Barrett, '76; R. A. Horton, '77; Daniel N. Boyd, '77, '79-82; John Soder, '77; R. B. Adams, '78-81; Fred Yohnke, '78; J. Fell, '79-80, David Spielman, '81-89; Alba Miller, '82; Alex. G. Maxwell, '83-88; Alex. Peterson, '83-90; James H. Hogan, '89-93, '99-1901. J. A. Holmes, '91-94; Charles Peterson, '93-1901; Frank Peterson, '97-1901; J. F. Gustason, '98-1900; David Welander.

**CLERKS:** Théodore Dunn, 1872-73; Geo. Wallace, '74-75, '77; R. C. Brownell, '76; Henry Pearce, '78; J. A. Holmes, '79, '84-86, '88; Amandus Ziemann, '80-82; R. C. Stewart, '83; J. L. Sanquist, '87; S. N. Maxwell, '89-90; John Barrett, '91; O. A. Merrill, '99; J. W. Clancy, '92-98; C. G. Perkins, 1900-01.

**JUSTICES:** Geo. Wallace, 1872-74; R. C. Stewart, '72-73, '79-84; C. G. Perkins, '74-86; D. N. Boyd, '75-77; George Convy, '78; A. G. Maxwell, '85-90; S. P. Boyd, '87-90; S. W. McKinney, '91-95; J. F. Parker, '91-95; Alex Peterson, '96-1901; Wm. Brieholtz, '97-1900; Louis Benshoof, 1901.

**ASSESSORS:** R. C. Stewart, '72-73 '77; James B. Chapin, '74; C. G. Perkins, '75-76; J. B. Rickman, '78-80; John Barrett, '81-84; James H. Hogan, '85-88; James Doyle, '89-'95; Edward Flaherty, '96-98; C. A. Hartley, '99-1901.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS.

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** W. B. Harris, 1872-73; R. C. Stewart, '74-82; C. G. Perkins, '75; Geo. W. Wallace, '76-77; R. A. Horton, '78-81; O. C. Wood, '83-86; R. Hodd, Fred Smith, J. H. Hogan, John Doyle, James Clancy, '91-92, '94; Charles Peterson, '93, '95-97; J. F. Gustason, '98-1900.

**SECRETARIES:** C. G. Perkins, '72-73; J. H. Lowrey, '74-75; R. C. Stewart, '76-81, '83; D. N. Boyd, J. F. Parker, '84-95; J. H. Hogan, '96-1900.



SIMON P. BOYD.



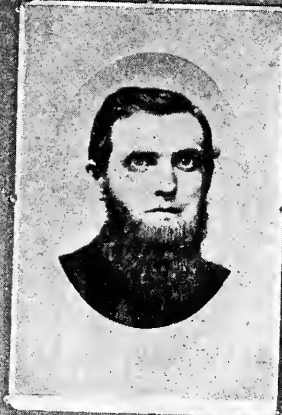
MR. & MRS. R.C. STEWART.



NIELS HANSON BELLVILLE



MR. & MRS. A.G. MAXWELL.



GEO. WALLACE.



MRS. GEO. WALLACE.



JASON H. LOWREY.

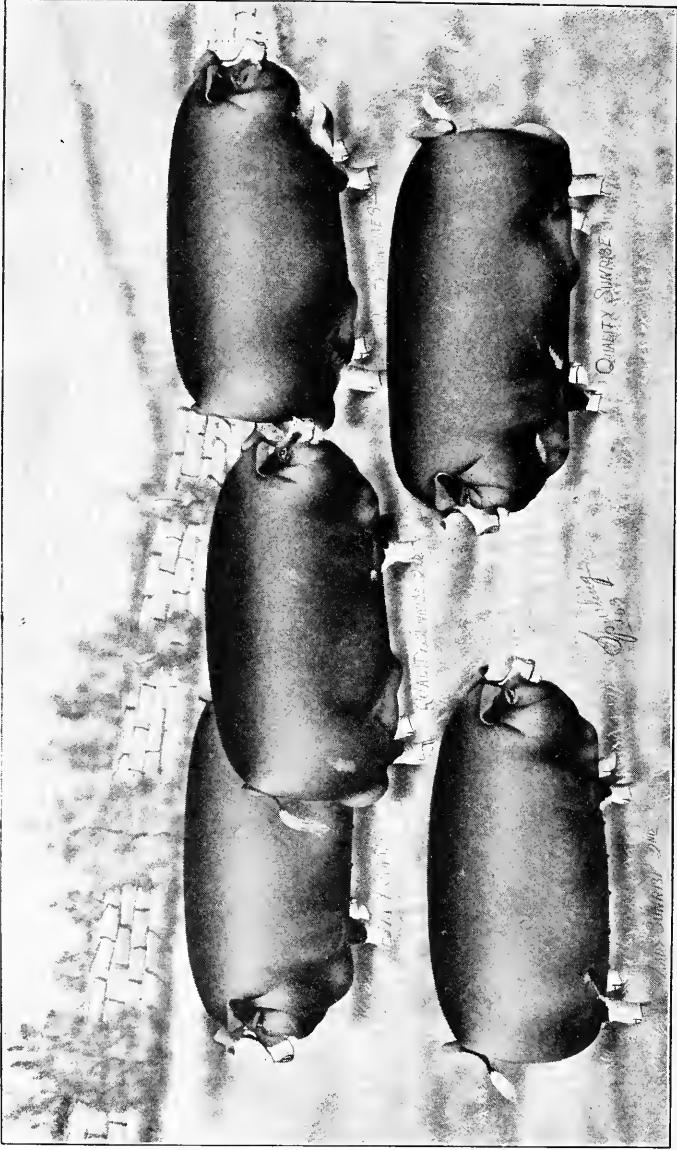


MR. & MRS. G.A.D. LOWREY.



S. W. MCKINNEY.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP AND VICINITY.



FRANK WHITE'S POLAND CHINA PIGS, 1903, GROVELAND STOCK FARM, COLFAX TOWNSHIP.

TREASURERS: Theo. Dunn, 1872-73; Ray C. Brownell, '74-81; Niles L. Brownell, '82-90; Charles A. Bischoff, '91-1901.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

On April 8, 1871, Colfax being included in Cedar township, a public school was established in the home of Gad C. Lowrey on section 26, and it was taught by his daughter, Ida D. Lowrey. In the fall of that year G. C. Lowrey, as a member of the Cedar township school board, was authorized to establish two schools in his district (Colfax) and these were held one in his own home and the other in Lockey's house which was bought for \$140 for that purpose.

The Colfax school district was organized March 2, 1872, at the home of R. C. Stewart by the election of Wm. B. Harris, L. D. Turner and R. C. Stewart as the first board of directors. At this meeting Gad C. Lowrey presided and J. H. Lowrey served as secretary. Charles G. Perkins was appointed secretary of the board and Thos. Dunn, treasurer. That summer the first school house was built on the Stewart farm, NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, by A. O. Garlock and his father, and the first teacher in this building was Gustave Perkins, now Mrs. Alpheus Fuller. The second school building was built that fall in the Lowrey district and the first teacher in it was Theo. Dunn, who taught several terms. The Center school house in the Boyd district was built in 1874, and the first teacher in it was Lizzie Wallace, now Mrs. A. G. Maxwell, who also taught several successive terms. The fourth school house was built in the Turner district on SE Cor. Sec. 6 that same year, and the first teacher in it was Eliza J. (L. D.) Turner. School houses were erected in all the other districts of the township a few years later and at this date all the first buildings have been replaced by

new and good ones that are a credit to the township.

Teachers that taught school in this township in the early days in addition to those already named, were Mrs. Geo. Wallace, A. G. Perkins, Emma T. Lowrey, J. M. Fickle, Sadie Darling, S. A. Fifield, Miss Westlake, Wm. J. Boyd, Ida Garlock, W. W. Frost, S. E. Reamer, Emma Jentz, James Darling, Mrs. J. and Romeo Wilbur, Alice Dorton, Mary Ward, Matie Turner, Lydia Gould, S. T. Clark, Charles E. Stewart, Fannie Fenton, Julia O'Kiefe, Lizzie Kruchten, Mrs. Chas. Bleam, Carrie Parker, Maude Perry, Ella Wood, Alice, Florence and John Dalton, Maggie Eaton, Fred B. Chapman and others.

#### BREIHZOLZ CREAMERY.

The principal place of business in Colfax township is the Breiholz creamery. It was built by Theo. Dunn in the spring of 1889, on land bought of Geo. Guy in the northeast corner of section 28. In the fall of that year he sold it to John Breiholz who continued to own it until his death in 1895. Since that date it has been owned by Mrs. Breiholz, his wife, who is a resident of Pomeroy, and Wm. Breiholz, her nephew, has been its manager. It has received a liberal patronage from the farmers in its vicinity and is operated all the year, but milk is received only every other day during the winter months.

#### CHURCHES.

The first religious services in Colfax township were held in the homes of the Swedish Lutherans by Rev. C. Malmberg of Dayton, during the years of 1870 and 1871.

The first public services in English were held by Rev. Charles S. Perkins, a resident of the township, in the Stewart-Brownell school house on section 34 in the fall of 1872.

The first Sunday school was organized in 1874 under John Reckman, as superintendent, and it was main-

tained until his removal to Dakota about four years later.

Two Swedish churches have been organized in this township and both of them have good houses of worship, cemeteries, parsonages and resident pastors. Both of them are located near each other on the north side of section 13 and both have a good supply of sheds for teams. They are called the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran and Swedish Mission of the United Brethren.

**SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**—The Swedish Lutheran (Elfsborg) church was organized March 13, 1873. The original members consisted of the families of Nels Anderson, J. P. Anderson, A. Burgeson, R. F. Cedarstrom, John Carlson, J. F. Gustason, H. Hanson, C. F. Hillstrom, John A. Johnson, Hans Johnson, Johannes Johnson, Andrew O. Long, John Miller, S. P. Magnusson, (now Munson) Aaron Erikson, J. E. Moren, Aug. Malmberg, Lars Olsson, Gust F. Johnson, Gustaf Olson, Gustaf Peterson, Peter Peterson, John Peterson, Lars Sandquist, John Soder, Peter Soder, Aaron Himan, Peter Ellasson, John Larson, Aug. Johnson, Carl Lungren, and Messrs. Claus Cedarstrom, Chas. P., John and Frank Peterson, J. G. Anderson, Mrs. Hedvig S. Holmberg, Aug Samuelson and Anton Johnson—64. The membership now is over 100. The board of trustees recently consisted of Charles Peterson, J. F. Johnson C. F. Hillstrom, Charles and Gust F. Johnson and Aug. Samuelson; and the deacons, O. P. Samuelson, A. G. and S. L. Johnson, Alfred B. Olson, J. E. Moren and C. J. Murner, who was also superintendent of the Sunday school.

The parsonage and other buildings belonging to it are located on the north side of the road, the church and cemetery on the south side of it. The parsonage was built in 1876, and the church building, 30x40 feet and

costing \$2,000, was dedicated December 3, 1884.

The services were first conducted by Rev. C. Malmberg of Madrid and they were occasionally held by other ministers from Dayton, and Madrid. The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. Mr. Peterson in 1873, Rev. J. Swanson 1874-80, Mr. Melin, a theological student, in 1881, when the church remained vacant two years; Rev. A. M. Broleen 1884-90, Rev. C. J. Maxwell, 1890-93, Rev. C. E. Olsson, the present pastor, since Aug. 1, 1894.

The cemetery belonging to this congregation is the only one in Colfax township.

**SWEDISH MISSION**—The Swedish Mission of the United Brethren of Colfax township was organized in 1882 by about fifteen families agreeing to maintain public worship. They consisted of the families of Alex. Peterson, John A. Holmes, Rudolf Cedarstrom, Charles Ekstrom, John and John W. Anderson, John Sanquist, Alfred Nelson, A. O. Long and others. In 1882, during the pastorate of Rev. L. Larson, they erected a building on the northeast corner of section 13, at a cost of \$1,000 that was used for five years as a church and parsonage. In 1887 this building was removed and in its place they built a house of worship costing \$1200 and a parsonage costing \$800. The shedding provided is the largest in the county, being sufficient for forty-four teams. All the improvements are in fine condition. The cemetery belonging to this congregation is located on the northwest corner of section 18, Bellville township, one-fourth mile east of the church. Frederick Johnson (see page 339) was the first one buried in it.

About forty-five families are now identified with this church. The board of deacons for the year 1901 consists of John Swalin, Solomon Johnson and John Welander; trustees, John Swenson, John Carlson and John



Peterson. Peter Long is treasurer, Albert Kingstrom, secretary, and John Swalin is superintendent of the Sunday school. Others that have served as superintendents of the Sunday school were John W. Anderson, 1895; Alfred Nelson, '96-97, and John Welander. Rev. L. Larson, the first pastor, served fourteen years, from the spring of 1882 to February, 1896. His successors have been Rev. John P. Lindell from Nov. 1, 1896, to Nov. 15, 1899, and Rev. N. A. Blomstrand, the present pastor, since March 13, 1900.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered four times each year and those who receive it are first approved or commended by the pastor and committee on the sacrament, as persons who give evidence of a desire to live a christian life.

#### PIONEERS OF COLFAX TOWNSHIP.

**Barrett John**, (b. 1833,) who located on section 11 in 1872, is a native of Ireland, came to Illinois in 1848 and married there Hannah Mullen. She died in 1871, leaving a family of three children—Jennie, Edward and Joseph. The next year he located in Colfax township and has lived on the same farm ever since. He was a trustee in 1874, clerk in '91 and assessor four years, '81-84.

Jennie married John Sanquist, who died soon afterward leaving one child, Edward. Later she married Edward Hogan, a carpenter, and lives at Pomeroy.

Edward married Anna Samuelson, and lives in Manson.

Joseph in 1899 married Mary O'Brien of Pocahontas, lives on the home farm and has one child, John.

**Bischoff Charles August**, (b. June 23, 1839,) owner and occupant of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  since 1873, is a native of Statten, Prussia. Sixteen years of his early life were spent as a sailor on the seas and great lakes at the head of the St. Lawrence river. During this period

he was a sailor in the Prussian navy eighteen months, visited the east and west coasts of Africa, the East and West India Islands, Australia and Zanzibar. During a part of the time he served as mate or second officer on the vessel, and two years, 1856-58, as foreman of the workmen employed by the Hamburg Ship and Trading Co., on the island of Zanzibar, situated less than 100 miles east of the east coast of Africa. At this time there were only 11 white people on this island and they consisted of three Frenchmen, three Germans, three Englishmen and an English doctor and his wife, all of whom had been sent there by trading companies, and their agreement required them to remain three years. The other inhabitants consisted of Arabians, who were black, and a few Portuguese.

In 1856 he left the fatherland and located in Westchester county, N. Y., and in 1862 passed from the ocean to the Great Lakes.

On Jan. 15, 1866, he married Louisa Brinker, (b. 1848; d. Dec., 1870,) a native of Mechlinburg, Germany, and they began the voyage of life together on a farm near Columbus, Wis. In 1869 they moved to Jackson county, Iowa, and soon afterward to Webster county, where he remained two years. After making this last change his wife visited her father, Joseph Brinker, in Grant township, Pocahontas county, and two months later died there, leaving one child, Annie, (b. 1868,) who in November, 1893, became the wife of John Wart, lives in Buena Vista county and has one child, Annie Myrtle.

On Dec. 23, 1871, he married Sarah M. Beekman, (b. Oct. 1, 1842,) a native of the state of New York, and during the next two years he lived south of Manson, in Calhoun county. In February, 1874, he bought and began to occupy his present farm consisting at first of 240 acres, but now of

400 acres on sections 22 and 27, Colfax township. This farm has been the scene of the longest period in his life, and the place where his family has been raised. Here his rugged earnestness and sturdy pluck have had full opportunity both for manifestation and development, in the effort to found a home on the frontier. By industry, frugality and good management, elements of character that insure success in any pursuit, he has become the happy possessor of 640 acres of unincumbered, highly improved and well stocked land in Pocahontas and Calhoun counties. His success illustrates that which may be achieved by raising stock on the farm. His large dwelling house was built in 1886.

He and his noble wife are active members of the German Lutheran church in Pomeroy. The latter is by descent a German Reformed and has a photo of the second church built in the state of New York, the Dutch Reformed, at Tarrytown, the first one being Trinity Episcopal church in New York city. This church at Tarrytown, which was on the old stage route from New York to Albany, was built in 1669 of quarried rock, by Catherine Van Courtland, (wife of Philip Van Courtland) her great grandmother on her father's side, and presented to the congregation. During the Revolutionary war Gen. Washington kept a number of prisoners in the basement of this church. Gerard Beckman, her grandfather, donated 80 acres of land to it for a cemetery, reserving two acres in it for his own family and descendants; and her mother is buried there.

Their family consists of seven children: Irwin; Theresa, who July 8, 1891, married Anton Sohmer, lives in Des Moines and has two children, Rosa and Elizabeth; Wilhelmina, in 1898 married Adolph Timan. In November, 1900, he purchased the old home of her father and they now oc-

cupy it. Augusta, Ophelia, Frederick and Carl are at home.

**Boyd** Simon Pratt, (b. Sept. 26, 1826,) owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on section 20, Colfax township, from 1883 until 1896, is a native of Washington county, N. Y. On Feb. 16, 1859, he married there Jane N. Irwin and, after one year's residence in Illinois, located in Winneshiek county, Iowa. After seven years he moved to Worth and four years later to Butler county, where he remained until the time of his location in this county. Since 1896 he and his wife have been living in comparative retirement at Pomeroy. They possessed many excellent traits of character and are kindly remembered by all who knew them. He was chosen one of the elders of the Presbyterian church in Fonda at the time of its organization in 1886 and continued to serve in this capacity until his removal to Pomeroy, where he was soon afterward called to the same office.

Their family consisted of four children:

1—Eliza on June 30, 1881, married Wesley A. Straight, for many years a farmer and resident of Calhoun county, but since 1899 proprietor of a mill at Winterset. Their family consists of three children—Grace, Harry and Nellie.

2—Irwin married Lula Richardson, lives in Montana and has a family of four children.

3—Edward S. married Emma Stott, lives in Nebraska and has two children—Palmer and Opal.

4—Palmer in 1892 died in his 20th year.

5—Gertie (Stott) an adopted daughter, in 1896 married Andrew T. Pomeroy, a farmer, and they have one child, Walter.

**Boyd** Daniel N., a brother of S. P., and his family were among the early residents of Colfax township. He lived on section 15, and served as a

justice 1875-77, as a trustee '77, '79-82, and as secretary of the school board in 1882. He left the county about this date and is now living with his oldest son, William, in the state of Washington. His first wife died, leaving one child, William, who has been located in Washington for many years. His second wife was Mrs. Margaret (Darling) Wallace, who by her first husband had one daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of A. G. Maxwell. (See Maxwell). Their family consisted of two children—Thomas, who lives at Plano, Ill., and Nettie, a dressmaker, Minneapolis, Minn. The first school in the Boyd or Center district was taught in his home in the fall of 1873 by James S. Darling, who later became the superintendent of Sac county.

**Brownell** Thomas J., (b. 1818) who improved and occupied the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, from 1872 to 1890, was a native of Bennington county, Vermont, where in 1843, he married Mary Ann Carpenter. In 1854 he moved to Winnebago county, Ill., and in 1872 to Colfax township. Ray, his oldest son, preceded him by locating in 1870 on a tract of 120 acres on Sec. 34, that his father had bought as early as 1858. Before the arrival of his father, Ray bought 120 acres on the same section that had on it a house built by C. F. Dewey. This house was the home of the family until 1882, when Ray sold this tract of land to his father and moved to Manson. Mr. Brownell then improved the home by the erection of an addition that made it the largest dwelling house at that time in the township. The beautiful grove planted around it was the largest in the vicinity and included a fine orchard and vineyard. About this date he bought 400 acres more in that vicinity, making a farm of 640 acres.

In 1887 his wife died, and in 1890 he sold the farm to Ray and moved to Pomeroy. Three years later his

health began to fail and, sustaining serious injuries from the tornado of 1893, died on September 9th, following.

During the period of his residence in it he was one of the most intelligent, upright and highly respected citizens in Colfax township. When the Presbyterian church of Pomeroy was organized in 1876 he was chosen a member of its first board of eldership. His family consisted of four children, of whom Morrell, the second son, died at 22 during his residence in Illinois.

1—Ray C., (b. Vt., Jan. 18, 1845,) in the spring of 1870 located on Sec. 34, Colfax township, and remained there twelve years. In 1882 he married Ella Blackinton of Rockford, Ill., and after a brief residence in Manson, located in Pomeroy, where after engaging in mercantile business one year, he became a partner with J. A. Gould in the Exchange Bank. In 1890 he relinquished his interest in the bank and moved to the farm again. Two years later he sold the farm and after one year's residence in Pomeroy located at Ogden, Utah.

He received a good education in his early youth and as soon as he became a resident of this county took an active part in the management of its public affairs. He was a member of the board of county supervisors three years, 1873-75. In Colfax he was treasurer of the school fund eight years, 1874-81, and clerk in 1876. His family consists of two children—Madge and Meade.

2—Sarah A., (b. Vt., July 20, 1852,) in 1873 married R. A. Horton of Illinois, and after a year's residence there they bought and began to occupy the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25, Colfax township. In 1878 they moved to Manson, where he became a member of the board of supervisors of Calhoun county, and she died in 1895. Her family consisted of four children, of whom three—Arthur, Mary and Margie are living.

3—Niles L., (b. Ill., Dec. 1, 1854,)

was a resident of Colfax township from 1872 until 1890, when he moved to Pomeroy and engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He was treasurer of Colfax school funds nine years, 1882-90, and has been postmaster at Pomeroy since Dec. 18, 1899. In 1895 he married Mary Palmer of Davenport, and his family consists of two sons—William and Donald.

**Cedarstrom** Rudolf Frederick, (b. 1833,) owner and occupant of a farm of 240 acres on section 14, is a native of Sweden. In 1869 he came to America accompanied by his brother, Claus Anton, and, securing adjoining homesteads on section 36, Grant township, they lived together. In 1880 they sold their homesteads and located in Colfax township, where his brother Claus (b. 1835) died later that year. In 1873 R. F. married Johanna F. Burg, and she died in 1885. He is a tall, portly man and became a member of the Colfax Swedish Lutheran church at the time of its organization in 1873, and of the Swedish mission in 1882. His father, Gustaf Adolph, was captain of a company of cavalry in the Swedish army and his brother, Carl F., captain of a company of infantry.

**Clancy** James, (b. 1832) is a native of Ireland. In 1864 he came to America, located in Illinois and lived there fifteen years. In 1879 he located in Webster county, Iowa, and remained four years. In 1883 he located on a farm of 80 acres on section 15, Colfax township, and still resides upon it. He has since increased this farm to 280 acres and improved it with good buildings. He was president of the school board of the township three years. He has raised a family of eight children.

Charles F. in 1899 enlisted as a member of the 1st S. D. infantry and spent one year in the Philippines as a hospital steward. In 1900 he returned to Sioux Falls, married and is now en-

gaged in the drug business. James lives at Marshalltown, where he is engaged in railroad construction. John W. in 1900 married Maggie Donahoe. He owns and occupies a farm of 240 acres on section 21, that he has improved with good buildings. He was township clerk '92-98. Mary taught school eleven years in Pocahontas and Calhoun counties and is now engaged in clerking. Maggie in 1897 married John O'Brien, a prosperous farmer of Colfax township. Edward, Henry and Joseph are at home.

**Crookten** (Kruchten) John, (b. 1837,) owner and occupant of a homestead on section 28, is one of the hardy and successful pioneers of Colfax township. He is a native of Germany and coming to this country lived a few years in New York state, where in 1867 he married Helen Holtzmeier. In 1871 he located on his present farm and began the work of its improvement. He has done this finely and increased it to 240 acres. He is a member of the Catholic church and a democrat. He enjoys the reputation of being an honest and upright man, an industrious and successful farmer. During the civil war, as a member of the 27th N. Y. infantry, he spent four years in the military service of this country.

His family consisted of nine children: Annie in 1884 married Henry Kreul and lives at Pocahontas; Mary in 1894 married John Doyle and lives at Pomeroy; Lucy in 1892 married Charles Drummer, a farmer, and lives in Calhoun county; John W., in 1897 married Helen Tennes and is now living on his own farm on section 22; Elizabeth married James Wood and lives in Grant township; Sylvester, James, Edward and Louisa H. are at home.

**Ekstrom** Charles John, (b. Sept. 9, 1840,) is a native of Sweden, the son of Eric and Catherine Ericson. When his father entered the army of Sweden

his name was changed from Erickson to Ekstrom, according to the usage of the country. Charles, his son, retains this name and was so baptized. In 1864 he married Augusta Carolina, daughter of Gustave and Hadah Sophia Holmberg. In 1869 he came to America and remained that year at Charles City, Iowa. The next year was spent in Blackhawk and Webster counties and he was joined by his wife, who came with two children and her parents to Webster county, where her father died soon after their arrival. In 1871 he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Grant township, for which he received the patent in 1878. During the first summer he and his family lived on this homestead, they occupied a frame shanty 12x12 feet. In the fall of the year a layer of sod was built around it and during the next six years this unpretentious structure constituted the family residence. He thinks it was the warmest house he ever built, but he could not keep the rain from coming through the roof. In 1878 he moved to Bellville township and three years later to section 20, Colfax township, where he again began the work of improvement. He has now a valuable farm of 240 acres that has two sets of good farm buildings, all built by him. The buildings are nicely painted and look beautiful amid the shady groves planted around them. They are also provided with pretty gardens and fruit-bearing orchards.

His family consisted of two daughters, the eldest of whom died in 1889. Selma Augusta (b. Sweden, Dec. 5, 1868,) in 1888 married John Peter Swanson, who now farms her father's farm. Her family consists of seven children: Alice O., Arthur W., Oscar R., Carl E., John Elmer, Clarence E. and Roy. The mother of Mrs. Ekstrom died at her home Sept. 5, 1897, in her 82d year. Mr. Ekstrom and Mr. Swanson and their families are

regular attendants of the Swedish Mission church of Colfax township.

**Guy** George, (b. 1827) was a native of Ontario, where in 1861 he married Ann Patilla McCulloch (b. Scotland, 1828,) and five years later located in Wisconsin. Seven years later, or in 1873, they located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 28, Colfax township, this county. They improved and occupied this farm until 1893, a period of twenty years, when they moved to Pomeroy. During the cyclone of that year their residence was destroyed and they were both severely injured. As soon as they had sufficiently recovered they were taken to the home of their daughter, Dinah Riley, near Jolley. He died there August 23, 1897 in his 70th year. He was an industrious and successful farmer, an honorable and upright man and was highly respected by all who knew him. The farm, increased to 240 acres and divided into three 80s, is still held by his three daughters, of whom Maggie, the eldest, married Elmer Anstine, a farmer, and lives near LeMars; Dinah married Clayton Riley, who is now serving his second term as auditor of Calhoun county; and Addie married Wilford Riley, a farmer, and lives near Lytton. Mrs. Guy, a woman of devout and reverent spirit, died at the home of her daughter Addie, August 9, 1901.

**Hogan** James Henry, (b. Feb. 9, 1855,) resident of Colfax township since 1880, is a son of Peter and Bridget (Murray) Hogan, who were natives of Ireland, came to Cook county, Ill., and in 1875 to Webster county, Iowa, where they still reside. James is a native of Cook county, Ill., and came to Pocahontas county in 1880. Two years later he bought 160 acres on Sec. 24, Colfax township. He was the first to occupy this land and improved it by the erection of a good house and barn. After two years he sold this farm and bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sec. 10 and improved it in the same manner. In 1889 he exchanged 120 acres of this farm for 80 acres on section 15, adjoining. One of the improvements made on this property that is greatly appreciated is a well drilled to the depth of 157 feet, that furnishes a never-failing supply of good water.

As he has passed from one farm to another he has left the marks of his presence and industry in the neat and handsome buildings erected. He has been a member of the Colfax school board many years, secretary of it since 1896 and president of it in 1889. He was assessor four years, 1885-88, and is now one of the trustees.

On January 6, 1879, he married Eliza Jane Doyle, (b. March 1, 1856,) of Webster county, who died Dec. 29, 1892, leaving a family of six children—Margaret W., William P., Mary J., James A., Alice C. and Florence A., three having died in childhood. On August 6, 1895, he married Kate, daughter of Thomas Byrne of Rolfe, and their family consists of two children—Grace E. and Rose Lillian.

**Hogan** Edward, (b. 1857) a younger brother of James, in 1881 located in Pocahontas county and the next year bought 80 acres on section 15, Colfax township. He now owns a fine farm of 120 acres on section 10. In 1891 he married Jennie, only daughter of John Barrett, an early settler of the township. At the time of this marriage she was the widow of John L. Sanquist, whose family consisted of one son, Edward. Their family now consists of two children—Mary Ellen and Philip Emmet.

#### BEAUTIFUL HOMES.

If one familiar with Colfax township were asked to name the most interesting place in it, he would most likely suggest the locality on section 13, where the two Swede churches are located near each other with their resident pastors, cozy parsonages, sheltering sheds, beautiful groves and

silent cemeteries. But if he were asked to name some of the largest and prettiest houses he would doubtless begin by naming those of John A. Holmes and Alexander Peterson. These homes are situated near each other, on opposite sides of the road running north between sections 15 and 16. All the buildings are among the largest in the township, are comparatively new and have an exceptionally fine location on the brow of a broad declivity, gently sloping southward. Their owners came from Sweden about the same time and are brothers-in-law. They are fine representatives of the sturdy yeomanry of their native land and they have made a splendid record in the land of their adoption. Locating on the prairie a few years ago, with capital sufficient to make only a small purchase of land, they have become owners of 600 acres each, and their improvement, which is the embodiment of their own ideas, discovers their skill, energy and good judgment. When one visits these premises and sees the ample buildings, cultivated fields and growing crops, or the herds of swine and droves of cattle grazing contentedly on the luxuriant pastures, the conviction that is expressed is, "This is fine."

**Holmes** John Alfred, (b. Oct. 1, 1848,) one of the most prosperous farmers of Colfax township, is a native of Sweden, the son of Peter and Mary (Burke) Holmes. At the age of 18 in 1867, he came alone to America having no capital except his health and habits of industry. During the first ten years he accepted employment as a farm hand in Henry county, Iowa. On January 11, 1876, he married Matilda, (b. Oct. 22, 1853,) sister of Alexander Peterson, and located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, Colfax township, which he had bought five years before. He was the first to occupy and improve this land and today the improvements on it are among the



MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER PETERSON  
(County Supervisor 1891-96.)



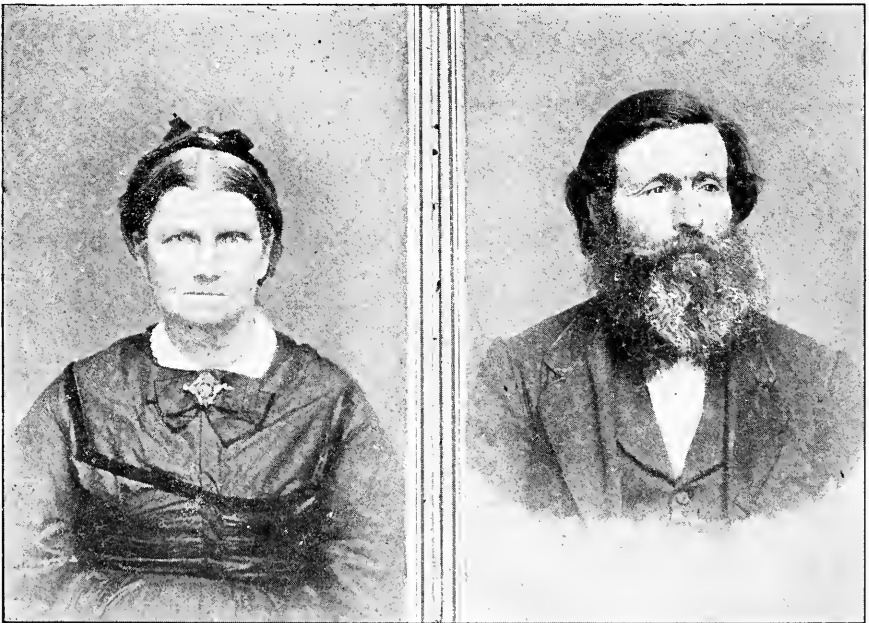
MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. HOLMES  
Colfax Township.



REV. CARL E. OLSON  
Swedish Mission.



REV. JOHN P. LINDELL  
Swedish Lutheran.



REV. AND MRS. CHARLES PERKINS  
Colfax Township.



finest in the township. In 1897 the first dwelling house was replaced by a large one, 30x30 feet, 18 feet high with an addition 14x22 feet, 16 feet high, that is very handsome in its appearance and is supplied with modern conveniences. In addition to a number of large sheds and other outbuildings he has two large barns, one for hay and the other for stock.

He keeps 20 to 25 cows and raises a great deal of stock. He aims to keep a little more stock than his own land will support so he may feed on it all it produces. By following this principle he has been very successful. He is now the happy owner of 600 acres of highly improved land that is either covered with flocks and herds or is growing a crop for the bin. He believes the farmers of this section will make a great deal more money when they abandon the unprofitable practice of selling grain for the eastern market and learn how to condense it in the form of beef, butter, pork, mutton, etc., thereby greatly increasing the profit on the raw material and reducing the freight on the products shipped. It is only in this way that the Iowa farmer can obtain the highest compensation for his labor. Many having farms not half so large have more acres than he under the plow, but their efforts have not been so profitable.

He has a fruit-bearing orchard of nearly two acres that was planted in 1878, and ten acres of forest trees planted from 1875 to 1881.

He has been an official member of the Colfax Swedish Mission church ever since the time of its organization in 1881. He was clerk of Colfax township four years, 1879, '84-86; and a trustee four years, '91-94.

His family consists of three children: Mabel in 1899 married Peter M. Morrison and has one child, Juvay Eldora; Juvay and Alexander are at home.

Mr. Holmes died August 9, 1901,

after the above was sent to the press. He died at the home of his friends in Henry county, where he stopped for a few days on his return from Chicago, whither he had gone with two carloads of fat cattle. He was a modest, manly man and has left the impress of his industrious hand and noble spirit in the home, on the farm, in the church and also in the community.

**Hoppy** Christopher, who in 1872 secured a homestead on section 20, was a native of Germany. He improved and continued to live upon his homestead until the time of his death in 1881; Margaret, his wife, continued to live upon it until 1895, when she moved to Fonda. At this date she had acquired the ownership of 240 acres in Colfax and Cedar townships. Their family consisted of three children. Grace married Andrew Anderson, a ditcher, and lives at Fonda. Adelia lives with her mother. Mary married Wm. Gezer and lives on section 4, Colfax township.

**Johnson** August, (b. 1840,) owner and occupant of a homestead on Section 12, 1873-99, was a native of Sweden, where he married Michels Munson in 1864. In 1869 they came to America and, after a residence of three years in Fort Dodge, located on their farm in the spring of 1873. The raw prairie on which they located was finely improved with a good house, barn and other outbuildings, all conveniently arranged amid a pretty grove of trees planted with their own hands. Their farm was increased to 120 acres. They were members of the Swedish Lutheran church and had one son, Arthur. In 1899 they sold the homestead and returned to Sweden, with \$6,000 as the result of a few years' work on an Iowa farm, to spend the remainder of their lives in their native land.

**Johnson** John A., (b. Aug. 25, 1884) owner and occupant of a homestead on section 12, is a native of Sweden. In 1869 he came to America and filed

a claim for this homestead. He began the work of its improvement by the erection of a sod house in the spring of 1870, and there lived with him in it that year Charles and John Peterson and John Carlson. This was the first sod house in that part of the township. On October 12, 1872, he married Christina Anderson, (b. Sweden, Sept. 17, 1852,) who came to America in 1870. They began housekeeping in a frame building 12x12 feet, and this is still in use as a part of their present home which was built in 1881. In 1888 the farm was enlarged to 250 acres by the purchase of 170 acres adjoining it in Bellville township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are highly esteemed members of the Swedish Lutheran church. They have experienced the trials and hardships of pioneer life, but are now surrounded with all the comforts that a good home on the farm can supply. Their family consists of seven children—Jennie, Oscar, Edward, Minnie, Alfred, Victor and Ida.

**Johnson** Gust F., owner of a farm of 160 acres on section 18, is a native of Sweden, came to America in 1886 and located near Rockford, Ill. In 1872 he married Helen Sophia Gustason and located on his present farm then occupied by Andrew and Christina Gustason, his wife's parents. His family consists of six children—Ida, Alma, Ernest, Amanda, Joseph and Hannah.

**Johnson** John E., (b. 1820,) owner and occupant of a homestead on section 10, is a native of Sweden. In 1873 he and wife Christiana, came to this country and located in Colfax township. The homestead was improved and increased to 120 acres. In 1895 his wife died at the age of 72 years. Since that date his nephew, John B'umber and family have occupied the homestead and he has lived with them.

**Lindell** John P. Rev., (b. Dec. 1, 1832,) pastor of the Swedish Mission

church of Colfax township from Nov. 1, 1896, to Nov. 15, 1899, is a native of Sweden, the son of Jonas Swanson and Anna Breta Johanson. The children in Sweden are not named after the last names of their parents as in this country, but after the first name of their father as in the Old and New Testaments, where Isaac is called Abraham's son, or son of Abraham. The name of the subject of this sketch according to this rule was John P. Jonason.

At the age of 18 in 1851, he entered the army of Sweden and remained in it during the next twenty years, serving as a corporal at the time of his discharge in 1871. It is of interest to note that service in the Swedish army then was very different from what it is in this country where the government employs the soldier and supports him. There each farmer was expected to support a soldier or a soldier and his horse. This was done by assigning the soldier a piece of land on which he was expected to live and support himself and family. Only about twenty days each year (now increased to sixty) were occupied in the performance of strictly military duty and the remainder of the year could be spent in looking after his own interests. Every one, however, that went into the army received a new and a short name, one unlike that of any other member of the same company. When he was enrolled as a soldier his name was changed from Jonason, which has three syllables, to Lindell, which has only two. The children of soldiers bear the last name of their father.

In 1859 he married Johanna Solomon, who died in 1868, leaving three children—John E., August and Anna Christine. In April, 1871, he came with these three children to this country and located in Illinois. In June, 1876, he was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Swedish Mis-

sion Synod at Princeton, Ill. His pastorates have been at Rockford, Joliet and Lockport, Ill.; White Hall, Mich.; Chicago, Betesta, Neb., '89-96, and Colfax township, '96-99.

In 1882 he married Mary Monson and their family consists of two children, Frank W. and George Terah. During the three years of his ministry in Colfax township he rendered a faithful service and made many friends.

**Lowrey** Gad C. (b. May 6, 1827), Pomeroy, one of the pioneers of Colfax township, is a native of Connecticut, the son of Ira F. and Jane (Jacobs) Lowrey. At eight years of age he moved with his parents to Lacon, Ill., where he grew to manhood. On Aug. 30, 1849 he married Emeline F. Snell (b. Ind. Dec. 28, 1830) and 4 years later moved to LaFayette where he engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages as a member of the firm of Smith & Lowrey, Abraham Smith, his partner being his brother-in-law. Four years later he moved to Mineral, Bureau Co., Ill., where he remained eleven years.

At the outbreak of the Civil War his interest was manifested by making a number of stump speeches to encourage enlistments. Later he himself enlisted in a regiment of mechanics. After a short time this regiment was disbanded and he then became a member of the 93d Ill. He served until the close of the war under Gen. Logan and participated in the engagements at Vicksburg, Champion Hills, Black River and others of less importance. At the time of his discharge he was 2d Lieut. of Co. H.

In the fall of 1868 he moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and a few months later to Fort Dodge. In June 1869 he located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 26, Colfax township erecting a good one and one-half story house for which he prepared the frame at Fort Dodge. This was the first house on

section 26 and for several years was the largest one in the township. Whilst several young men had preceded him, his was the first family to locate in the township and Jason, his son, who preceded him a short time, was one of the first to do breaking in it. He planted a large grove and orchard, and added 80 acres to the farm; but in March, 1878 moved to Pomeroy where he still resides. The house on the farm was blown away by the cyclone of April 21, 1878, and his home in Pomeroy experienced the same fate in 1893.

He has proven himself a good citizen and noble minded man. When Colfax belonged to Cedar township he was chosen a member of the school board as the first representative from that district, and the first school in it was taught in his home in 1871 by his daughter, Ida. He has been a highly respected elder of the Presbyterian church of Pomeroy since 1883. His wife, a lady of unusually fine conversational powers, has shared with him cheerfully the hardships of pioneer life and given him hearty encouragement in all matters relating to the promotion of morality and piety. In 1899 they celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage and received the congratulations of many friends who expressed the hope they might be spared to enjoy many more years of happy wedded life.

Their family consisted of seven children.

1. Jason H. Lowrey (b. Ill. June 29, 1850), president of the State Bank of Pomeroy, came to Iowa with his parents in 1868. Locating in Pomeroy in 1878 he found employment in the post office and insurance business until July 1, 1886, when he became cashier of the Farmers Loan & Trust Co. bank. In July, 1892, when it was reorganized as the State Bank through his instrumentality, he became its cashier and is now president of it.

The large and well appointed dwelling house he now occupies was built in 1900. He has made the public school of Pomeroy a generous gift of a library of 300 carefully chosen volumes. By this manifestation of public spirit he laid the foundation of a worthy object that will perpetuate his name among his people as one that has wisely endeavored to promote the public welfare.

On Nov. 6, 1876, he married Elizabeth Garlock of Cedar township who died July 21, 1892, leaving one child that died soon afterward. July 16, 1893, he married Hattie, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Wells, of Calhoun county, and they have two children, Genevieve and Vivian.

He was a trustee of Colfax township in 1874, and secretary of the school board 1874-75. He was recorder of Pocahontas county in 1878 and postmaster at Pomeroy five years, Jan 1, 1879 to Jan. 1, 1884.

2—Ida D. (b. Ill. March 11, 1854) a teacher, on Feb. 21, 1872, became the wife of Samuel H. Gill (see Gill) and died April 25, 1878, from injuries received during the tornado that destroyed their home in Colfax township four days previous.

3—Charles F. Lowrey, (b. Ill. Jan. 11, 1856) on May 2, 1881, married Laura J., daughter of Alexander and Ella Lockey. They live in Fort Dodge and have a family of seven children, Clara, Jay, Frances, Lyle, Wayne, Ava and Ross.

4—Emma (b. July 19, 1858) a teacher, on June 16, 1878, married R. M. Wilbur, a traveling salesman. They resided first at Pomeroy where she taught school several years, then at Fort Dodge, Council Bluffs and St. Paul, where she died March 15, 1836.

5—Mary E., died in childhood.

6—Judd (b. Jan. 24, 1862) in 1880 married Emily Wego of Minn. He is a train dispatcher at Escanaba, Mich., and has one child, Ma lge.

7—Smith G., (b. Jan. 13, 1865) a carpenter, on Oct. 23, 1888, married Mary Miller, lives at Pomeroy and has two children, Clyde and Bernice.

Maxwell Alexander G., (b. Jan 11, 1852), owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25 from 1878 to 1890, was a native of Albany, N. Y., and lived in that state until 1875, when he moved to Summit county, Ohio, and during the next three years had charge of a farm. On Feb. 27, 1878, he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and the same day married Martha Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew and Margaret (Darling) Wallace, who three years before, had located in Colfax township with her step-father, Daniel N. Boyd. They planted around their new home on the prairie one of the largest groves in the county, consisting of walnut, catalpa, oak and maple trees. They greatly enlarged and improved the buildings and occupied this farm twelve years. In 1890 they moved to Pomeroy and later to Storm Lake, where for several years he was custodian of the buildings and grounds of Buena Vista College. In 1899 they returned to Canastota, Madison county, N. Y.

Mrs. Maxwell was the first teacher in the Colfax Center school house and taught that school for several successive years. She took an active part in effecting the organization of the Presbyterian church in Pomeroy. Mr. Maxwell was for several years a justice in Colfax township and an elder in the Presbyterian church of Pomeroy. In 1892, as a commissioner from the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, he attended the meeting of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church at Portland, Oregon. Their family consists of three children, Genevieve E., Wallace Glenn and Margaret Augusta.

Meyer Christian (b. 1837), owner of a farm of 480 acres on section 29, was the first to occupy and improve this land. Two sets of buildings have

been erected and they are kept in fine looking condition. He is a native of Germany and in 1886 married there Dora Hesterman. In 1869 he came to America and located in Page county, Ill. He has been a resident of Colfax township since 1880. Henry G., his oldest son, in 1893 married Matilda Voss and lives on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 29. During his spare moments he has made a couple of clocks that are quite ingenious in their construction and novel in their performances. August, William and Emma, the other children, are at home.

**McKinney** Samuel W. (b. Oct. 10, 1859), owner and occupant of a farm of 179 acres on section 7, is a native of Illinois, the son of James and Elizabeth McKinney. On March 30, 1884, while residing in Story county, Iowa, he married Ida V. White. In 1888 he became a resident of Pocahontas county, and two years later bought his present farm, four miles northeast of Fonda. His skill and good judgment as a farmer have been very manifest in the improved appearance and greatly increased productiveness of a neglected and previously unprofitable farm. The old dilapidated buildings, one after the other soon disappeared, and in their places new and larger ones have been erected that are kept nicely painted. The places once occupied by rank and unsightly weeds have been invaded with the plow that leaves a neatly turned furrow and prepares the way for a sure and profitable crop. He is an intelligent and progressive farmer, a staunch republican and was elected a member of the board of County Supervisors in the fall of 1900. His family consists of three children Marion G., Alice H. and Ida.

**Munson** Swan Peter (b. Aug. 27, 1831), owner of a farm of 360 acres in Colfax township, is a native of Sweden, where in 1858 he married Lena Johnson. Ten years later they came

to America with a family of three children and lived the next eighteen months in Illinois and Indiana. In September, 1870, they located on a homestead of forty acres on section 18, Colfax township. The first improvement on it was a sod house, 16x18 feet, and it was the home of the family until 1873, when it was replaced by the purchase of the second building erected in Fonda and used there for school purposes. The latter now forms the dining room of the large two story building occupied by the family. In 1883 he built a large barn for horses and in 1888 another one for cows. He has become a prominent and successful farmer, and has increased his farm to its present size by the purchase of only forty acres at a time, except in one instance.

He is a well built man and has enjoyed the reputation of being the strongest man in the township. During the seventies he worked eight years on the track of the I. C. R. R. under Wm. Bott, and it was not an uncommon occurrence for him to lift a steel rail 32 feet long and weighing 500 pounds. He never attended school a day in his life, but learned to read his native language in the home of his parents. The only office he has been willing to hold has been that of road supervisor. He is a highly esteemed member of the Swedish Lutheran church, having been chosen a deacon in the church organized at Ft. Dodge in 1871, where he continued to attend until the organization was effected in Colfax township, when he was again chosen one of the first deacons. His family consisted of five children.

Hilda, who in 1880, married August Samuelson (see Samuelson.)

Charles August (b. Sweden 1833) came with his parents to America at the age of five years, and in 1870 located with them in Colfax township. In 1894 he married Selma Johnson (b.

1875) and occupies a farm of 160 acres on section 19. He has two daughters, Esther and Ellen.

Christina (b. 1866) in 1889 married Andrew Gilbert, from whom, after the birth of two children, Ada and Arthur, she was divorced. In 1892 she married Peter Palmer. They now live on her father's farm and have a family of three children, Elizabeth, Rosa and August Walter.

Anna (b. 1871) in 1888 married Gustave Palmer, who died in 1890, leaving one child, Frederick. In 1901 she married Albert Johnson, a farmer, and lives in Colfax township.

Emily in 1898 married Peter E. Backstrom, lives on the farm and has two children, Alfid and Helen.

**Murphy** Patrick (b. 1836), owner of a farm of 600 acres having the home buildings on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11, is a native of Ireland and in 1851 came with his parents to LaSalle county, Ill. In 1861 he married Ellen Cunnon, a native of Pennsylvania, and locating on a farm in Bureau county, Ill., remained there until the spring of 1873 when he located on 200 acres of raw prairie in Colfax township that he had visited and purchased in September 1869. He came to the frontier with an outfit that filled two cars and proved of great advantage to him. He had previously been engaged in raising Durham cattle and brought with him some thoroughbreds of this strain. By making frequent purchases as the years have passed he has maintained a prominent position as one of the leading fine stock raisers of Colfax township. He has become the owner of 600 acres of land and the fine permanent improvements erected thereon discover both his thrift and excellent judgment. His dwelling house is a commodious structure fifty-one feet in length. He has half an acre planted with currants and grapes, 50 apple trees in good bearing condition and a grove of ten acres of forest

trees, of which four acres are black walnuts. Peace and good will have been his watch words and he has never been a party to a lawsuit. He has served many years as a school director and has endeavored to give to all the members of his large family the heritage of a good education.

His family consists of nine children. John (b. Ill. 1864), in 1894 married Elizabeth Taylor and occupies the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, Grant township. Patrick (b. Ill. 1866), in 1890 married Mary Kennedy of Calhoun county, occupies the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, Grant township and has two children, Mary Agnes and Maude. Michael (b. 1873), Mary, Ambrose, Elizabeth, Philip, Agnes and James are pursuing their education or are at work on the farm.

**Olsson** Rev. C. E. (b. Apr. 17, 1866), pastor of the Colfax Swedish Lutheran church, is a native of Sweden, the son of Peter and Anna Olsson, with whom he came to America in 1869 and located at Moline, Ill. His mother died a few months after their arrival and his father the following spring, at which time he was only four years of age. He was taken to the orphan home of the Swedish Lutheran church at Andover, Ill. He received his education at Rock Island, graduating from Augustina College in 1890, and from the Theological Seminary in 1894. Two months later he became pastor of the Swedish Lutheran churches in Colfax township and Manson, living in the parsonage at the former. During his pastorate of seven years these churches have made a gratifying growth, both in numbers and resources. On Jan. 29, 1896, he married Hannah E. Fair, of Andover, Illinois.

**Parker** Frank J. owner and occupant of a farm on Sec. 28 from April 1, 1879 to 1896, was a good citizen and fairly successful farmer. He commenced with 80 acres and was the happy owner of 240 acres in 1896 when

he moved to Pomeroy. He has since been engaged in the life insurance business. Securing recognition first as a constable, he rendered faithful and efficient service in all the township offices, serving eight years as a justice and fourteen as secretary of the school board. His family consists of six children: Carrie, Frederic, Roy, Niles, Howard and Pearl.

**Perkins** Charles Gustavus (b. Mar. 17, 1841), one of the early pioneers of Colfax township, is a native of Woodstock, Oxford Co., Maine, the son of Rev. Charles and Amazina (Cushman) Perkins. On August 28, 1861, at the beginning of the civil war, he enlisted and on Sept. 2d following he was mustered in at Canton as a member of Co. F. 9th Maine infantry. On Dec. 31, 1863, in South Carolina, he re-enlisted as a corporal in the same company and regiment for three years. He was honorably discharged at Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 3, 1865, after nearly four years of faithful service in the army of his country. His regiment formed a part of the tenth army corps and served in the department of the Gulf under Gen. Sherman, on the James River under Gen. Butler and in the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Grant. It traversed every state along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Texas and participated in a larger number of engagements than any other. He participated in those at Moore's Island, Siege of Ft. Wagner, Port Wallhall, Arrowfield Church, Drewry's Bluff, Bermuda Hundred, Ware Bottom Church, Cold Harbor, Chapin's Farm, Darby House Road and Wilmington. In June 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va., he was wounded and taken to the hospital at Alexandria, thence to German-town and later to Camp Keys at Augusta, Maine, where he remained until Aug. 22, 1864, when he returned to his regiment.

In 1865, at the close of the war, he came with his parents to Winthrop,

Buchanan Co., Iowa, where on March 28, 1870, he married Sarah J. Pierce. Two months later they came to Pocahontas county and located on a homestead of 80 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 32, Colfax township, which they still own and occupy. The farm has been increased to 260 acres and all the improvements upon it are in excellent condition. His buildings being in the course of the terrible tornado of 1893, were completely destroyed, and only the twisted trunks or broken stumps remained of the many rows of beautiful shade trees planted around them.

He has become widely and favorably known by reason of his intelligence, uprightness of character and long residence in the same place. He has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the Fonda G. A. R. Post and served as its commander three successive years, 1898-1900. In the history of Colfax township he has left more footprints than any other. He was secretary of the school board in 1872-1873, and president of it in 1875. He was assessor in 1875-1876, and a justice for thirteen years, 1874-1886. He was a trustee in 1873 and '94-97 and has been clerk since 1900. He was a member of the board of county supervisors in 1884. His family consists of one daughter, Grace A., and she is still at home.

**Perkins** Charles Rev. (b. Feb. 22, 1815), father of Charles G., was a resident of Pocahontas county most of the time from 1870 to 1887, and lived in Fonda from 1874-76. He received his early education in the public schools of Maine and at the age of nineteen became a member of the Calvinistic Baptist church. About the year 1852 at Androscoggin he was ordained a minister of the Baptist denomination and served pastorates at North Paris, Bridgeton and Hartford in Maine, and Randolph in New Hampshire. In 1865 he was appointed a missionary by the Cedar Valley Baptist Association

of Iowa and was located at Winthrop four years. In 1869 he relinquished his commission and located on a farm in that vicinity. The next year he came with his son, Charles G., to Pocahontas county and preached as he had opportunity. He delivered the first sermon in Butler township, Calhoun county, in a temporary school house on section 3, in 1872, and held the first public services in English in Colfax township that same year, in the Stewart-Brownell school house on section 34. His wife, Amazina Cushman (b. 1817), was of Puritan descent, came to this county in March, 1872, and died in December following. Two years later he married Mrs. Elizabeth Bicknell, of Pomeroy. About the year 1887 he returned to Paris, Maine, and died there July 6, 1892.

**Perry** Clark (b. 1844), resident of Sec. 5 since 1886, is a native of Winnebago county, Ill., the son of David and Charity Perry. On Nov. 27, 1877 he married Alice Lamb and located on a farm at Cherry Valley. In 1881 his father visited Pocahontas county and bought 480 acres on Sec. 5, Colfax township. Five years later Clark and family located on this farm and began the work of its improvement. Handsome buildings have been erected on a beautiful elevation and the place has been made very homelike by the planting of an orchard and several groves. The apples from this orchard are large size, excellent quality and demand a ready sale on the market.

His family consists of five children: Maude, a teacher, David, Ethel, Frank, and Earl; Jessie Mabel having died at sixteen in 1899.

**Peterson** Alexander (b. Jan. 16, 1850), one of the supervisors of Pocahontas county 1892-97, is the son of Andrew Peter (b. May 18, 1818), and Charlotte Kauntson (b. Sept. 8, 1823) Peterson. His parents were united in marriage in 1848 and their family consisted of two children, Alexander

and Matilda who became the wife of John A. Holmes (see Holmes). In 1867 they came together to America and located at Andover, Henry Co., Ill., and three years later in Henry Co., Iowa. Here Alexander on March 22, 1879 married Sophia Swanson (b. Swed. Aug. 27, 1858), who, as the only representative of her family, had come to America in 1875. Two years later he bought 160 acres of prairie on Sec. 16, Colfax township and bringing his wife and parents located on it and began its improvement. By frequent subsequent purchases this farm has been increased to 600 acres; and the first set of buildings have been replaced by new and larger ones that rank among the largest and finest in the township. In 1891 a large two story mansion house was built and in 1893 a barn 56x80 feet that has a capacity for 90 tons of hay. Several other important buildings have been erected and all are kept brightly painted. He keeps his farm well stocked with hogs and cattle and milks about 25 cows. In 1883 he planted six acres of forest trees and 80 fruit trees that are doing nicely.

The marked success achieved by Alexander Peterson is a practical illustration of what an Iowa farm will do when rightly managed. No one can pass his premises without observing the manifest evidence of careful management. Everything about the farm suggests a systematic and orderly arrangement of facilities for caring for a sufficient amount of stock to consume all the grain raised on the farm.

Andrew P. Peterson his father died Dec. 22, 1900 at the age of 82 years and, including his children and grandchildren, this was the first death in the family. When he read his first account of the United States, giving a glowing description of the vast domain of rich and fertile prairies that awaited new settlers, he experienced a desire to emigrate to this great



land. As the years passed away and he had opportunity of witnessing the increasing prosperity of his children in their new homes, often did he express his gratitude to the favoring providence that led him and his family to Iowa and in particular to Pocahontas county.

Alexander, by his intelligence and thrift, has forged his way to the front and secured recognition as one of the leading and most influential men of the township. He has been a trustee of the Swedish Mission church of Colfax township since the time of its organization in 1882. He was a trustee of the township from 1883 to 1890, a justice of the peace 1896 to 1899 and a member of the board of county supervisors six years, 1892-97.

His family consists of four children, Melvin Oliver, Alice Matilda, Emma Cecelia and Elmer Alexander.

**Peterson** Charles P. (b. 1844), owner and occupant of a farm in Colfax township since March 17, 1869, is a native of Sweden, came to America in 1868 and lived one year in Boone county, Iowa. On March 3, 1869, he entered and two weeks later began to occupy, as a homestead, the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  section 12, 80 acres.

Four other young men from Sweden that were his personal friends, namely, John A. Johnson, Gust H. Johnson, John A. Nelson and Harry August Nelson (died the next year), entered homesteads on the same section the same day with him, all having walked together from Des Moines. When they went to locate their claims there was no house west of the Blandon farm, eight miles east. They had to have their claims surveyed three times at a cost of \$20 each before they got their boundaries satisfactorily located. Each built a sod house on his claim before the end of that summer and worked on the railroad when not needed on his homestead. At the time of the great snow storm, March 8-10,

1870, they were all at the cabin of John A. Johnson, and not until the third day were they able to return to their own homes to feed and water their stock.

The first home of Charles P. Peterson was a sod house, or more correctly, a dugout, 12x16 feet, excavated two feet below the surface, built with sods three feet above it and covered with a roof of boards. It had one window in the rear gable facing southward. He occupied this humble but comfortable dwelling until 1871, when he built a frame shanty that lasted the next eight years. In 1879 he married Hilda Nelson (b. Sweden 1857) and began to occupy a new house completed at that time. In 1891 he sold the homestead and bought 240 acres on section 26. He has here a beautiful home with attractive surroundings. he has met with a good degree of success on the farm, raising good crops and raising stock with profit. He is a man of intelligence and strict integrity. He is a liberal supporter of the Swedish Lutheran church and has taken an active part in the management of the most important affairs of the township. He was president of the school board four years, 1893, '95-97, and a trustee six years, '93-98. His family consists of five children, Alfred, Frank, Henry, Melvin and Amy, four having died in childhood.

**Peterson** Frank (b. 1851), in 1873 secured as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  section 12, improved and occupied it until 1892. He then sold it and bought 160 acres on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 23, which he has improved and still occupies. He is a native of Sweden, came to America in 1869 and located first near Des Moines. He has been a trustee of Colfax township since 1897. In 1875 he married Turina Henricks, a step-daughter of Nels Anderson. She died May 2, 1899, leaving a family of eight children, Hilda C., Ida, Ina, Amanda, Verner, Carl, Lawrence and Nellie.

**Peterson** John (b. Sweden 1875), brother of Peter, in 1881 married Catherine Larson and located on section 24. She died in 1887, leaving two children, Anna S. and Minnie M. In 1889 he married Martha Johnson and their family consists of two children, Esther W. and Arvad.

**Peterson** Peter (b. Sweden 1842), in 1869 located on a homestead on section 24, which he improved and increased to 160 acres. He married Christine Welander and occupied the homestead until the spring of 1901, when he moved to Pomeroy. He was a mason as well as a farmer.

**Prange** August (b. 1835), who in June 1869 entered as a homestead the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  section 20, is a native of Prussia. Coming to America in 1867, he located first in Webster county, Iowa, and two years later in Pocahontas county. His first improvements were a cabin and a blacksmith shop, the walls of the latter being built of sod. This was the second blacksmith shop established in this county, and it was maintained on the farm for 15 years, the sod building after four years being replaced by one of lumber. He occupied the homestead, farming and blacksmithing until 1883, when he established a large shop at Pomeroy and supplied it with the most improved machinery. He is still the proprietor of it and enjoys the reputation of being a very skillful workman. In 1874 he married Augusta Zimmerman, relict of a brother killed in the Prussian army. His family consists of five children, Albert, Alma, William, August and Emma.

Frank Prange, son of his brother, deceased, married Rose Randall, lives at Pomeroy and has two children, Bertha and Charles.

**Prange** William (b. Sept. 6, 1830), in July 1882 bought and began to occupy the N $\frac{1}{2}$  section 19. He improved this farm with buildings that cost \$3,500 and planted pretty groves

around them. In 1895 he moved to Cedar township, where he has nicely improved a smaller farm. He is a native of Prussia where in 1851 he married Ida Mallest. The next year they came to America and located in Chicago, where for twenty-six years he continued in the same grocery store. In 1868 his wife died and he soon afterward married Agnes Zimmerman, who died in 1873 leaving two children, William and Frederic, who are residents of Chicago. In 1874 he married Emma Storch and their family consists of three children, Emma, George, who in 1899 married Anna Hout, and Lizzie, an adopted daughter.

**Russell** Henry (b. Dec. 31, 1834), who secured a homestead on section 6 in 1870, was a native of Yorkshire, England. He came to Canada with his parents and on Aug. 19, 1862, married there. In 1870, accompanied by his brother John and his own family consisting of his wife and five children, he located on his homestead in Colfax township, and his brother John on an adjoining one. They built a shanty on the line between them and occupied it together one year. After a residence of thirteen years on this homestead he sold it and bought 160 acres on section 6, Grant township, which he improved and increased to 440 acres. In 1899 he sold this farm and moved to Oklahoma.

He was a man of considerable energy and was very positive in expressing his convictions. He was the first to cast a democratic vote in Grant township, became an ardent advocate of the people's party and heartily endorsed the cause of free silver. He was a trustee of Grant township six years, 1893-98.

His family consisted of thirteen children of whom James, the oldest, died in 1883 at the age of twenty. Those that are living are William, Nellie, Mary, Lizzie, Hattie, Chris-

topher, John, Harry, Rose, Effie, Alice and Carrie.

Nellie married Claude Kay, a farmer for a few years, but now an engine hostler at Rockwell City, and has a family of four children, Ernest, Guy, Rose and Paul.

Mary married Charles Brown and lives in Grant township.

Lizzie married Wesley Ellison and lives in Grant township.

Hattie married David Shippen and lives in Kansas.

John married Mary Coykendall and lives in Grant township.

Rose married Fred Coykendall and lives in Colfax township.

Effie married Hartley Roberts and lives at Fonda.

**Russell** John, brother of Henry, in 1870 built a sod house on his own homestead and occupied it alone for several years. In 1876 he built a frame house and married Sarah Lovering. He continued to occupy the homestead until 1883, when he died, leaving a family of five children, Arthur, William, Elijah, John and Mary. Two years later their mother became the wife of Henry Bentz, and they now live in the southern part of the state.

**Samuelson** August (b. Aug. 22, 1843), who secured a homestead on section 18 in 1869, is a native of Sweden, came to America in 1868 and located at Rockford, Ill. The next year he found employment on the I. C. railroad and located his homestead. He has improved it with good buildings, increased it to 200 acres, and still occupies it. In 1876 he married Hilda, daughter of Swan P. Munson, and has a family of nine children, Selma, Minnie, Otella, Esther, Mabel, Emil and Freda, twins, Genie and Lorence.

**Samuelson** Peter Otto (b. 1832) an older brother of August, is a native of Sweden, where he married Caroline Albertina, and about the year 1884, with a family of six children, all born in Sweden, located on section 17. He

was the first to occupy this farm of 80 acres and has finely improved it. Of his family of seven children, four are living, Ernest, Charles, who married Ida, daughter of G. B. Carlson of Colfax and lives in Texas; Anna, who married Edward Barrett and lives in Manson, and Henry, who in 1896, married Amanda Haag of Colfax township. Otto Arvid in 1898, died at the age of 22.

**Smith** (Schmidt) Fred C. (b. June 7, 1837), one of the first two men to locate in Colfax township and who turned the first furrow in it, is a native of Germany, came to America in 1867 and located in Wisconsin. Two years later he came to his homestead on section 28, accompanied by Fred Matheis, who took an adjoining homestead and at first shared with him his cabin, which was built on the line between them. Improving and enlarging the old homestead to 160 acres he occupied it until 1897, when he moved to Pomeroy. He was highly esteemed as a citizen and served six years as a trustee of the township. On Nov. 15, 1869, he married Eliza Briggs of Calhoun county, and his family consisted of two children, Louie, who died in 1896 at twenty-six, and Emma.

**Stewart** Robert Charles (b. Sept. 10, 1829), who in 1870 secured a homestead on section 34, and located upon it with a family of five children, was the son of William M. and Mary Stewart and a native of Glasgow, Scotland. He grew to manhood in the state of Maine and in 1855 married Lucy Ann Lander in Massachusetts. He then located at Fulton, Ill. In the spring of 1870 he drove across the country, secured a homestead in Colfax township, and built a small cabin on it. This work of preparation occupied about six weeks. Returning to Fort Dodge he met his family and they came together to Pomeroy on the construction train that carried the first mail from Fort Dodge to Pomeroy.

At that time the town of Pomeroy did not exist except as the name of the terminal station of the railroad, and where we now see cultivated fields and comfortable homes there was naught but a treeless, trackless prairie profusely covered with ponds, sloughs, and the slough grass houses of the house-building muskrats. Only those who experienced the trial can tell of the hardships endured by the early settler in the effort to found a home and provide for a large family on the frontier. In the fall of 1874, in order that he might supplement the summer's earnings he started a shoeshop at Pomeroy. He occupied a little corner in the general store of Nicholas Kiefer, the only business house in the place. Deriving a small revenue from this source he continued to work at the shoemaker's trade the remainder of his days, walking or driving to and from the homestead until 1883, when he sold it and moved to Pomeroy, where he died April 17, 1899.

He was a man of excellent spirit and took such an active part in the organization first of Cedar township in 1870 and of Colfax in 1871 that his name will always be remembered. By previous appointment he served as one of the judges at the first election held in Cedar township and was that day elected one of its first trustees. In the fall of 1871, when Colfax was set off from Cedar, he was again appointed and served as one of the judges at the first election. He was then elected and was the first to hold three of the township offices, namely; assessor, justice and trustee. He served as assessor three years, as a justice eight years, clerk one year, president of the school board two years and secretary of it seven years. After his removal to Pomeroy he continued his interest in public affairs, national as well as local. He was an enthusiastic republican, and manifesting pleasure in giv-

ing the reasons for his own political views, he recognized it as the privilege of those who differed from him to do the same.

His family consisted of four children. Charles Edwin, in September 1883, married Relief B. Mackey and died one month later at 25. Herman William, a druggist, in 1884 married Elizabeth V. Gould, lives at Omaha, Neb., and has two children, Ray and Genie. George, a painter and paper hanger, in 1888 married Mary J. Frost, lives at Pomeroy and has two children, Irwin W. and Ray Frost. Elizabeth died in 1883 at 15.

**Swanson** Joseph Rev., pastor of the Colfax Swedish Lutheran church from March 1876 until the fall of 1880, was a native of Sweden, came to America in his youth and locating in Illinois married there Betty (Elizabeth) Anderson. In 1875 he located on section 13, Colfax township, and receiving a license to preach the gospel, served as pastor of the Swedish Lutheran churches of Colfax township and Manson from 1876 to 1880. In 1885 he located on section 14 where he died in 1895, at the age of 58, and was buried. He left a family of nine children who still own and occupy his late home on section 14, namely, Elmer, Martin, Elizabeth, Justus, Richard, David, Mary, Hannah and Esther.

**Turner** Ludwig D. (b. 1841), who in 1869 secured a homestead in Colfax township, was a native of Warren county, N. Y., where in 1868 he married Eliza J. Russell (b. N. Y. 1845) and located in Jones county, Iowa. The next year, accompanied by Mrs. Julia A. (Turner), widow of Marshall Johnson, they came in wagons to Pocahontas county and located on homesteads on section 6, Colfax township. Ludwig began the work of improving his homestead and occupied it until June 6, 1877, when he died from paralysis. His family consisted of three children, two of whom, Gertrude and

John, at the ages of 14 and 13 years died of diphtheria in 1886. Matie L., a teacher, in 1891, married Frank E. Bailey, and lives at Fonda where her mother also resides.

L. D. Turner participated in the organization of Colfax township, and in 1872 served as a member of its first school board. During the civil war he enlisted twice and served over four years in the army of the Potomac under Generals McClellan and Grant, first as a member of the 2d Reg. N. Y. Infantry and later of the 22d N. Y. Cavalry. He had four brothers, Andrew, George, Joseph and John that also enlisted at the beginning of the war, and rendered patriotic service during its continuance.

Mrs. Julia A. (Turner) Johnson was a native of New York, where she married Marshall Johnson. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted and died in Andersonville prison, leaving a wife, two sons, George and William, and two daughters. After the war was over Julia A. came to Iowa and assisted by her two sons, secured a homestead on section 6, Colfax township, erecting first a sod house. Four years later she became the wife of Robert, a brother of Henry Russell, and built a good frame house that they continued to occupy until 1894, when with two daughters, Nettie and Mary, they located in Oklahoma.

George Johnson, her oldest son, about 1881 married Ida Willard and lives at Laurens where he is engaged as a mason and plasterer. William, his brother, a carpenter, about 1881 married Eunice Pierce and lives at Laurens. Lourinda, the eldest daughter of Mrs. Johnson, lives in New York state, and Lillias, her sister, in Jones county, Iowa.

**Walker** Thomas (b. 1820), owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on section 28, from 1870 until the time of his death in 1889, was a native of England, where in 1840 he married Eliza-

beth May (b. 1820). Two years later they came to America and lived in Ohio and other eastern states until 1870, when they located in Colfax township. They had one daughter and she died in Ohio. Mrs. Walker continued to live on the farm until 1895, when she moved to Pomeroy. Thomas and Elizabeth Walker are kindly remembered by all who knew them.

**Wallace** George (July 29, 1836), recorder of Pocahontas county 1879-80, was a native of Summit county, Ohio, the son of James Waugh and Adaline (Hancher) Wallace. He was raised on a farm near Boston and received his education at Northfield, Ohio, where in 1861 he married Cassandra McKesson. In 1871 he located on section 13, Colfax township, erected some good improvements and experienced all the vicissitudes and trials incident to frontier life during the hard times in the seventies.

In 1871 he was elected and served three years as one of the justices of Colfax township. He was two years president of the school board and three years clerk of the township. In 1878 he was elected recorder of the county and held this important office until the time of his death, Aug. 20, 1880. He was a capable and efficient public officer, a man of unquestioned integrity, a devoted Christian and for many years an honored member of the Presbyterian church.

In 1881 his family moved to Pomeroy, where Cassandra, his wife, remained until 1892, and then went to the home of her son, James, at Oberlin, Ohio. His family consisted of four children, one of whom died in childhood.

James Waugh, after taking a thorough course in instrumental music, in 1891 married Lenora Mershon, of Des Moines, and located at Oberlin, Ohio, where he has since been engaged as an instructor in music. Evalina mar-

ried Foster E. Blackinton, for a number of years an implement dealer at Pomeroy, but now a resident of Ogden, Utah. William R., a carpenter, married Martha Hank, and lives at Platteville, Wisconsin.

**Zieman** William, and his two sons, Rudolph (b. 1844) and Amandus (b. 1851) in 1869 located three homesteads of 80 acres each on section 20. They were all natives of Germany and the two brothers worked several years on the track of the I. C. railroad. Their mother died soon after they came to Pocahontas county and William, their father, in 1895. Amandus in 1885 sold his homestead and bought another farm on the same section which he improved and occupied until 1898, when he sold it and moved to Murray county, Minn. Rudolf after some years sold his homestead to his sister, Mrs. Lu-zetta Valentine, and they continued to live on it until 1900, when they moved to Matlock, Minn.

**Sod Shanties.** Sod shanties were built or occupied in Colfax township from 1869 to 1873 by the following early settlers: Fred C. Smith, Fred Jentz, John A. Johnson, Gust H. Johnson, John Soder, Peter Gustafson, Charles P. Peterson, Swan P. Munson, August Prange, Henry A. Nelson, John A. Nelson, John Russell and Mrs. Julia A. Johnson.

#### IN PURGATORY.

Unpleasant experiences that come unexpectedly and are not attended with any serious consequences often become the occasion of considerable merriment when the story of them is told. Of this fact the following incident in the early experience of two of

the old settlers of this township, both of whom are still living, is a good illustration.

When Patrick Murphy and John Barrett made their first purchases of land in this county in September 1869, they undertook to walk the entire distance from Fort Dodge to Colfax township. When they came to Purgatory slough, which is now dry nearly all the year, the water was then about sixty rods wide. An Irishman, who had found employment on the railroad agreed to ferry them safely across it on a raft made of a few fence boards. When they got about the middle of it the raft sunk to the bottom with all on board, and they realized what it was to be unceremoniously ducked in a slough (Purgatory). In order to get them out of it the Irishman helped Barrett to get on the top of a muskrat mound and left him there while he took Murphy to the other side. He then returned to the rescue of Barrett, who, in his lonely situation in the meantime, had endured all sorts of dire forebodings, not so much because he was helplessly surrounded by so much water, but because of the ominous movements that he occasionally detected as taking place underneath him among the musky proprietors of the frail house, the top of which he was occupying as a place of refuge.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

Colfax township has furnished the following county officers:

**SUPERVISORS**—Ray C. Brownell 1873-75; Charles G. Perkins '84; Alexander Peterson '91-97; S. W. McKinney 1901.

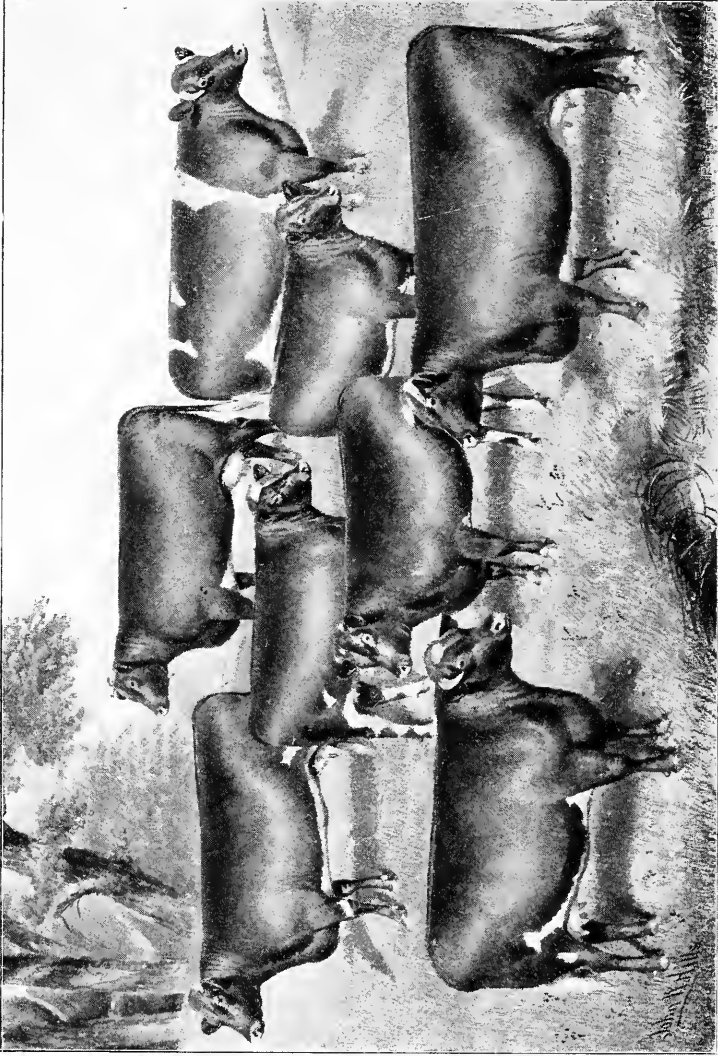
**RECORDERS**—Jason H. Lowrey 1878; Geo. Wallace '79-80.



RESIDENCE OF S. H. KERR, ROLFE.



RESIDENCE OF DUNCAN FERGUSON, ROLFE.



N. A. LIND'S SHORTHORNS, 1903; BEAVER CREEK FARM, DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.



## XVII.

### DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.

Hail to the hardy pioneers!  
The men that cleared the forests,  
And built log cabins rude;  
The wives that shared the hardships  
Of toil and solitude;  
Founders of institutions,  
Upholders of the right;  
Reformers brave, and leaders  
From darkness into light.  
Hail to the hardy pioneers!

#### SURFACE FEATURES, TIMBER, ETC.



Des Moines township was named after the river that flows southeasterly through the eastern part of it.

The following notes made by the government surveyors in 1854 are suggestive of the erroneous notion that prevailed in their minds in regard to the value of treeless prairies:

“Des Moines township is principally prairie; its surface is generally rolling and the soil is mostly first-rate. There is some timber on the west branch of the Des Moines river, which enters the township on section 3 and leaves it on section 36. There is sufficient timber in this township to warrant

only a few settlers, at least for some time to come. There are a few marshes in the northwest corner of the township. If there was more timber it would be excellent for agriculture.”

The belt of timber along the west branch of the Des Moines river in this township was very much larger than any found elsewhere in this county, and the timber was superior in size and quality. Many of the larger trees in 1860 were utilized in the erection of the first court house, the first bridge over the Des Moines river and numerous other structures built about that time. The logs were sawed at the saw mill of W. H. Hait, which was located near old Rolfe and was the only one ever set in this county.

The value of this timber for fuel

and building purposes to the settlers who came before the arrival of the railroad may not be too highly estimated. One section of it, commonly called the "Cabbage Lot," was owned by a non-resident, and for many years the settlers traveled long distances and got all they wanted for nothing, save the labor of cutting and hauling it. The annual supply of fuel for the old court house was 25 cords and during its existence about 400 cords were used in it.

The history of this township antedates that of all the others in the county except that the early settlement of Lizard township precedes it about one year. The stream of immigration moving westward from Fort Dodge passed up Lizard creek to the southeast part of the county in 1856, and up the Des Moines river to the northeast part of it in 1857. The early settlers of this township taking the lead at the time of the county's organization in 1859, secured most of the public offices and the next year the public buildings of the county. The pre-eminence thus gained by this extreme corner of the county was maintained for a period of seventeen years, or until 1876, when the public records and offices were moved to Center township. For an account of the early settlement of this township the reader is referred to page 169.

#### PRE-EMPTORS AND HOMESTEADERS.

The first settlers in this township were pre-emptors\* who secured their claims under the act of congress approved Sept. 4, 1841. Among the number of these were the families of A. H. Malcolm, Guernsey Smith, Robert Struthers, Wm. Struthers, Wm. Jarvis, Henry Jarvis, Samuel N. Harris, David Slosson, Orlando Slosson, John Strait, James Smith, John A. James, James Edelman, Perry (Julia A.) Nowlen and Daniel W. Hunt.

The homestead act of May 20, 1862,

\*See Pages 236 and 237.

went into effect Jan. 1, 1863, which was a national holiday and the land offices were not opened. One claim and so far as known only one claim was filed that day. This was done by Dr. Daniel Freeman at the land office at Brownsville, Neb., for a homestead five miles west of Beatrice on Cub Creek, Gage county. Meeting the clerk of the land office a little before midnight of the day previous he prevailed on him to go to the office and at 12:05 on the morning of Jan. 1, 1863, secured the first homestead, to which he had previously acquired a squatter's right by building a log cabin, stable, a little fence and plowing about 20 acres of the land.

The drift of settlers to the public lands that commenced at the close of the civil war and continued during the remaining years of the 19th century greatly surpassed that of any previous period in our national history, and has never been equaled in the history of the world. Hundreds of thousands of claims have been located, millions upon millions of acres of the public lands have been taken by homeseekers, and states and territories have been created out of the public domain—all in half the lifetime of one man.

Those that secured homesteads in Des Moines township were Beriah Cooper and his two sons, Henry and Thomas, Roswell Drown, Richard Chatfield, Wm. Clason, Robert Lothian and his two sons, John W. and Wm. Lothian, Roderick Harris, Chas. J. Campbell, Benjamin L. Inman and David Bishop, his brother-in-law.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

Des Moines township was organized at the home of Henry Jarvis, section 24, on March 15, 1859, the same day the organization of the county was effected. No record was made of the trustees elected at this time, but from some very suggestive data we infer that those who served in this capacity

in 1859 were Wm. Jarvis, Perry Nowlen and Robert Struthers, Robert Struthers and S. N. Harris were elected justices and W. H. Hait clerk. Soon afterward W. H. Hait was appointed assessor for the county, and later a justice in place of S. N. Harris. The records of the trustees of Des Moines township from the time of organization in 1859 to 1874 are no longer available for reference. The succession of officers for this period has been gleaned, with a great deal of labor, from incidental references to them in the various county records.

The succession was as follows:

**TRUSTEES**—Robert Struthers 1859, '61-64, '67-71; Wm. Jarvis '59-65, '67-72, '75-77; Perry Nowlen '59-60, '80-82; Oscar Slosson '60, '66-69; Isaac N. Belknap '62-63; Henry Jarvis '64, '68, '72-73; Orlando Slosson '64; Jeremiah Young, Henry Thomas '65-66; Henry Cooper, E. C. Brown, Geo. Vannatta '70-71; B. L. Inman '72-73; J. A. Heald '73-74; W. H. Hait '73-77, '94-99; Thos. Baker '75-76; Alfred Hewlett, Robert B. Lothian, Ora Harvey '78-79; J. J. Bruce, Claus Johnson '79-81; Thomas Cooper '80-84, '95-97; Peter Williams '82-84; John W. Broadwell '83-85, '87-95; Peter Jensen '85-94; Ed Hammond '85-86; Henry Ham '86-93; P. H. Sherman '96-98; Geo. F. Smith '98-1900; W. S. Butler '99-1901; I. F. Fisher, Clarence Jensen and Litteny Webb.

**CLERKS**—W. H. Hait 1859-63, '78-79, '84-90; Fred A. Metcalf '64-65; W. S. Fegles '66-74; John W. Farmer '75-76; B. L. Inman '77-82; A. H. Lorimer '80-81; Claus Johnson '83; S. J. Ritchey '91-1900; A. J. Struthers.

**JUSTICES**—Robert Struthers 1859-93; W. H. Hait '59-71, '79-80, '91-93; A. H. Lorimer '72-74, '82-85; Owen Bromley '74-75; S. N. Harris '77; R. Mather '81; R. B. Fish '85-86; Henry Cooper '87-90; I. C. Thatcher '94; S. J. Ritchey, M. Lathrop '95; J. Warford, Wm. McAneny '99; I. F. Fisher '97-99; L. Howell, W. S. Dean '98-1900; Peter Jensen, W. Hansell and A. W. Ralph.

**ASSESSORS**—W. H. Hait 1859; Oscar Slosson, Henry Jarvis '61-63; Fred A. Metcalf, Robert Struthers '65, '68, '77-80, 84-92; W. H. Metcalf '66; Lot Fisher, B. L. Inman '69, '71, '76; D. J. Bishop '70; Owen Bromley '72-73; R. S. Frost '81-83; J. J. Ruff '93-96; J. Hollenbeck '97-1900; H. Miller.

It is worthy of note that during a period of seven years, 1837-93, the affairs of this township were managed by the same persons as trustees, John W. Broadwell, Peter Jensen and Henry Ham. W. H. Hait served eighteen years as a justice, and Robert Struthers fifteen as assessor and about thirty-five as a justice. These long terms of service are very creditable to the incumbents and suggest an era of good feeling.

On May 23, 1881, a special election was held at old Rolfe to vote aid to the Des Moines & Fort Dodge R. R. Of the 58 votes cast, 50 were for, and 8 against the proposed aid.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Des Moines township, embracing the northern half of the county, was organized for school purposes in the spring of 1861.

The population of Clinton township, not as at first organized, but as embracing only township 92-31, during the sixties was as follows: In 1859 to 61, 6; in 1862, 10; in 1864, 17; in 1866, 24, and in 1867, 42. Owing to the fact there were so few children in the township and some of these were able to attend school at old Rolfe, the Clinton township school district was not organized till the spring of 1869. Previous to this date it continued to be included in the Des Moines district and was represented in that school board.

The school records of this township previous to 1870 are no longer available for reference. The data during this period has been supplied by incidental references in the county records

and by the recollections of those who were unconsciously making history at that time. The succession of school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD**—Ora Harvey 1860-62; John A. James '63; Robert Struthers '64-71, '78-81; Wm. D. McEwen '72-75; J. J. Bruce '76-77; Claus Johnson '82; A. E. Dickey, Perry Nowlen '84-85; Lot Fisher, Henry Ham 87, '96-98; R. B. Fish, Thomas Rogers, R. H. Gifford '90-91; J. J. Ruff '92-94; W. N. McAneny, J. A. Budolfson '99-1900.

**SECRETARIES**—Roderick Harris 1860-65; W. S. Fegles '66-74; J. W. Farmer '75-77; J. J. Bruce '78-80; Geo. W. Horton, B. L. Inman, Claus Johnson '83-88; Wm. E. Struthers '89-1901.

**TREASURERS**—Wm. H. Hait 1860-63, '83-88; Fred A. Metcalf '64-65; Matthew Tilley '66; Wm. Jarvis '67-82; Claus Johnson '89-1901.

The board of directors in 1900 consisted of nine members who represented the districts in the following order: J. A. Murray, G. J. Peck, J. A. Budolfson, Niels Truelson, I. F. Fisher, S. J. Ritchey, O. Clapsaddle, Thomas H. Fisher and Geo. F. Smith.

#### EARLY TEACHERS.

The district of old Rolfe, which was the first one organized in the northeast part of the county, was called Highland, and this name occurs frequently in the early county records. The first school in this district was taught in 1860 by Miss Helen M. Harvey in the home of W. H. Hait. In 1861 a brick school house was built near the court house and she taught school in it that and the next two years, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Agnes Kinney, sister of Fred E. Metcalf. Wm. D. McEwen taught it three winter terms, from Jan. 1, 1866, to the spring of 1868. Of the other teachers that taught in this township during the 70s the names of the following have been preserved: Jane Hammond, Ann E. Slosson, Jane Hargrave, J. W.

Farmer, Mattie A. Wilson, Hattie E. Barnes, Mrs. Rebecca W. MacVey, Mrs. Mary A. Umbarger, O. W. Strong, Orrin Keeler, L. Keeler, J. J. Jolliffe, O. I. Strong, Ellen Porter, W. E. Eskridge, Hattie Drown, S. A. Smith, Owen Bromley, Martha E. Rowley, Phoebe C. Hewlett, Delilah Hamble, Mrs. Sarah P. Farmer, L. M. Harris, Maggie J. Lind, Anna B. Campbell, Sarah Slosson, Kate Matern, Carrie Haviland and Fannie Barnes.

#### DES MOINES VOLUNTEERS.

Des Moines township did her full share to put down the rebellion by furnishing alone more volunteers than was required of the entire county, according to its population. This fact has always been a just source of pride to the citizens of the township. The list includes all that entered the army of the civil war from this county, and is as follows:

A. H. Malcolm,	Co. A 11th Penn. Cav.
Henry Cooper,	" 11th " "
Oscar Slosson,	" 11th " "
Hiram Evans,	" 11th " "

These, the first to enlist were sworn in at Fort Dodge Sept. 2, 1861. Others that followed in 1862 were:

James Hood.....	11th Penn. Cav.
Andrew Mills.....	11th " "
John Gaylor.....	11th " "
Wm. H. Sherman,	Delaware Infantry
Richard Barnes.	

Others that followed later were:

Wm. S. Fegles....	4th Iowa Infantry
Chas. W. Jarvis..	4th " "
Henry Tilley....	4th " "
Dennis Quigley..	24th " Cavalry
Thomas Quigley.	27th " Infantry

Whole number, 14.

In the fall of 1860 there were only nine votes cast in Des Moines township and 28 in the county. In 1862 the population of the county was 122 and the whole number of votes cast was 24. There were then three townships in the county and the fourteen volunteers furnished by Des Moines township alone was just one half

the whole number of votes cast in the county at that time. It is only when these facts are recalled that one is able to rightly estimate the patriotic spirit developed in Des Moines township during the civil war. Each man had caught the patriot spark; old man and stripling, priest and clerk.

The absence of so large a portion of the able bodied men of the township completely checked the work of improvement and their families being left on the extreme frontier, at a great distance from all sources of supplies, experienced a recurring series of trials and privations in summer and of severe exposures in winter.

For an account of the 11th Penn. Cavalry, to which seven of them belonged, the reader is referred to page 215.

Richard Barnes was killed at Petersburg.

Andrew Mills was wounded and captured at the time of the Wilson Raid, near Richmond, the object of which was to prevent the enemy from receiving further supplies on the south side or Weldon railroad. He was imprisoned at Andersonville from June 1864 to March 1865, and died soon after his exchange.

Of the survivors A. H. Malcolm, Henry Cooper, Henry Tilley, Oscar Slosson, Wm. S. Fegles, Dennis and Thomas Quigley returned to this county.

Wm. H. Sherman located in Delaware, John Gaylor in Kansas and Charles W. Jarvis just across the line in Humboldt county. Hiram Evans located in Montana, married and died there.

Wm. S. Fegles previous to his enlistment, married Elizabeth Harris and theirs' was the first wedding in Pocahontas county. He had learned to set type and while in the army he was often detailed for that purpose. He owned and occupied all of section

13 east of the Des Moines river until 1878, when he moved to Holt Co., Neb. He was clerk of Des Moines township nine years, 1866-74, and secretary of the school board from 1867-74.

Dennis Quigley married before enlisting and after his return engaged in farming in Des Moines township. He is now living near Mallard in Palo Alto county.

#### OLD ROLFE, THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT.

The site of old Rolfe, the first county seat, was on the northeast corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26, Des Moines township, which was entered by Wm. E. Clark and soon afterward conveyed to John M. Stockdale of Fort Dodge, his brother-in-law. The knoll at this place is a very pretty one and the highest in that locality.

The first name suggested for this place was Highland or Highland City, and the use of this name prevailed during the year 1860, when the court house was built and the first session of the court was held in it. In January 1861, Stockdale employed Egbert Bagg of Fort Dodge to survey and plat the town around the court house. At the request of W. H. Hait and with the approval of the people the name of the town platted was called Milton, after the town in New York from which Mr. Hait had come. The public records show that the use of this name prevailed as late as Jan. 2, 1866, (p. 217) but when application was made for a postoffice by that name the request was refused on account of the previous establishment of an office by that name in Van Buren county. In the fall of 1862 the name of Rolfe, who married Pocahontas, was adopted at the suggestion of Charles Crozat Converse, who in May that year purchased several thousand acres of land in this county, principally in Des Moines township, resided in it that and the next year and by appointment served as county judge from June 2, 1862 to Oct. 19, 1863. This name, by

reason of its brevity and historic interest, received popular approval and was supposed to be a permanent fixture, but in 1882 when the railroad crossed each other at a point four miles southwest of it, a fatality similar to that which in 1876 robbed the township of the county seat ruthlessly robbed the town of its pretty, romantic name and left it to be called by another new one—Parvin.

No letter however ever came to Parvin. This accumulation of vicissitudes was too much. Too many changes will kill any town. This last one proved to be the "last straw that broke the camel's back." After it Rolfe, the pioneer town of Pocahontas county, was dead.

"Behold I go the way of all mankind; I've done the work by changeless fate assigned.

I've been a city, but now my finished towers—

Oh, that the Trojan had not touched these shores." —Virgil.

The plat of the town contained eight blocks east and west and seven north and south. On the second avenue from the east side, called Des Moines, there was a square embracing the avenue and half the adjoining blocks on the east and west sides of it that was called the "Stockdale Reservation." This he gave and granted to Pocahontas county to be used as a site for the court house and other public buildings, but with the proviso that if the county seat should be changed the grant should be void.

On May 20, 1862, Mrs. Leida Lewis, wife of C. C. Converse, purchased 26 of the 56 blocks of this town for \$263, and on Feb. 8, 1864, sold them to Jemima Thallon of New York City for \$300. Later W. H. Hait became owner of the entire site, with the exception of the school house grounds, and also of the land owned by Stockdale around it; and it is all now, though once an Indian burying ground, (p. 132) a part of his large farm.

#### PALMY DAYS.

The palmy days of old Rolfe began with the erection of the court house and the establishment of the saw mill in 1860, and continued until the removal of the county records in 1876. The brick school house built in 1861, the residence of W. H. Hait, one block east of the court house site, the old store building of McEwen & Bruce and a few clumps of trees are now the only reminders of those historic times.

During that period in addition to the county officers the business interests of the place were represented by two general stores, two blacksmith shops, a hotel, a printing and a post-office, a resident physician and clergyman. The store of McEwen & Bruce was established in the spring of 1870 and Geo. W. Horton became their successor in 1876. The other store was established by Andrew G. Lorimer, also in 1870, and E. C. Brown became his successor in 1874. The hotel was built by Albert Davy in 1872. The first smith shop was established by Wm. Matson in 1867, and he was succeeded by Thomas B. Nixon in 1874. The other shop was established by Peter Williams.

Peter Williams was a native of Denmark, where he learned his trade. He was remarkable for his ingenuity in repairing broken machinery. He died several years ago and his son, Niels H. Williams, is proprietor of one of the leading shops at Rolfe. He enjoys the reputation of being an expert in shoeing horses.

Andrew H. Lorimer was a sea faring man in the early part of his life. During the period of the civil war he was on a merchant vessel carrying lime and cement to the dry Tortugas that was captured by the rebel barge, Alabama. The vessel and cargo were burned and the crew were taken prisoners. He was first mate on the vessel and spent several months in captivity. After the war he located at

old Rolfe and in 1874 bought and moved to the farm of E. C. Brown on section 34. He served as a justice of the peace of Des Moines township 1872-76 and as clerk '80-81.

Dr. J. C. Maxwell, the first resident physician and surgeon, left in 1876. He was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Carey in 1878-79, and Dr. W. W. Beam in 1880.

The first religious services were held by Rev. David A. McComb (p. 219) of Algona in 1859, when the Unity Presbyterian church was organized. Others that held occasional services were I. N. Belknap, Fred E. Metcalf, resident farmers, and Rev. Franklin. The succession of resident pastors of the M. E. church dates from the year 1869 and was as follows: Revs. D. M. Beams, John E. Rowen, Rufus Fancher, Wm. McCready, R. W. Thornberg, C. W. Clifton and F. J. Cutbert.

#### POST MASTERS.

The list of post masters at old Rolfe was as follows:

W. H. Hait. . . . 1862 to March 29, 1867  
E. C. Brown. . . . '67 " Sept. 30, 1869  
Wm. D. McEwen '69 " Jan. 1, 1877  
James J. Bruce '77 " March 1, 1879  
Geo. W. Horton '79 " March 31, 1882

The name of the town was then changed to Parvin and R. B. Fish was appointed post master, but he did not open an office, Henry Tilley having re-established the Rolfe office at the new town of Rolfe, April 1, 1882.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

Des Moines township, taking the lead at the time of its organization, has furnished more officials for Pocahontas county than any other township in it. The list is as follows:

REPRESENTATIVE—Robert Struthers 1872-73.

COUNTY JUDGES—David Slosson '59; Isaac N. Belknap '60; Perry Nowlen '61; C. C. Converse '62-63; Fred E. Metcalf '64-65; Samuel N. Harris '66-68; Wm. D. McEwen '69, the last one.

AUDITOR—Wm. D. McEwen '69-73.

CLERKS OF THE COURT—A. H. Malcolm '59; Samuel N. Harris '60-61; W. H. Hait '65; Wm. D. McEwen '67-72.

TREASURER AND RECORDER—W. H. Hait '59-60.

TREASURER—Wm. H. Hait '66-69, Wm. D. McEwen '74-83, '86-87.

RECORDER—Robert Struthers '65-66; E. C. Brown '67-68.

SHERIFF—Oscar Slosson '59, '68-71; Henry Jarvis '60-63, '65-67.

SUPERINTENDENT—Perry Nowlen '59; Oscar F. Avery '60; W. H. Hait '61; Fred E. Metcalf '64-65; Wm. D. McEwen '66-67.

SURVEYOR—Guernsey Smith '59; Robert Struthers '60-69.

COUNTY SUPERVISORS—David Slosson elected, Perry Nowlen served '61; Isaac N. Belknap, David Slosson '63-67, '70, '77-79; David J. Bishop '6-9; John A. Heald '71; R. B. Fish '72-73; Claus Johnson '98-1900.

#### DES MOINES FAMILIES IN 1880.

Humpty Dumpty, a correspondent of the Times in 1889, gave a list of the families residing in the township in the following interesting paragraph:

"Let it Hale as long as we have plenty of Wood to burn, Hams to fry, a Baker to bake our bread, and Fishers to catch Fish when the water is not to deep too Drown. Although we would Hait to see a flood we think we would come out all right as the bottom is Sandy. We have a good Seaman, Campbells to ride and Porter to drink, which, if freely indulged in will Heal (d) all misfortunes Plants of Sweet Williams just at the foot of the Clifton which we must ascend with Care and Prudence lest we fall into the Broad-well and be Eaton up. A Mason that always rises at Cox-crow to commence the labors of the day. Then we are ble-sed with plenty of Hay-wood always at hand without money and without Price. We never considered ourself very Sharp, not quite sharp enough to be a doctor like

our Sharp neighbor over in Clinton,\* but he may make a mistake some day and be obliged to call for a Coffin. When we are afraid of bursting we send for our Coopers."

COOPERTOWN.

The locality of the school house in district No. 3 has been called Coopertown since the early settlement of the township. This was due to the fact that Henry Cooper located on a homestead in that vicinity in 1861, and his brother, Thomas, and their father, Beriah, located on two others in 1865.

**Cooper** Beriah (b. 1807—d. 1873), was a native of Vermont, the son of Thomas E Cooper. He grew to manhood in New York state, where he married Joanna Vaughn (b. 1812—d. 1883) and located on a farm. In 1853 he moved to DeKalb Co., Ill.; two years later to Clayton Co., Iowa, and in the spring of 1865 to the home of his son, Henry, in Pocahontas county, having wife and two other children, Thomas E. and Caroline. He secured a homestead on section 6, adjoining that of Henry, his son. The first shanty was constructed by placing upright pieces of timber close together for the interior lining, covering them with a roof of boards and surrounding them with walls of sod. It had one window in the rear gable. The next year a log house was built that lasted till 1875, when it was replaced by the large building that is now occupied by Thomas. He was a man of excellent principles, a member of the Methodist church, and very soon secured the establishment of public worship in the community where he lived. His family consisted of six children.

1. Elizabeth, married John Barker, lives in California and has raised a family of three sons and four daughters.

2. Hiram lives in Clayton county, Iowa.

\*Page 483.

3. **Cooper** Henry (b. N. Y. Sept. 18, 1837), has been a resident of the township since May 1861. On Sept. 2d following he enlisted at Fort Dodge as a member of Co. A, 11th Penn. Cavalry (p. 215). After completing his term of service in the army he married Mary M. (b. 1840), daughter of Roswell Drown of Ogle Co., Ill., and relict of a soldier by the name of Wells, who died in the army. He then located on a homestead of 160 acres on section 6, Des Moines township, which he has finely improved with good buildings, groves and orchard, and still occupies. He has been a trustee of the township and has served as a justice four years. His wife died in 1891 and in 1897 he married Clara, daughter of James and Harriet (Nichols) Grant. His family consisted of six children of whom four died in early youth. Helen B., in 1889 married David Rud and lives at Dow City. Orrin Alburtis (b. Dec. 3, 1875) is at home on the farm.

4. **Cooper** Thomas E. (b. N. Y. 1844), at the age of 17 in Clayton Co. enlisted in the 18th Missouri Infantry in Oct. 1861, and served three years under Gen. Sherman in the valley of the Mississippi. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the battles of Chattanooga and Atlanta. On his return from the war he came to Pocahontas county with his father and secured a homestead of 160 acres on section 6, Des Moines township. He improved and held it many years. He now occupies the homestead left by his father. He served as a trustee of the township eight years.

5. Lois married Robert Lowrey and they live with her brother Thomas on their father's homestead.

6. Caroline married A. H. Hancher (see Hancher).

**Fisher** Lot (b. June 30, 1835), resident of Des Moines township from 1864 to 1895, is a native of Somersetshire, England, where in 1856 he mar-



ried Sarah Peters and soon afterward located in Dubuque Co., Iowa. In 1864 he located in Des Moines township and the next year permanently on a farm of 129 acres on section 2, which he improved, increased to 240 acres and occupied until 1895, when he moved to Rolfe. He was president of the school board in 1886 and assessor in 1887.

Of his family of eight children seven are living. Mary Ann in 1877 married Niels A. Lind (see Lind). Susanna in 1879 married Thomas Rogers, who located first in Linn Co., then in Des Moines township and in 1893 in Rolfe. He owns two farms containing 400 acres in Des Moines township and was president of the school board in 1889. His family consists of three children, Mabel, Rose and Lulu Viola. Thomas Fisher (b. Iowa 1861), a farmer, married Cora Harris, owns and occupies a farm of 160 acres in Des Moines township, and has a family of three children, Earl, Lee and Ray. John (b. 1866), in 1894 married Emma Cline, occupies a farm of 120 acres in Palo Alto county, and has a family of two children, Susanna and John Walton. Henrietta in 1893 married Harry Seaman, lives on a farm of 120 acres in Humboldt county and has one child, Leonard. Rosalina, a milliner, and Lottie, a Rolfe graduate in 1898 and a teacher, are at home.

**Jensen** Peter, owner of a farm of 200 acres on section 8, is a fine representative of Denmark, his native land. He came to this country in the fall of 1869, accompanied by his neighbor, Claus Johnson, and together they leased the farm of Perry Nowlen for the next year. In the fall of 1870 Peter Jensen married and rented another farm. The next year he bought 80 acres on section 8 and broke as much of it as possible while he worked the rented farm. The next year he erected buildings and moved to his own farm. He has been industrious,

attentive to his own interests and quite successful as a farmer. He was a trustee of the township ten years 1885-94, and a justice in 1900. His family consists of four children, Anna, a clerk; Mary, a teacher; Clarence and Peter.

**Johnson** Claus (b. 1847), ex-county supervisor and owner of a fine farm on section 6, is a native of Denmark and came to America in 1867. In the fall of 1869 he came to Des Moines township with Peter Jensen and found employment as a farm laborer. In the fall of 1870 he bought 80 acres on section 8, located on it the next year and began the work of its improvement. After the lapse of thirty years he is still living on this farm, but it has been increased to 240 acres and improved with fine buildings. He has become prominent as one of the leading stock raisers of the township, especially of thoroughbred Short-horns. His sales of them to private purchasers in 1900 amounted to \$3,000 and at a public sale in September 1900, 44 animals brought \$6,835, an average of nearly \$160 each.

He began life without a dollar and the success achieved has been the result of his industry and excellent management of the farm. He served as a trustee of the township three years, 1879-81, as president of the school board in 1882, as secretary of it 1883-88, and as treasurer of it since that date. These 23 years of consecutive service in the most important offices of the township tell of his public spirit and the esteem in which he is held. He was also a member of the board of county supervisors 1898-1900.

On Feb. 19, 1877 he married Claudina C. Lind, of Powhatan, and his family consisted of six children, Emma F., who in 1897 married George Hewlett and resides in Des Moines township; Andrew W., a jeweler at Spencer; Fred J., Claus C., Christina and Albert J.,

**Converse** Charles Crozat, ex-county judge, was a native of Massachusetts, a graduate in music at Leipzig in 1857, and in law in 1861. Accompanied by his wife, who was a southern lady, he spent two years, 1862-63, at Milton, the first county seat in Des Moines township. To him belongs the honor of proposing and also of securing the adoption of "Rolfe" as the name of the post office at that place in 1862. He was appointed county judge of this county June 2, 1862, and held the office until October 19, 1863.

At the close of the war he became a teacher in an educational institution in Virginia and is now located at Highwood, N. J. He is the author of the familiar hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," of the Standard Hymnal, published by Funk & Wagnalls, and of several other publications on musical and literary subjects.

**Lind** Hans Anderson (b. 1831), Rolfe is a native of Denmark, the son of Niels Anderson and Mary Holm Lind. In 1856 he married Christina Buck and engaged in the jewelry business until 1871, when he and his family came to America and located on a farm on section 9, Powhatan township. In 1876 he moved to section 3, Clinton township, and in 1883 to the town of Rolfe where he resumed the jewelry business. He is now the owner of several business blocks and four good dwelling houses in that city. He was a trustee of Clinton township eight years, 1878-85; treasurer in 1884 and a member of the Rolfe school board 1889-90. His family consisted of six children of whom Christina, the fourth, died at twenty.

1. **Lind** Niels Anderson (b. Denmark 1857), farmer and fine stock breeder, in 1880 married Mary, daughter of Lot Fisher, and located in Des Moines township. He is now widely known as the proprietor of the Beaver Creek stock farm, containing 400 acres and located on sections 19 and 20. He has

planted on this farm a large number of shade trees, distributed in several groves, so as to provide shelter for stock; also a large orchard that is now bearing fruit. His home is ample for the needs of his family and farm, and in the fall of 1900 he erected a large stock barn, 64x100 feet and 24 foot posts. An elevated tank filled by a windmill furnishes the supply for a system of water works that extends to all the buildings and yards, all of which are very conveniently arranged,

During the last ten years he has been raising fine stock, showing a preference for the Cruickshank, Bates and Scotch-topped Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep. In starting his herd of Shorthorns he spared neither trouble nor expense and has now some of the finest stock in this country. He is the first citizen of it that has gone to the old country and imported pure bred cattle directly to Pocahontas county. In May 1900 he started on a trip that occupied 100 days, during which he traveled nearly 4,000 miles in France, England and Ireland, and imported 18 head of pure bred Short-horns from the famous herds of Deane Willis, Philo Mills and Robert Bruce of Scotland, returning via Quebec, where they were quarantined ninety days. Later that year he paid \$1,040 for a cow in whose veins flows the very finest Short-horn blood in the world. In February 1898 he bought the entire herd of Charles Stuckey, Lincoln, Ill., a breeder who had been in the business twenty years.

At his second public sale held April 4, 1900, 53 head brought \$11,880, an average of \$224 each. At his third or last annual sale, March 14, 1901, nearly a hundred buyers were attracted from a distance in this and neighboring states, and 58 head sold for \$8,500, an average of \$148 each. For this occasion a large tent was erected and Col. F. M. Woods, of Lincoln, Neb., who cried the sale, in his preliminary

remarks, said: "Gentlemen, we have before us an example of what a young man may do on these Iowa prairies. Fifteen years ago Mr. Lind was working on a farm for \$15 to \$20 a month. Today he is on this finely improved farm of 400 acres, stocked with the finest of cattle, and, no matter how this sale may go, the proceeds will pay every dollar he owes and leave him a nice balance in the bank. He has achieved success on the farm not by selling grain or raising scrub cattle, but by planting that golden seed—rich blood—from which the crop is always golden. A man in Colorado may dig in the right place and strike it rich, but while one is lucky thousands toil on fruitlessly. But these Iowa prairies are every where underlaid with golden ore waiting for the well-directed hand and the shaft sunk with a check-rower to bring it forth. When you pass the rich ore, the ears of the golden corn, through the stamping mills and refineries—the cattle, hogs and sheep—you take the finished product to the market and receive your gold."

By improving the quality of its stock Mr. Lind has done much to promote the prosperity of this section. His ambition is commendable and he has already attained an enviable reputation as one of the successful and reliable stock breeders of the west. His success has been achieved by adhering to these maxims: "Buy good cattle but no more than you can take care of. Take good care of them, increase their number as fast as possible and keep posted on the quality and treatment of the kind you are raising. If you are trying to make money by raising grain and scrub cattle you will make more by selling half your land and putting good stock on the other half."

His family consists of four children, John, Agnes, Bessie and Cora.

2. Claudina married Claus Johnson (see Johnson).

3. Mary in 1879 married Anton Williams, proprietor of the Fairview stock farm on section 27, Clinton township. At a public sale of pure bred Shorthorns April 5, 1900, 40 animals brought \$5,750, an average of \$144 each. They have one child, Bertha.

4. Christina in 1893 married Edward McMahan, who for a number of years, occupied his farm on section 3, Clinton township, but is now a resident of Rolfe, where he found employment as a harness maker. Their family consists of five children, Leila, Jay, Gladdis, Esther and Chester, twins.

5. John Maurice, a graduate of the Parsons Horological and optical institute, Laporte, Ind., in 1889, found employment as a jeweler, first with his father at Rolfe, three years in Nebraska and in Rolfe since 1894. In 1898 he completed a post graduate course in optics in Chicago, and since 1900 has occupied his father's old place of business in the Masonic building.

**Metcalfe** Fred E. Rev. (b. 1817—d. 1873), county judge and superintendent, 1864-65, was a native of Connecticut. He taught school in his youth and at 21 commenced preaching in the M. E. church. In 1854 he located in Clayton county, Iowa, and in 1862 on section 27, Des Moines township. He was the first M. E. minister to hold public services in the north part of this county and served as county judge and superintendent of the public schools of this county two years, 1864-65. He died while on the road, as a missionary, to Kansas.

In 1840 he married Rubamah Pary and his family consisted of four children of whom Jane Etta, the third, married J. B. Jolliffe (see Jolliffe) and still lives in this county. Wm. Henry married Lois Cooper; Harriet Louise married Dennis Quigley, and Corintha married Wm. H. Nading, who is now living in Clayton county.

**Ritchey** Solomon J. (b. 1849) owner

and occupant of a farm of 240 acres on section 24, is a native of Wisconsin, the son of Josiah and Clarissa Ritchey. At two years of age his father died and at 24 he came to Grundy Co., Iowa, where in 1878 he married Nettie Munson. Two years later he located in Butler county, and in 1883 on his present farm in Pocahontas county, which he has finely improved. He has been clerk of Des Moines township during the last twelve years. His family consists of four children, Carrie, Frank, Daisy and Fay.

**Drown** Roswell (b. 1806, d. 1894), was a native of New Hampshire.

In 1865 he entered a homestead of 80 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, Des Moines township and the next year located on it with a wife and family of five children, who had grown to manhood in Jefferson county, N. Y. He began the work of improvement by the erection of a frame shanty, a stable and the planting of a grove. He continued to live on this homestead until his decease in his 89th year in 1894. His wife died in 1881. Their family consisted of seven children:

1. George (b. Can. 1837), married in Jefferson county, N. Y. and in 1866 located on a homestead on Sec. 10, Powhatan township which he improved and occupied many years. He then moved to Merrimac, Wis., where

he died in 1891 leaving a large family.

2. Mary Ann (b. N. Y. 1840), married Henry Cooper. (See Cooper).

3. Benjamin enlisted in Jefferson county, N. Y. as a soldier in the civil war and died in a hospital at Newbern, N. C.

4. James in 1876 married Elizabeth Vanderright and for a number of years occupied the Barney Hancher farm on Sec. 34, Powhatan township. He then moved to Palo Alto county and in 1894 to Missouri, where he died in 1896 leaving a family of ten children, two of whom were married. The next year his wife and family returned to Powhatan township.

5. Eliza married Orlando Strong. (See Strong).

6. William H.

7. Hattie married Philo M. Waite and they located on Sec. 12, Powhatan township, where he died in 1895 leaving two children, Iva and Irvin.

#### BEAVER CREEK.

Beaver creek, that flows in a southeasterly direction through the south part of the township, to the Des Moines river on section 36, derived its name from a large beaver dam near its outlet. The trail from Fort Dodge to Spirit Lake crossed this stream near this dam, and a temporary bridge was built there before Pocahontas was detached from Webster county.

## XVIII.

### DOVER TOWNSHIP.

“Where the soil produces free and fair,  
The golden, waving corn;  
Where fragrant fruits perfume the air  
And fleecy flocks are shorn.”



The first assignment of the territory included in Dover township, 91-34, was made on June 4, 1861 (p. 194), when for the purpose of taxation, the north half was assigned to Des Moines township and the south half to Lizard. Dec. 1, 1862, the north half was assigned to Clinton, and this assignment continued until it was established as Dover township, Sept. 6, 1870. The petition of request for its establishment was circulated by Alex F. Hubbell, the first settler in it, and the privilege of naming it was accorded to him, his brother Charles and Bernard Reilly, the oldest settler in it at that time.

Marshall township, (92-34), was attached to it from June 7, 1871, to June 5, 1882, and during this period it was called North Dover.

The first entry of lands in Dover was made by Hans C. Tollefsrude for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  section 12 on Oct. 6, 1868, when he secured other lands in Grant township.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settler in Dover was Alex. F. Hubbell, who purchased section 26 in May, 1869, and accompanied by Charles F. Hubbell, his brother, located upon it in April, 1870. In May following Alvin C. Blakeslee located on section 32 and D. M. Woodin on section 24, both of them having families and entering their lands as homesteads. Others that arrived and were enrolled as voters previous to the establishment of the township, Sept. 6, 1870, were Bernard E. Reilly and his father, Bernard Reilly, Wm. W. Rathbun, Wm. M. Carpenter, A. C. Closson, James O'Niel and John B. O'Niel, his brother

## SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The first election was held at the home of A. F. Hubbell on Oct. 11, 1870, when by previous appointment A. F. Hubbell, B. E. Reilly and A. C. Closson served as judges and C. F. Hubbell and W. W. Rathbun as clerks. A. F. Hubbell, B. E. Reilly and W. W. Rathbun were elected trustees; A. F. Hubbell and B. E. Reilly, justices; Charles F. Hubbell, clerk, and B. E. Reilly, assessor. The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES:** Alex F. Hubbell 1871-75; Bernard E. Reilly '71-74, '76-77; W. W. Rathbun '71; W. H. Sherwood '72; John J. Brower '73; Rufus Greene '74; Wm. Fitzgerald '75-84; Wm. Gilson '75; Harvey Eaton '76; James H. Coleman '77; Frank Hogan '78; J. E. Moore, Geo. O. Pinneo '79-80, '85-87; D. M. Woodin '79; M. J. Lynch '80-85; A. F. Burdick '81-84; T. F. McCartan '85; Wm. Eaton '86-88; M. J. Kearns '86-87; Clark R. Lampman '88-97; Frank A. Thompson '88-91; Edward Lilly '92-97; J. P. Griffin 98-1901; Benj. Grote '98-1901; J. T. Fitzgerald '98-1901.

**CLERKS:** A. F. Hubbell 1871, '76-80; W. W. Rathbun '72-74; B. E. Reilly '75; J. H. Barnes '81-84, '91-94; M. W. Linnan '85-88; J. A. Carroll '89-90; M. J. Lynch '95-1901.

**ASSESSORS:** B. E. Reilly '71-72; J. J. Brower '73-75; Wm. Gilson '76; W. W. Rathbun '77-78, '80-84; C. H. Hough '79; J. H. Coleman '81-82, '91-92; M. J. Kearns '83-84; J. H. Barnes '85-90; J. J. McCartan, J. D. Fitzgerald '94-1900; Joseph Lilly.

**JUSTICES:** A. F. Hubbell '71-83; W. W. Rathbun '74-77; John A. Belden, John Buckner '82; Wm. Gilson '81-88; George Watts '85-91; F. A. Thompson '92-95; J. J. McCartan '96-97; J. D. Fitzgerald 1901.

This township during the 80's was divided into only two road districts. The annual tax levied for road purposes was four mills and the two supervisors, using this entire tax in the

township, constructed all the grades in their respective districts instead of having them done by the county. The township is traversed by both branches of the Cedar and this circumstance made necessary more grades and bridges than in some of the others. Drainage district No. 2 (p. 307) is in the western part of it.

## SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Dover township was organized for school purposes in the spring of 1872, and the first board of directors consisted of A. F. Hubbell, D. M. Woodin and Wm. H. Sherwood. W. W. Rathbun was elected clerk and Charles F. Hubbell, treasurer. The succession of school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** A. F. Hubbell '72; J. J. Brower, Harvey Eaton, Geo. O. Pinneo '74; Wm. Gilson '75-81; B. E. Reilly '82-83; George Watts '84-85; C. R. Lampman, J. A. Carroll, Horace M. Needham, S. P. Lampman '89, 95-97; J. H. Barnes '90-94; Joseph Morrison '98-1901.

**SECRETARIES:** W. W. Rathbun '72-81; M. J. Lynch '82-1901.

**TREASURERS:** Charles F. Hubbell '72; A. F. Hubbell, Rufus Greene '74-77; J. H. Coleman '78-81; Wm. Fitzgerald '88-1901.

The first school house in Dover was built in 1872 in the Hubbell district and the first teachers in it were Julia Kearns (Lynch) and Frances M. Hubbell. In 1873 three new houses were built. In the one on section 31, Pinneo district, W. W. Rathbun and Mrs. Geo. O. Pinneo were the first teachers. The other buildings were located in the Gombar (section 36) and Gilson (section 17) districts. Another building was erected by the board that year but it was near the Thornton & Greene farm in North Dover. In 1886 five teachers were employed. Now ten teachers are employed in as many buildings, Varina having two. Among others that taught in the early day were Sarah Wells, Lyman Clark, Kate

Reilly, Fannie Thornton, Wm. Wells and James H. Osborne.

The first annual commencement of the rural schools of Dover township was held at Varina in June, 1901. The graduates were Lura P. Thornton, Eunice L. Fitzgerald and Nellie R. Fitzgerald, from sub-district No. 6, Janie Fitzgerald, teacher, and John Clampitt, Odell Metcalf, Bertha Morrison and Leah B. Morrison from sub-district No. 9, Bertha Thompson, teacher.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

Dover township has furnished three representatives for the board of county supervisors: Wm. Fitzgerald 1889-91; Frank A. Thompson '92-94; M. A. Hogan '95-1900; and J. F. Clark, superintendent, '75-77.

#### CEMETERIES.

The Dover township cemetery, containing five acres, was located on the northwest corner of section 22 in 1880, and to this date only three persons have been buried in it, namely: Martin Bergren, a Swede stone mason subject to epilepsy, who, while blasting rock, blew off his head by putting a dynamite cartridge in his mouth, at the age of 31; Mrs. Sarah Smith, wife of Charles Henderson, and a child by the name of Netrick. It is probable that this site will soon be disposed of and a new one selected near Varina.

The Catholic church (p. 373) and cemetery are located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 34. This has been a popular burying ground ever since it was established. Many of the settlers of Dover township and vicinity were natives of Ireland and members of the Catholic church. Many of those that have passed away are buried here and beautiful monuments mark their last earthly resting place. Rev. J. F. Brennan, of Fonda, has supplied the church at this place since the removal of Rev. S. Butler in the spring of 1901.

#### LILLY CREAMERY.

In the spring of 1897 a number of

the farmers in the northeast part of Dover township formed an incorporation, known as the Lilly Creamery Co., for the purpose of establishing and operating a creamery in their midst. The incorporators were M. W. Linnan, Wm. Fitzgerald, F. A. Thompson, Edward Lilly and John P. Griffin, trustees. The officers chosen were Theodore Lilly, president; John D. Fitzgerald, secretary, and Joseph Lilly, treasurer. The capital stock of \$2500 was divided into shares of \$10 each. A building 26x40 was erected on the farm of John Eichler, SW $\frac{1}{4}$  section 11, and it was opened for business June 3, 1897. This creamery is located in a section of country where a number of intelligent farmers have permanently located. They have been developing and improving their farms finely and have discovered the ability and energy to make this undertaking a financial success, and a source of profit to all who patronize it. M. W. Linnan has been secretary since 1901.

Joseph T. Reagan, in the spring of 1897, established a store and postoffice at this place, and, in the fall of 1899, the young men of the neighborhood organized a cornet band of sixteen pieces, under the leadership of B. M. Lamb, butter maker at the creamery.

#### VARINA.

The town of Varina was located on the lands of Jacob Hauser, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31, along the survey of the C. M. & St. P. Ry., about July 1, 1899. Its pretty and romantic name was adopted one month later by the railway company at the suggestion of the author of this work. He noticed that in the nomenclature of this county the names of Rolfe and Powhatan, her husband and father, had been appropriated from the story of Pocahontas. Varina was the name given to her home after marriage, on the James river, Virginia. The use of this name tends to complete the list of proper names found in her story.

The track-laying machine (p. 301) reached Varina Nov. 23, 1899. The first train load of stock was shipped southward from there Dec. 17th, 1899. It consisted of three cars of cattle sent by M. W. Linnan and four cars of hogs sent one each by Thomas Fitzgerald, Joseph Lilly and F. Pickering, W. T. and James Fitzgerald, and Mullen, Mayo & Co. The train was gaily decorated with banners upon which were printed in large letters: "First consignment of stock from Varina." Regular train service was established Dec. 25th, 1899, and mail service March 5, 1900. Frank A. Thompson was appointed postmaster Feb. 1, 1900, and the office was opened in Pilkington's hardware store.

The plat of the town was filed by the Milwaukee Land Co., Oct. 2, 1899, and four days later the town was opened to the public by the public sale of twenty-six lots. August Porath bought the first business lot, 25x142 feet for \$92.50. Among others who made purchases that day were B. W. Pilkington, Mullen, Mayo & Co., John Taylor, J. D. Fitzgerald, Herman Schultz, J. A. Thompson, Thomas Thompson and James Keefe. On Dec. 26, 1899, Jacob Hauser filed the plat of Hauser's First addition, and the public sale of these lots occurred Jan. 2, 1900.

The first buildings erected were a lumber office by Orville U. Miracle and a blacksmith shop by John Taylor, both being movable buildings that awaited location after the town should be platted. When the track was laid Miracle had his sheds completed and a fine stock of lumber on hand hauled from Fonda. Loren Green and wife were occupying their new house, the first one in the town, now owned and occupied by Allen F. Thompson, and Carl Peters and family were occupying the rear of his store building. Wm. Morrison had the third house enclosed and about

fifteen other buildings were in process of erection.

#### VARINA IN 1901.

**MAYOR**—Edward B. Wells.

**BANK**—Bank of Varina established July 20, 1900; E. B. Wells, president; Allen F. Thompson, cashier.

**BLACKSMITH**—Harry Waterman, in 1901, successor of Edward Durkee and John W. Taylor.

**CARPENTERS**—Ulyses S. Reed, Chas. J. Moore. Henry L. Ellis of Newell, built most of the first buildings.

**CHURCHES**—Presbyterian and Methodist, both built in 1901.

**DRAYMEN**—John Carroll, Thomas J. Logan.

**DRUGGIST**—B. Bevelhymer, 1900.

**ELEVATORS**—Wilson & De Wolf, 1899, Frank A. Thompson, Mgr.; Pease Bros., 1900, J. D. Fitzgerald & Co., Mgrs.

**FURNITURE**—Geo. W. Clampitt, 1900.

**GENERAL MERCHANTS**—Carl Peters & (Wm. C. H.) Son, 1899; D. Z. Roland, 1900; Guy Blair, 1901.

**GROCERY**—George A. Secord, 1899.

**HARDWARE**—B. W. Pilkington; August Porath, successor to John A. Thompson in 1901.

**HARNESS-MAKER**—L. S. Maulsby, at Pilkington's.

**HOTEL**—Varina Hotel built by Wm. Kenyon, 1899; Mrs. J. F. Newland, 1900; Wm. French, 1901.

**IMPLEMENTS**—J. D. Fitzgerald & (W. T. and Thos.) Co., successors to Mullen, Mayo & Co., in 1901.

**LIVERY**—Wm. Morrison, in 1900 successor to T. J. Logan.

**LUMBER AND COAL**—J. & W. C. Shull 1899, Patrick Shanley, Mgr.; Fridden Lumber Co., in 1900, successors to Miracle & Miracle, A. Ingooldstadt, Mgr.

**POSTMASTER**—Frank A. Thompson, since March 6, 1900, office in Pilkington's hardware store.

**PHYSICIANS**—Andrew Emmett Carney, since 1900; W. C. Porath.

**RAILWAY AGENT**—O. M. Conner,



Dec. 1, 1899; R. Wright, Oct. 1, 1901.

SHOEMAKER—N. W. Raines.

FIRST OFFICERS.

At a special election held Dec. 28, 1900, the incorporation of the town, including all of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, was approved. The first officers, elected March 25, 1901, were: Edward B. Wells, mayor; Jacob Hauser, John A. Thompson, Matthew L. Chase, John D. Fitzgerald, George W. Clappitt and George A. Secord, councilmen; B. W. Pilkington, treasurer; Allen F. Thompson, recorder; W. C. Peters, assessor; Wm. Morrison, marshal and street commissioner.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The first Protestant services in Dover township were held in the Pinneo (now Varina) school house. As early as 1871 occasional services were held in the Sunk Grove school house, two miles south, by Rev. L. C. Woodward, (M. E.) of Newell. Two years later an aged resident of Buena Vista county by the name of Clothier, assisted by Rev. Mr. Johnson, endeavored to organize an M. E. class after one week of special meetings. In 1876 these occasional services were transferred to the Pinneo schoolhouse by Rev. A. J. Whitfield of Fonda, and continued by his successor, Mr. Kenyon. Revs. Faus and Winter, their successors, transferred them to the Gombar school house.

In 1879 at the request of W. H. Burnett, a First-Day Advent, Rev. Mr. Willoughby of Jefferson, began to hold occasional services at the Sunk Grove school house and the next year he was succeeded by Rev. George Emory of Sac City, who organized a class of eighteen members and served them once a month. In 1882 these services were transferred to the Pinneo school house and maintained during the summer seasons until 1886, when they were discontinued.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In 1887, Rev. R. E. Flickinger of

Fonda, began to hold occasional services during the summer season in the Pinneo school house. In the spring of 1893 he began to hold the services on alternate Sabbaths and has continued to do so since that date.

On May 12, 1889, a Sunday school was organized that was maintained several summers under Geo. O. Pinneo as superintendent, and from 1893 to 1896 under Mrs. Sarah T. Pinneo. After a lapse of three years this Sunday school was reorganized in the school house April 22, 1900, by the election of Carlos E. Pinneo and Emory R. Fox, superintendents; Hattie Pinneo, secretary, and Ai Watts, treasurer.

In January, 1901, the services were transferred to Pilkington's hall, Varina, and on the 29th of that month a Presbyterian church was organized with seven members, of whom Carlos E. Pinneo and Ai Watts were ordained elders. Geo. Watts, (president), Hattie Pinneo, (secretary), Ai Watts, (treasurer), C. E. Pinneo, E. R. Fox and Mrs. E. B. Wells were elected trustees. It was then decided to erect a church building on the three lots secured by the pastor January 2, 1900, and donated by him for that purpose. The contract for the erection of a building 28x48x14 feet with tower and pulpit extensions was given to Ulyses S. Reed for \$1,660. It was completed, furnished and dedicated December 8, 1901, at a cost of \$2,000.

METHODIST CHURCH.

Occasional services by the M. E. church were held in the Pinneo school house in the fall of 1900 by Rev. J. M. Tibbetts, of Pomeroy. In January, 1901, Herbert J. Calkins, a student, located in the town and began to maintain the services on alternate Sabbaths in Pilkington's hall. A class was organized a few months later and a church building was erected that year for which the corner-stone

was laid July 11th, 1901. It was dedicated September 22d, following. The first board of trustees consisted of Jacob Hauser, Thomas J. Logan, L. A. Robbins and George A. Secord.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Carey** John, (b. 1843) is a native of Made county, Ireland, and coming to America with his parents in 1846, located in Massachusetts and two years later near Rome, Oneida county N. Y. In 1857 they came in wagons to the vicinity of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they remained during the next twenty-seven years. John was the oldest member of a family of six children, of whom Matthew and Lawrence and their families came with him to Pocahontas county in 1884. Ann, his sister, married Thomas Lynch, Mary married Thomas Jones and Bridget married Garrett Mackey. All are members of the Catholic church.

John in 1873 married Maggie, a sister of John McCafferty, and she died in 1883 in Linn county, leaving a family of five children; Maggie, James, Lawrence, John and Mary. The next year he purchased and located on a farm of 320 acres on section 15, Dover township, which he improved and still owns. Soon after his arrival in this county in the spring of 1884, three of his children, James, Lawrence and John, died of scarlet fever. On May 2, 1887, he married Mary, a sister of Jerry S. Sullivan, and their family consists of one daughter, Annie. In 1898 he built a house and located in Fonda.

Maggie, his eldest daughter, in 1894 married James Webb, an express messenger on the C., M. & St. P. Ry., and lives in Chicago; Mary in 1899 married James, a son of Matthew Burns, and lives in Omaha.

**Carey** Matthew, (b. Ireland, 1845; d. 1889) in 1867 married Bridget Lally and located on a farm in Linn county, Iowa. In 1884 he located on a farm of 160 acres on section 25, Dover town-

ship, which he improved and occupied until his death in 1889. It is still occupied by his family which consisted of five children.

William, (b. Iowa, 1871) in 1900 married Susan Marx, lives on his own farm on section 34, which he bought in 1896 and improved by the erection of a new house and barn since his marriage. He has a good orchard and vineyard, and a large plot planted in small fruits. He has one child, Margarite.

Mary married William T. Fitzgerald and lives at Varina. Maggie, John and Hazel are at home.

**Carey** Lawrence, (b. 1847) is a native of Massachusetts. In 1874 he married Mary, sister of John McCafferty, and located on a farm in Linn county, Iowa, and in 1884 on 160 acres on section 16, Dover township, which he improved with good buildings, increased to 240 acres and still occupies. Three of his children died of scarlet fever in the spring of 1884, soon after his arrival in this county. Eight children are living: Annie, William, Frank, Joseph, Nellie, Raymond, Jennie and the baby.

**Coleman** James Henry, (b. 1850) resident of Dover township from 1876 to 1892, is a native of Derby, Conn., the son of William and Margaret Coleman. In 1868 he came with his parents to Allamakee county, Iowa, where in 1876 he married Kate McGuire and settled on a farm of 80 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, Dover township, this county. He improved this farm with good buildings, enlarged it to 200 acres, still owns it, but moved to Fonda in 1892. His administrative ability was immediately recognized in Dover township by his appointment as treasurer of the school funds in 1876, a few months after his settlement there. He held this responsible office nearly four years and during the winters of 1876 and '77 made several trips across the prairies covered with

snow, on foot, to Pocahontas and Fonda for school funds or necessities in the home. He was also assessor of the township four years, 1881-82, '91-92. In Fonda he has been a member of the school board since 1894 and was elected president of it in 1901.

His wife died in 1880, leaving three small children, all of whom died of scarlet fever in the spring of 1881. That same year he married Victoria Leslie and their family consists of four children: Lottie, a Fonda graduate in 1901, George, Allen and John.

**Elsasser** John, (b. 1841) owner of a farm of 280 acres on sections 5 and 8, is a native of Germany and one of the most influential of his countrymen in the township. On coming to America he located at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he married Kate (b. Ger. 1851), sister of John and Peter Fix, who are also now residents of Dover township. After a few years he located in Sac county, and in 1890 on a farm of 80 acres on section 5, Dover township, which he increased to 280 acres and improved with good buildings and grove. In 1899 he moved to Pocahontas, leaving the farm in care of his sons.

His family consisted of five children: Mary in 1895 married Patrick Ryan who occupies a farm of 160 acres in Marshall township, and has a family of four children; William, Edward, Estella and Ethel. John G. and Hugo M. occupy their father's farm, the latter in 1901 having married Adelia, daughter of Edward Gerrick. Emma and Clara live with their parents. All are members of the Catholic church.

**English** Joseph H., (b. 1849) owner of a fine farm on section 6, is a native of Germany, where in 1872 he married Sophia English. Six years later he came to America and located near Odebolt, Iowa, and engaged in raising sheep, keeping usually 1,500 head. After four years he moved to Nebras-

ka and in 1885 to his present farm, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He has now a fine dwelling house, large barn and a number of other smaller buildings. He keeps about 150 head of sheep and raises considerable stock.

His family consisted of five children. Charles in 1895 married Bertha Geddes and lives in Marshall township; Annie in 1893 married Wenzel Geddes, who works her father's farm, and has three children, Maggie, Ada and Clara; Michael, Mollie and Millie are at home.

**Fitzgerald** John and Margaret, parents of Patrick, John, William and Daniel Fitzgerald were natives of Ireland and members of the Catholic church. They were married about the year 1833 and with a family of five sons and one daughter, in 1850 came to America and located near Bridgeport, Conn. In 1857 they moved to Allamakee county, Iowa. Here their children grew to manhood, married and two of them, Margaret, who married Thomas Reagan, and David, permanently located. During the years of 1873 and 1874 four of their sons, Patrick, John, William and Daniel located in Pocahontas county and in 1879 they also came and lived here the rest of their days. Both are buried in the Dover Catholic cemetery. Their family consisted of five sons and one daughter.

1—**Fitzgerald** Patrick (b. 1834; d. 1898) was a native of Cork county, Ireland, came with his parents to America in 1850 and to Allamakee county in 1857. In 1871 he married Mary Mackey. Two years later he located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Dover township, which he improved and occupied until the time of his death in 1898, when he was the owner of 320 acres. His family consisted of eleven children, two of whom died in childhood.

William Timothy (b. Iowa, 1871) in 1894 married Mary J., daughter of

Matthew Carey. In 1900 he moved to Varina and engaged in the implement business as a member of the firm of J. D. Fitzgerald & Co. His family consists of four children: Margaret M., Matthew, John P. and William E. Maggie E., Mary A. James Edward, Sarah Jane, a Fonda graduate in 1899, John P., Hannah, a Fonda graduate in 1901, Catherine, Nellie R. and Charles Lewis are at home.

2—**Fitzgerald** John (b. Ireland, 1836) in 1862 married Mary, daughter of Philip Quillian, of Allamakee county. In 1873 he located on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Dover township, which he has finely improved and increased to 340 acres. His family consisted of eight children.

Margaret Ann in 1888 married M. W. Linnan, (see Linnan); Mary Ellen in 1888 married John Eichler, owner of a farm of 160 acres on section 11, Dover township, and has a family of three children, Lucy, John and Ray. John David, (b. Iowa, 1867,) secretary and business manager of the Lilly Creamery Association 1897-1900, and dealer in implements and grain at Varina since the spring of 1900, in 1896 married Ann Quinlan of Fort Dodge and has a family of two children, John Vincent and Mary Ethel. He was assessor of Dover township from 1894 to 1900, and a justice in 1901. Elizabeth in 1899 married Joseph Eichler, who lives on his own farm of 160 acres in Dover township, and has one child, John Francis. Thomas Philip in 1900 married Mary, daughter of Terrence Mullen of Fonda, and located at Varina, where he is engaged in the implement business. He has one child, Mary Genevieve. Agnes and Winnifred are at home.

3—**Fitzgerald** William, (b. Ireland Mar. 11, 1840) in 1862 in Allamakee county, enlisted as a member of Co. F, 6th Iowa Cavalry, (pp. 43-45) and spent three years in the frontier service of his country. In 1866 he mar-

ried Ann Jane Williamson and located on a farm. In the spring of 1874 he located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, Dover township, his three brothers, Patrick, John and Daniel having preceded him one year. He has improved this land by the erection of a fine dwelling house, two large barns and other outbuildings, and by planting several groves. He is now the owner of 240 acres that is in a high state of cultivation, having been thoroughly tile drained. He was a trustee of the township nine years, 1876-84, treasurer of the school fund since 1882—nearly twenty years—and was a member of the board of county supervisors three years, 1889-91.

His family consisted of five children. Margaret E. in 1891 married Martin F. White, who located on section 12 and remained there until 1900, when he moved to Perry. Their family consists of five children, two sons and three daughters. Esther Ellen is at home. Mary Jane married Andrew White, who died in October, 1897, from injuries received in an effort to stop a runaway team at Laurens, leaving one child, Charles W. Isabella Ann and Edward are at home. Mrs. Margaret A. Williamson, mother of his wife, has made her home with William since 1878.

4—**Fitzgerald** Daniel, (b. Ireland, 1844) in 1867 in Allamakee county, married Margaret Coleman (b. Maine, 1849) and in June, 1873, settled on his present farm on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Dover township. He has improved this land with good buildings and is now the owner of 320 acres.

His family consisted of ten children, one of whom died in childhood. Mary Agnes in 1890 married Joseph D. Reagan, (see Reagan); John T. was a trustee of the township 1898-1901, and has been business manager of the store since the death of Joseph D. Reagan. Margaret H., after spending three years pursuing special stud-

ies at Chillicothe, Mo., and Washington, Ia., in 1901 married Hugo Fix and lives in Dover township. Catherine Ellen in 1898 married Henry Dorton, (see Dorton); Alice Theresa, Daniel Edward, James J., Eunice L., and Lewis Patrick are at home.

**Fix** John, wife and family, natives of Germany, in 1885 came with Emmanuel Gerrick and located on a farm of 80 acres, now increased to 120 acres, on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8. He has a fine grove and is now in very comfortable circumstances. His family consisted of five children. George in 1893 married Lehina Nace and lives in Marshall township. Alfreda in 1890 married Christ Toma, (see Toma); Hugo in 1901 married Margaret H. Fitzgerald and lives in Dover township. Josephine and Rudolph are at home.

**Garton** William Henry, owner and occupant of a farm of 200 acres on section 17, in 1865 in La Fayette county, Wis., married Sarah Josephine Latin and located at Williams, Iowa. Returning to Wisconsin for a short period, in 1880 he located on his present farm in Pocahontas county, which he has improved and since occupied. His family consisted of six children. Jennie in 1889 married William Sellick and after six years' residence in this county moved to Buffalo county, Neb., with two children, Iza and Etta. In 1901 they returned to this county and began to occupy a new house built on her father's farm. Clifford R. in 1897 married Irene Titus and occupies a farm of 80 acres on section 18. He has one child, Alice. Inez M. in 1896 married Frank M. Titus and lives in Calhoun county. Ida Ellen, Eunice Edith and Anna are at home.

**Garvey** John, (b. May 5, 1848) is a native of Ireland. In 1864 he came alone to America and located in New York state, and in 1867 in Allamakee county, Iowa, where in 1873 he married Sophia Williamson. In the spring of 1873 he located on his pres-

ent farm on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, which he has finely improved and increased to 240 acres.

His family consists of five children: James, a well-digger, Jane and Eliza, teachers, Henry and Albert.

**Gerrick** (Gehrig) Emmanuel and family accompanied by his brother Edmund and family, all natives of Germany, in 1885 came to Pocahontas county and located on section 8, Dover township. Two years later their brother Nicholas and family arrived and located on the same section. These three brothers have become permanent residents of the township, have erected good improvements and are all members of the Catholic church. The family of Emmanuel consists of five children of whom the names of the four oldest are Frank, Annie, Takala (Adelia) and Edmund,

**Gerrick** Edmund, married Takala (Adelia) Swink and has one daughter, Adelia.

**Gerrick** Nicholas (b. Ger. 1814) in 1874 married Johanna Dabors, who came with him to this country in 1887 and died in 1901 leaving a family of three children. Kate in 1892 married Michael Schneitter, lives in Dover township and has two children, Dora and Lois. Dora in 1900 married Constantine Schneitter, lives in Dover and has one child, Katie. Emmanuel is at home.

**Gombar** Frederick Michael, (b. 1853) is the son of Frederick and Rosa (Stelner) Gombar. He is native of Broadhead, Wis., where he grew to manhood and in 1873 married Alice McCarl. In 1878 he came to Pocahontas county with the family of David Steiner and located on section 30, Dover township. Two years later he located on his present farm on section 35, which he has improved with good buildings.

His family consisted of nine children, one of whom died in childhood. Rosa in 1894 married James Dough-

erty, a barber, lives at Pocahontas and has four children: May, Lillian, Eugene and Gladdis. Jennie, Lillian, Trussie, Grace, William, Frank and Hazel.

**Hauser** Jacob (b. Germany 1864), came to America in 1879 and located at Odebolt, Iowa, and three years later at Correctionville, where in 1890 he married Minnie Porath, of Buena Vista County. In 1895 he located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 31, Dover township, on which the town of Varina was located in 1899. Hauser's first addition to Varina was platted by him Dec. 26, 1899, and in 1901 he was chosen a member of the first town council of Varina.

He is a son of David Hauser who, with wife and three other sons, David, Nicholas and Matthew, in 1880 came to this country and located in South Dakota. His family consists of four children, Alice, Edmund and Edwin A., twins, and Janet.

**Hogan** Michael Augustus (b. 1855), ex-County Supervisor, is a native of Delaware county, Iowa, the son of Patrick and Catherine (McNamara) Hogan. In 1877 he located on a farm of 80 acres on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 23, Dover township, which he improved and occupied until 1896 when he moved to Fonda. He was a member of the board of County Supervisors six years, 1895-1900.

In 1886 he married Catherine, daughter of Michael and Catherine Cullen, of Dover township, and she died in 1894, leaving a family of three children, Frank, Nellie and Edward.

His two sisters, Catherine and Maggie, a teacher, have been residents of this county many years. Catherine married Hugh J. Murray, an insurance agent, and Margaret married Jacob Coyle, a merchant, and both live at Pocahontas.

**Hubbell** Alexander Fullerton (b. March 28, 1844; d. Dec. 7, 1894), was the first settler in Dover township and a prominent resident of it from

the spring of 1870 until the spring of 1894, when he moved to Cedar Falls, where he died a few months later in his 51st year.

He was the fourth son of Frederic A. and Frances L. (McNeil) Hubbell and was a native of Champlain, Clinton, county, N. Y. His father was an eminent attorney but died in 1853, when Alexander was only nine years of age. He was of Welsh descent and they are able to trace the family line on his side not only to Wales but as far back as the Danish conquest of England, a period of 800 years. His mother (b. 1808) was of Scotch descent and made her home with Alexander in Dover township from 1872 until her decease, May 29, 1890. She was a native of Charlotte, Vermont, in 1833 married F. A. Hubbell, Esq., and located at Champlain, N. Y. Their family consisted of six children, four sons and two daughters. The early death of her husband left her responsible for the care and training of this family. In this respect she performed her duty so nobly and well as to give the fullest proof that she belonged to that grand army of mothers who, years before the civil war began, were preparing for the nation's crisis by teaching the lessons of piety and patriotism in the home. When the call was issued for volunteers she had the patriotic pleasure of sending to the front ranks four loyal and brave sons with her most gracious benediction. Two of them died during the war; Henry at Antietam, and James at the Military hospital at Albany, on his way home; and Charles F. died a few years later from the disease then contracted. Throughout the long struggle of the war this patriotic mother gave her unceasing support to the cause of the Union, and never complained of her own costly sacrifice. She became a member of the Presbyterian church in her 16th year and the sweet influence of her piety and



ALEXANDER F. HUBBELL



MRS. LOIS A. WOOD HUBBELL



MRS. FRANCES McNEILL HUBBELL

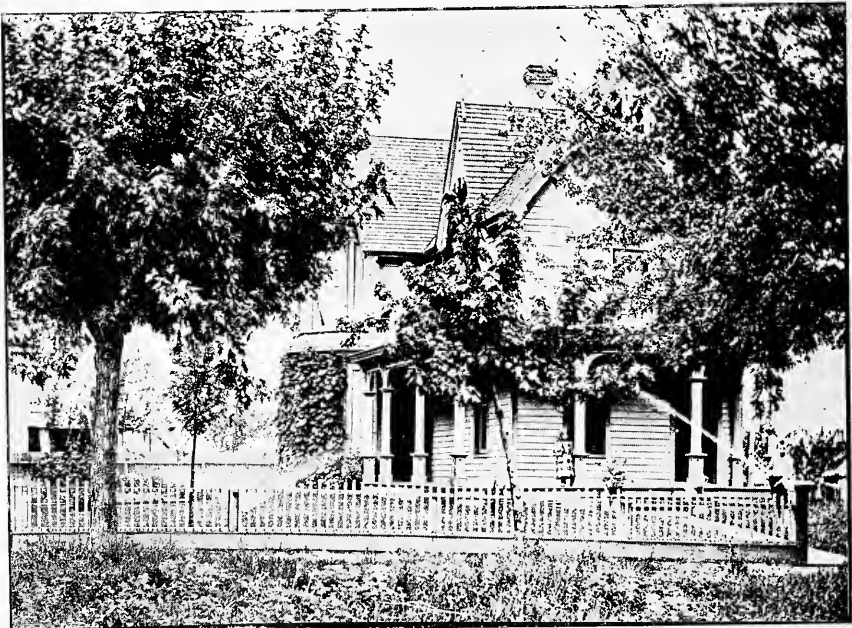


MR. AND MRS. W. J. CURKEET

Fonda and Vicinity.



RESIDENCE OF A. S. WOOD, 1896.



RESIDENCE OF R. F. BESWICK.

Fonda.



patriotism was felt throughout a circle that was much wider than her own home.

Alexander owed very much to the good influences of his mother and united with the church at fourteen.

On Sept. 21, 1861, in his 18th year, at Ogdensburg, he became a member of Co. H, 60th N. Y. Volunteers. When fully equipped for service he was sent with the regiment to Washington, D. C., and ten days later to Baltimore to guard the railways in that vicinity.

In the spring of 1862 he and six companies of his regiment were sent to Harper's Ferry and later into the Shenandoah Valley under Gen. McDowell. During one terrible week the two armies were in constant collision and battles were fought at Oak Grove, Mechanicsville, Gaines Hill, Peach Orchard, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamps and Malvern Hill, in which the Union army lost 15,000 men. At the time of Pope's defeat at the second battle at Bull Run, Aug. 30th, he was guarding supplies at Bristoe Station, was cut off from the main army by its precipitate retreat and to avoid capture was compelled to make a detour of twenty miles.

In the battle of Antietam, Henry, his brother, fell and he was wounded in the limb. The next engagement was at Fredericksburg, Dec. 12-13th. After these engagements he remained with the army of the Potomac until the fall of 1863, participating in the battles at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, serving at the latter under Gen. Slocum.

In the fall of 1863 he was sent with the 11th and 12th army corps under Generals Howard and Slocum to Chattanooga, Tenn., to reinforce Gen. Rosecrans, whose line of communication and supplies had been cut off. He was then in the army of Gen. Grant, and soon afterwards participated in the battle at Wauhatchie,

when several regiments under Gen. Geary were nearly annihilated resisting a night attack by the rebels under Longstreet. On Nov. 24th he was in the storming column that led the way in driving Gen. Bragg and his forces from the summit of Look-out Mountain and in this "battle above the clouds" received his second wound—a severe injury in the left side. In December he re-enlisted for three years and was granted a brief furlough.

In 1864 he belonged to the 20th army corps under Gen. Sherman and participated in his campaigns in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, following him as far as Atlanta. On account of sickness he was there sent back to the hospital at Chattanooga and remained seven weeks. He was then sent under Gen. Steadman to the battle of Nashville, where, after a two days' fight, Dec. 15-16, 1864, Hood's army of 30,000 was completely annihilated by the Union forces under Gen. Thomas.

In the spring of 1865 he participated in Sherman's famous march from Atlanta to the Sea and arrived at Charleston in time to see Major Anderson's old flag re-hoisted over Fort Sumpter, on the day that Henry Ward Beecher delivered a patriotic address at that place by request of President Lincoln. A few days later Gen. Joseph E. Johnson and his army of Confederates surrendered near Raleigh and then he started on one of the hardest and most forced marches of the war from that place to Washington, where he participated in the grand review in May following. On July 31, 1865, he was honorably discharged, having rendered his country nearly four years of faithful service.

His experience as a soldier, commencing with the first year of the war and lasting until its close, took him over the whole scene of the conflict. He made the circuit of the Confederacy and it often seemed to

him that he was always in that portion of the army that was doing the fighting.

After the war he attended the business college at Schenectady, N. Y., and served three years as a book keeper for Sturges & MacAllister, wholesale dealers in Chicago.

In May, 1869, he visited Pocahontas county, riding horseback from Fort Dodge, and purchased all of section 26, Dover township, later called the "Large Pasture." In the spring of 1870 he and his brother Charles F., became residents of the township and each the next year secured a soldier's claim of 160 acres on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 24, on which they located their home. In the spring of 1872 they were joined by their mother and sister, Frances M. A few years later another quarter section was purchased, making him, after the death of his brother, Charles, in 1875, the owner of 1120 acres. His large mansion was built in 1883.

In 1870 he took the lead in proposing the name and effecting the organization of Dover township. The first election was held in his home on section 26, Oct. 11, 1870, when he served as one of the judges and Charles, his brother, as one of the clerks. The latter served as the first treasurer of the school funds in 1872. Alexander, at the first election, was chosen a trustee and served 1871-75; a justice, and served 1871-83; clerk, and served 1871, '76-80. He served as the first president of the school board in 1872 and as treasurer of it in 1873. On Jan. 2, 1877, he was appointed deputy County Superintendent on the recommendation of Supt. J. F. Clark, and received \$9 60 for the services thus rendered.

In 1886, when the Presbyterian church in Fonda was organized, though living eight miles distant, he, his sister and mother gave it their hearty co-operation, thereby enabling

it to secure so soon its fine church edifice and comfortable parsonage. The encouraging growth of this church was largely due to their continued fidelity, energy and liberality. He served as one of its trustees and as secretary of that board 1886-94; as superintendent of the Sunday school Jan. 1, 1887-Mar. 1, 1894; and as an elder of the church 1888-94. Its silver communion set is a souvenir from his mother and sister; and the latter, who was one of the first teachers in Dover township, taught a class in the Sunday school 1886-93. Alexander's loyalty to the church embraced all its interests, and his liberality was measured only by the enlarging demands of the work, his last gift being a legacy of \$200.00 that covered a deficit on the Manse. His uniform kindness, sterling integrity, excellent judgment and firm adherence to the right won for him the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He believed

"That right is right since God is God,  
And right the day must win;  
To doubt would be disloyalty,  
To falter would be sin."

In 1887 he married Lois A., daughter of A. B. P. Wood, (see Wood) and at the time of his decease, at Cedar Falls, left a family consisting of four children: Frederic Augustus, Affa, Wolcot Wood and Helen.

His sister Julia died in 1859.

**Lampman** Clark R. (b. Dec. 16, 1823), resident of section 29 since 1883, is a native of Oswego Co., N. Y., the son of Stephen P. and Susan (Lowing) Lampman. He was one of ten sons in the same family, all but one of whom grew to manhood. Freeman, a younger brother became a minister of the M. E. church and lives at Greencastle, Jasper county. Two others, Wilson and Durell live in Ohio. In 1850, while living at Seneca, O., Clark married Eunice Baker and two years later located in Iowa, first in Decatur

county and in 1883 in Pocahontas. Having acquired a knowledge of carpentry in his younger days, he has frequently worked at this trade while living on the farm. He was a trustee of Dover township ten years, 1888-97 and president of the school board in 1886.

His family consisted of two children ren:

1—Stephen P (b. O. 1851) who in Decatur county married Lydia K. Wooley. He is the owner and occupant of a well improved farm of 118 acres principally on section 29, Dover township. He was president of the school board four years, 1889, '95-97. His family consists of five children, Mary, a teacher, Durell, Kate, Frank, Ella J., and Frederick, Edward having died at nine.

2—Etta C. in 1874 in Decatur county married Homer A. Davis, who, after a brief residence in Pocahontas county returned to Decatur county and later moved to Oregon, where he died in July, 1883, leaving two children, Alice and Abbie, both of whom are teachers. In 1893 Mrs. Davis became the wife of Ethan J. Pinneo, a farmer, and now resides in Dover township.

**Lilly** Joseph (b. April 22, 1810, d. June 5, 1895,) resident of Dover township, 1888-95, was a native of Maryland. While living in Fairfield county, Ohio, he married Mary Fanning, a native of Virginia, and located on a farm. In 1855, with a family of eight children he moved to Linn county, Iowa. Here his wife died in 1873, and all of his children except John, married. In 1888 he came to Pocahontas county and spent the remainder of his days with his sons in Dover township. He was a devout Catholic and all his children became members of that church. His family consisted of ten children, five of whom—Edward, Theodore, Elias, John and Rebecca located in Pocahontas county.

1. **Lilly** Edward S., (b. O., May 17, 1839) on Oct. 22, 1868, married Geneva Beuter and located on a farm in Johnson county, Iowa. In 1888 he settled on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, Dover township. He is now the owner of three farms in that vicinity containing 480 acres, each supplied with good improvements that he has erected. He was a trustee of Dover township, 1892-97, and has been a trustee of the Lilly Creamery Association since its organization in 1897.

His family consisted of six children: Joseph, who was assessor in 1901; Thomas and Raymond, who in 1897 married Cynthia Vanhorn, occupies a farm on section 11, and has a family of two children. He has arranged for raising fine poultry, especially Plymouth Rock chickens and Pekin ducks. Arthur in 1901 married Mabel Murphy and occupies the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27. Annie and Agnes are at home.

2. Theresa (b. 1841) married John D. White, a sawyer, lives in New Mexico, and has four children.

3. Belinda, (b. 1843) married Wm. J. White, lives at Grand Junction, Iowa, and has a family of eight children.

4. **Lilly** Theodore (b. Nov. 5, 1845) in 1876 in Linn county married Mary Eichler and located on a farm. In 1884 he settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, Dover township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He erected a large square house in 1898, and has a fine grove for the protection of his buildings and stock. He has been president of the Lilly Creamery Co. since its organization.

His family consists of nine children: Frank E., Herman J., Cora, Gertrude, Clement, Guy, Florence, Eulana and Louise.

5. Joseph (b. 1848) lives at Cedar Rapids.

6. Alexander F., (b. 1850) married Catherine Mackey, lives in Buena

Vista county and has five children: Joseph, Lawrence, Ellen, Martin and Theresa.

7. Rebecca (b. 1853) married Legelius Denman, an engineer, who died in 1884. She lives in Fonda and has two children; Lester, a clerk, and Earl.

8. **Lilly** Elias (b. 1855), in Linn county, married Margaret Mackey and in 1891 located on Sec. 10, Dover township, where he owns a pretty home and a good farm of 120 acres. He has a family of six children; Lewis, James, Philip, Cora, Margaret and Ella.

9. Mary A., married J. W. Woods, a farmer, and died near Cedar Rapids in 1885.

10. **Lilly** John (b. Linn Co., Ia., 1860) in 1897 married Mary McCartan and occupies a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 21, Dover township, on which he has erected fine improvements.

**Linnan** Michael W. (b. 1859), is a native of Polk county, the son of John and Julia (Flynn) Linnan, whose family consisted of ten children, three of whom—Michael, Mary and Charles—became residents of this county, the first two in 1881 and the last in 1882, and all at first on the same farm. Michael, in childhood, moved with his parents to Warren county and in the spring of 1881, accompanied by his sister Mary, settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, Dover township. He is now the owner of a finely improved farm of 440 acres on which he has erected good buildings, the large square house in 1896. He is one of the largest stock feeders in Dover township, carrying usually about 400 head of cattle. He was clerk of Dover township four years, 1885-88. He took an active part in effecting the organization of the democratic party in this county, and receiving the nomination for county recorder in 1888 and 1890, lacked only 43 votes of being elected in 1888.

In 1888 he married Margaret A., daughter of John Fitzgerald, and she died the next year. In 1891 he mar-

ried Elizabeth Kelleher and their family consists of five children, John Charles, Alice E., Michael F., William J. Bryan and Elizabeth.

**Linnan** Charles Francis (b. 1868), is a native of Warren county and located with his brother in Dover township in 1882. In 1891 he went to Texas and remained two years. In 1894 he became a partner in the general store of Craban, Linnan & Co., and continued in the mercantile business until 1899, when he embarked in the real estate business. He is now the owner of a pretty home in Fonda and 550 acres of land in the vicinity. In 1894 he was nominated for the office of clerk of the court and received the largest vote cast in this county for any democratic candidate that year.

In 1897 he married Emma, daughter of James A. Carroll, and his family consists of two children, James M. and Ruth Frances.

Mary Linnan, after a residence of seven years in this county, married Thomas E. McCahill and lives in Warren county.

James Linnan, an uncle of Michael, has been a resident of Fonda since 1895.

**McCafferty** John, a native of Cedar county, Iowa, in 1886, bought a farm of 160 acres in Dover township and the next year married Johanna, sister of Garrett Mackey. He now occupies a farm of 240 acres on sections 9 and 10, Cedar township. His family consists of six children; William, Mary, Thomas, James, Maggie and the baby.

**McCarty** Ann, Mrs. (b. 1815; d. 1890), accompanied by her two sons, William and Michael, and her daughter, Maggie, located in Dover township in 1876. Michael, her husband, died in Waterford county, Ireland, in 1870. She died in 1890. She was highly esteemed for her many virtues and was well known throughout a large

section of country as one of the old settlers.

William, in 1881, married Elizabeth Coleman and became owner of a farm of 160 acres on sections 27 and 34. In 1900 he moved to Elmore, Minn. His family consisted of six children, Mary, Stella, Martha, Bessie, Theresa and Vada. Maggie, in 1876, married Michael J. Kearns (see Kearns).

Michael (b. Ireland, 1859), came to Dover township in 1877 and located on Sec. 34. In 1899 he moved to Murdock, Minn. He married Katie (Kelley) Hefner and his family consisted of six children; Annie, Alice, Mary, John, William and the baby. His wife had two children, Margaret and Elizabeth, by her first husband, John Hefner, who died in Oct., 1881.

**Merchant** Peter (b. 1818), was a native of Pennsylvania, where he married Susan Weaver, and later located on a homestead in Green county, Wis. In 1871, with a family of seven children, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 30, Dover township, which he improved and occupied until 1890, when he moved to Fonda, where his wife died Jan. 21, 1892, in her 66th year. Since that date he has made his home with his daughter, Mary Frazee. His family consisted of eight children:

1. Mary, in Green county, Wis, married George Frazee, and a few years afterward located in Palo Alto county, where he died later, leaving two children, Nettie and George.

2. Elizabeth married ——— Zane, of Lake City, and died soon afterward, leaving one son, Burr.

3. Albert married Nellie Spear and after a brief residence in this county moved to Dakota with a family of three children.

4. Sarah married Columbus Logan and after a few years located in Sioux City.

5. William married Ella Westlake Manson and went west.

6. Sophia married M. B. Keifer, an attorney, who lived a few years at Fonda and then moved to Sioux City.

Edward went westward and Emma died at 17 in 1884.

**Morrison** Moses (b. Can. 1816), came to Pocahontas county in 1883 with Peter, his son, and has since lived with him. His wife, Lucinda Beauregard, died in 1870, Pecatonica, Ill. Three of his sons, William, Joseph and Peter located in Pocahontas county.

**Morrison** William (b. Can. 1843), married Jane Webster. After living three years on a farm at Cherokee he moved to the farm of Charles A. Sayre in Marshall township. Later he lived four years in Cedar township, and in 1900 located in Varina, where he is engaged in the livery business.

His family consists of seven children: Orrin in 1900 married Iva Furnas and lives at Cherokee; Ray, Luella and Bertha, teachers, Blanche, Erne and Dewey.

**Morrison** Joseph (b. 1853), in 1886 married Lucretia, daughter of George Watts, and occupies the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Dover township. He has been president of the school board during the last four years. His family consists of five children: Ora, Leah, Neva, Nellie and Mildred.

**Morrison** Peter (b. 1869), is a native of Canada and at the age of four years came with his parents to Pecatonica, Ill., where in 1881 he married Euretta N. Benson, who died the next year. In 1883 he located on Sec. 28, Dover township. In 1891 he moved to Fonda and two years later to his present farm on Sec. 18, Cedar township. In 1885 he married Henrietta C. Sayre and they have one daughter, Lorena Bell.

**Needham** Horace Moulton (b. 1849 is a native of Massachusetts, the son of Allen and Eunice Needham. At the age of ten he came with his parents to Winnebago county, Ill., where

in 1872 he married Emma C. Atwood and two years later located on his present farm on Sec. 21, Dover township. He has improved this farm of 240 acres with good buildings and groves. He was president of the school board in 1888.

His family consisted of seven children. Nellie, in 1900, married Wm. C. H. Peters, a merchant, and lives at Varina. Eunice is a seamstress; Caspar, Frank, Guy, Fay and Mabel are at home.

**O'Connor** James (b. 1842), a native of Ireland, in 1862 came to America and located in Illinois. In 1870 he came to Warren county, Iowa, where in 1872 he married Margaret Jane Durigan and located on a farm. Here he was joined by his brother, Patrick (b. Ireland, 1850), who in 1874 married Ellen Durigan. In 1878 these two brothers and their families came to Pocahontas county and located, Patrick on Sec. 25, Dover township, and James on Sec. 19, Grant township. Patrick, their father, at the age of sixty-five, and their mother at sixty, in 1880, also came to this country and lived with these two sons until they died, their mother in 1881, and their father in 1888. Barney, their brother, resident of Fonda, came to this county in 1883.

James is now the owner of 240 acres that he has laid out to good advantage and has finely improved with good buildings, groves and orchard. His orchard is one of the best in Grant township. Of his family of eleven children ten are living: Agnes in 1899 married Peter Callinan, an electrician, lives in Sioux City and has one child, Joseph. Catherine in 1901 married Marion Argenbright, a painter and carpenter, and lives at Pocahontas. The others are William, Celia, Patrick, John, Clara, Emma, Arthur and Alice.

Patrick O'Connor in 1892, moved to Buena Vista county and later to South

Dakota. His family consisted of ten children. Anna married Wm. Hogan and lives in Des Moines, where Gertie and Sadie, two of her sisters also live. The others are Frank, Ambrose, Ray, Edith, Vincent, Lagora, Valley and the baby.

**O'Niel** James and his brother, John B. and wife, were among the first settlers in Dover township, locating there in 1870. In 1873 John and his family moved to Nebraska, and in 1874 James died at the home of John Garvey.

**Peterson** Nels (b. 1839), a native of Sweden, came to this country and in 1877 in Alameda county, Cal., married Mary Samuelson (b. Sweden 1845). After a short settlement there they returned to Sweden and in 1881 located at Des Moines, where he found employment on the railroads. In 1885 he located on a farm on Sec. 3, Dover township, which he has finely improved and increased to 320 acres. In 1900 he bought another half section near Albert City, making him the owner of 640 acres. He is a careful, hard working farmer and succeeds well both in raising good crops and fat stock for the market. His family consists of four sons, Charles, William, Oscar E. and August Emil, who were born, one each at their successive places of residence, in California, Sweden, Des Moines and Pocahontas county.

**Picking** Franklin (b. 1862), owner and occupant of Sec. 9, 640 acres, is a son of Patrick B. and Charlotte (Greenwalt) Picking, and a native of Franklin Co., Pa., where he lived until he was twenty-eight. During the next eight years he was engaged in the meat business at Milledgeville, Ill. In 1898 he located on his present farm and began the work of its improvement by the erection of a good stock barn and a large square house that is remembered by the traveler for its prominence, and the fact it marks the half way place between Fonda and

Laurens. Hunter's Rock may still be seen in the field a short distance northwest of it, but surrounded by waving corn instead of a pond of water.

Mr. Picking lives with the family, (J. F. Shaw) he employs to assist him in working the farm. He keeps 25 head of horses and is endeavoring to improve the farm, raise hogs and fatten cattle. Although he is a recent settler he is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the most enterprising and successful men in the township.

**Pinneo** George Oliver (b. 1838; d. 1891), was a native of Yates Co., N. Y., the son of James R. and Eunice (Bingham) Pinneo. At seventeen, his mother having died seven years before, he came to Cedar Co., Iowa, where in 1862 he married Sarah Towne (b. Seneca Co., O., 1838), daughter of Ethan and Elizabeth (Baker) Smith who came with her parents in wagons from Ohio to Tipton, Iowa, in 1851. After marriage they located on a farm and remained six years in Cedar Co., and then three in Decatur Co. In the fall of 1871 they came to Pocahontas Co. and secured a homestead of 160 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, Dover township, which they began to occupy Feb. 22, 1872.

In the spring of 1873 he planted 2,000 forest trees and 20,000 fruit trees expecting to establish a nursery, but the grasshoppers so completely ruined his prospects he did not repeat the experiment. He was one of the early pioneers who sustained the loss of four crops during the 70s from the ravages of the grasshoppers, and other serious losses from prairie fires. The former covered the stalks of corn like swarms of bees and the latter, in the falls of '71 and '75 coming from the south, swept over all the country in that vicinity, consuming the hay and outbuildings and destroying the newly planted groves and orchards. In 1890 this section was also visited by the chinch bug.

About the year 1888 in partnership with F. M. Gombar, he purchased a six-foot ditcher and did a large amount of drainage work in Dover, Center, Clinton, Washington and Swan Lake townships.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Pinneo enlisted as a member of Co. I, 46th Iowa, and served until the close of the war.

He was a man of strict integrity and was highly respected for his exemplary christian character. He served as a trustee of the township five years, and as president of the school board in 1874. He died in 1891. Mrs. Sarah T. Pinneo, his wife, taught the school in their district in the fall of 1874, and after his decease, served several years as superintendent of their Sunday school.

Their family consisted of four children.

1. Ethan J. (b. 1866), a farmer, in 1893 married Etta C. (Lampman) Davis and lives in Dover township.

2. Carlos Ernest (b. 1867), in 1895 married Lizzie B. Whitney, lives on the old homestead and has a family of five children, Frances Henrietta, Elizabeth B., Lois Gilbert, George Oliver and Ruth Emily. He is an elder and trustee in the Varina Presbyterian church.

3. Bessie, in 1887 married Ai Watts (see Watts).

4. Hattie, a graduate of the business department of B. V. college and a teacher, lives with her mother at Varina.

**Rathbun** William Wallace (b. 1843), is a native of Lee Co., Iowa, and in 1850 moved to Clayton Co., where in 1871 he married Harriet Robinson, having previously secured in the fall of 1870 a homestead of 80 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Dover township. At this period his principal occupation was teaching school, and he taught the first school in the Pinneo district during the winter of 1873-4. He also taught at Fonda and other places in

the vicinity, as well as in Clayton Co. He improved the homestead and occupied it until 1882, when he moved to Fonda, where he has been engaged first as a grocer and later as a shoemaker. He was clerk of Dover township three years, a justice two years, assessor three years and as the first secretary of the school board served ten years, 1872-81.

His family consists of ten children; Edmund C., Albert and Frank are tile ditchers; Maude in 1897 married Herbert Beardsley, a ditcher, and lives at Fonda; the others are Minnie, a Fonda graduate in 1901, Annie, Hattie, Estella, Nellie and Arthur.

**Reagan** Joseph D. (b. 1865), the pioneer merchant of Dover township, came to Pocahontas Co. in 1881, and worked three years on the farm for Wm. Fitzgerald, then three years as a clerk for Crahan & McGrath at Rolfe, and then returned to the farm. In 1890 he married Mary A., daughter of Daniel Fitzgerald, and after a year each at Atlantic and Gilmore City, in 1893 became a member of the mercantile firm of Crahan, Linnan & Co., Fonda. In the spring of 1897 he opened a general store and postoffice at the Lilly creamery, where in 1900 he died, leaving three children, Margaret A., Norene and Francis Steven. He was a man of robust constitution and highly esteemed by all who knew him. His wife still maintains the store and postoffice.

**Reilly** Bernard, Sr. (b. 1816; d. 1887), was a native of Louth Co., Ireland, where he married Ann McCough (b. 1818; d. 1891). In 1856 he came to America and lived at Watertown, Wis., until 1870 when he came to Pocahontas Co., accompanied by his wife, two sons, John and Bernard E., and one daughter, Kate. He and John entered homesteads of 80 acres on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, and Bernard one on Sec. 20, Dover township. He and his wife occupied his homestead until

1886 when they moved to the home of Bernard, where he died the next year, and his wife a few years later. He took an active part in the organization of Dover township. He was the oldest in the township at that time and was a member of the committee that suggested Dover as the name for it. He was a member of the Catholic church and a man of excellent spirit. His family consisted of nine children of whom one died in childhood.

1. John (b. Ireland 1847), still owns and occupies his homestead on Sec. 34, which he has enlarged to a finely improved farm of 280 acres. The Dover Catholic church is located on his farm.

2. Mary married M. J. O'Connor and lives in Wisconsin.

3. Bernard E. (b. 1851), owns and occupies a farm of 400 acres. He was one of the judges at the first election held in Dover township, served as its first assessor in 1871-72, as a trustee six years, as clerk in 1875 and president of the school board two years. He and his brother John live with the families engaged to assist in working their farms.

4. James, a teacher, lives in California. 5. Margaret A. married John Miller and lives at Vinton. 6. Elizabeth is supposed to have been lost at the time of the great fire in Chicago in 1871. Ellen, a teacher, lives in California.

8. Kate married Francis Farrell (b. 1850), who came to Pocahontas Co. in 1880 and located on a farm of 80 acres on Sec. 33, which he has improved and increased to 320 acres. His family consists of five children; Thomas, who is pursuing a collegiate education; Frank, Mary, Maggie and Ray.

**Rice** Herman Peter (b. 1847), owner and occupant of a farm of 240 acres principally on Sec. 5, Dover township, is a native of Germany, came to America in 1873 and located in Benton Co., Iowa. In 1878 he passed to



Ida Co, where in 1880 he married Mary Thomas and located on a farm. In 1881 he moved to Sac Co., and in 1891 to his present farm, which he has improved by the erection of large and fine buildings that are kept brightly painted. During the years 1869 to 1872, he was a member of the 2d Co., 9th Inf. Reg. of the South German army and participated in several battles during the Franco-Prussian war. Three of his children died in childhood, eight are living; Christian, Maggie, Leo, Anton, John, Augusta, Paulina and Katie.

**Sayre** Mahlon (b. N. J. 1817; d. 1890), was the eighth in a family of nine sons. After learning to make brooms in New Jersey he moved to Winnebago Co., Ill., where he married Lucinda Haven. In 1873 two of his children, Albert and Elnora, having preceded him, he came to Pocahontas Co. with the others and located on Sec. 29, Dover township. He died in 1890 and his wife a few months previous.

1. Elvira married William Gilson (see Gilson).

2. James Albarnus (b. 1852), in 1875 married Fannie Thompson and located on a homestead in Buena Vista Co. He died in 1891 leaving one daughter, Pearl, who in 1900 married E. D. Snyder and located in Oklahoma, where her mother also lives.

3. Albert (b. 1854), in 1872 married Mary, daughter of Frank A. Burdick. He owns a farm of 110 acres in Dover township and has a family of two children, Dora and Budd.

4. Melinda in 1867 married Lewis K. Johnson and continued to live in Illinois until 1873, when they located in Dover township. Their family consists of three children all of whom live in Idaho. Jennie married Daniel Finnelson, William married Daisy Ingram and Lulu married Charles Irwin. In 1887 Melinda married Wash-

ington Snyder and the next year moved to Idaho.

5. Elnora married Eugene Evans (see Evans).

6. **Sayre** Charles A. (b. 1859), in 1886 married Flora Watts and located on a farm of 320 acres on Sec. 31, Marshall township, which he still owns. Three years later he moved to Sec. 32, Dover township, where he has since resided except during the year 1892, which he spent in Idaho.

In November 1900 he secured five telephone instruments and, utilizing the top wire on the intervening wire fences, established a local telephone system that connects him with four of his relatives in that vicinity, namely, Ai Watts, Joseph Morrison, Albert Sayre and Peter Morrison. This inexpensive and independent line has been a source of great convenience. A telegraphic arrangement prevails on this line and no central office is needed. Every message can be received at every home and the one for which it is intended is indicated by the number of rings.

His family consists of four children; Fay, Crystal, George Watts and Ruby.

7. Henrietta married Peter Morrison (see Morrison).

8. Mahlon Sylvester (b. 1863), is a resident of Fonda.

**Sayre** Electa (b. 1826), who in 1877 with three sons, Lewis, Eugene and Charles, located on Sec. 21, Dover township, and is now a resident of Fonda, is a native of Vermont, the daughter of James and Melinda (Hemenway) Haven. In 1837 with her parents she located in Winnebago Co., Ill., where in 1844 she married William Sayre. In 1855 they moved to Allamakee Co., Iowa, where he died in 1861, leaving a family of seven children. In 1865 she moved to Dyersville and in 1877 to Pocahontas Co.

Lionel (b. 1845), in Dubuque Co., married Polly Mountsey, and in 1875 located in Dover township. Later he moved to Fonda and in 1886 to Sell-

wood, Oregon, where he died in 1901, leaving a family of two children, Addie and Nellie. Frances married William Spence and lives in the state of Washington. Lewis (b. 1848), lives with his mother.

Julia, in 1871, married Mark A. (son of Solomon) Haven, a carpenter, and lives in Fonda. He was a member of the town council three years, 1886-88, and mayor four years, '89-92. Their family consists of two children, Albert and Harrold.

Ellen, in 1877, married Edward O'Donnell (see O'Donnell). Eugene (b. 1860), in 1886 married Lula Beardsley, lives in Cedar township, and has two children, Guy and Clay. Charles (b. 1862), in 1887 married Elizabeth Gilson, a milliner, lives in Fonda and has one child, Zola.

Electa (Haven) Sayre was the second in a family of ten children, six of whom located in Pocahontas county, namely, Lucinda, who married Mahlon Sayre; Electa, Sophia, who married Horace Haven and lives at Fonda; Minerva, who married A. F. Burdick; Henrietta, who married Mannis O'Donnell; and Charles. The others were Sylvester, a soldier in the civil war; Ellen, James and Lydia.

**Steiner** David (b. 1826), is a native of Germany, where he grew to manhood. In 1852 he emigrated to Milwaukee and four years later to Green Co., Wis. On Aug. 11, 1862, he became a member of Co. F., 21st Reg. Wis. infantry and continued in the military service of this country until June 25, 1865, when he was honorably mustered out at Reedsville, Ky. He was in the army of Gen. Sherman and participated in the battles near Savannah, Atlanta and numerous other places.

At the close of the war he returned to Wisconsin, where in 1867 he married Sarah Harrison, relict of Gilbert Thompson, who died in 1861, leaving

four children, Thomas, Christina, Carrie and Gilbert.

On Oct. 1, 1871, accompanied by his wife and their families of seven children, and by Peter Merchant and family of seven children, he located on 172 acres on Sec. 30, Dover township, and Merchant on a homestead of 80 acres on the same section. At this early date there were only a few scattered cabins in it and the arrival of this colony of eighteen more than doubled the population of Dover township. He improved this farm with good buildings and grove, and continued to occupy it until 1892, when he moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of three children, all of whom were born in Green Co., Wis.

William F., in 1894 married Mary Kinney, occupies the old home in Dover township and has a family of three children, William David, Vernie and Mary Gladdis.

Rose, a clerk, and Lily, a seamstress, are at home.

The four children of Gilbert and Sarah Thompson continued to reside in this county a number of years.

1. Thomas Thompson (b. 1857), in 1893 married Sarah Carroll, of Buena Vista Co., occupies a farm of 80 acres on Sec. 30, Dover township, and has a family of three children, Ruth, Eugene and George.

2. Christina married Joseph T. Malden, a grain dealer, lives at Manson and has five children, Gene, Claude, Earl, Lloyd and Joseph.

3. Carrie married Robert Kleeburger, a harness maker, lives at Aurelia and has three children, Millie, Grace and Jay.

Gilbert Thompson in 1880 located at Tacoma, Washington.

**Taft** Harrison (b. 1844), owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, is a native of St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. At the age of six he came with his parents to Greene Co., Ill., where he en-

listed as a member of Co. E., 65th Ill. infantry and spent three years and seven months in the army during the civil war. Soon afterward he located at Manchester, Iowa, and in 1872 on the homestead in this county which he has improved and still occupies. In 1872 he married Martha Melinda, daughter of A. F. Burdick, and she died in 1901, leaving a family of five children. Harriet Blanche in 1899 married Charles W. Taft, lives in Waterloo and has two children; Claude H., Maude A., Lutie and Lottie, twins are at home.

**Thompson** Frank A. (b. 1849), is a son of Abram and Selina (Downs) Thompson and a native of Winnebago Co., Ill., where in 1870 he married Maria S., sister of Horace M. Needham, and located on a farm. Four years later he moved to Rockford and worked at the moulding trade until the spring of 1882, when he settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, Dover township, and began the work of its improvement. The site of his home is one of the prettiest in the township. The buildings, which are kept in fine condition, front southward and may be seen a long distance, the groves on the north forming a beautiful background.

He is the leading horticulturist of Dover township. His orchard and groves cover fifteen acres and include 300 grape vines that in good years yield about two tons of grapes. Of these the best bearing varieties are Worden, Concord, Gainesville, Rogers No. 20 (red), Martha (green), and Clinton. He began to plant apple trees in 1883 and secured the best results from the Duchess, Wealthy, Haas, Whitney No. 20, Harry Compt, Longfield, Snow and Waldbridge. His list of unsatisfactory varieties includes the Winesap, Roman Stem, Ben Davis, Red Astrachan, Janeton and Rawles Janet. The trees of the last named varieties soon disappeared. Since 1890 an acre has been devoted to strawber-

ries for which he found a good home market. He has had two acres in raspberries, chiefly of the Turner and Cuthbert (red) varieties, which are easy to raise and good bearers. Of the black varieties the early Ohio prove best. Half an acre has been devoted to currants, the red and white Dutch varieties, both of which gave good results. The Downing gooseberry has proven to be hardy and a good bearer. His experience with other fruits has enabled him to commend for this locality the Early Richmond cherry, the Wyant, DeSota, Wolfe, Rolling Stone, Hawkeye and Minor plums, but the last, though hardy, is a shy bearer, and like the Crescent strawberry, needs to be planted alternately with other varieties.

He was a trustee and justice of Dover township four years, and a member of the board of county supervisors three years, 1892-94. In 1900, leaving the farm in care of two of his sons, Ned and Herva, he moved to Varina, where he has since served as postmaster and manager of the elevator of Wilson & DeWolf.

His family consisted of five sons, two of whom died, Homer at four and Abram in 1896 at twenty.

Allen F., after taking a business course in B. V. College and serving as bookkeeper for the Farmers Loan & Trust Co. bank at Fonda, and later the Commercial bank, Storm Lake, in 1900 became cashier of the Bank of Varina. In 1900 he married Levona Watts and has one child, LeClair.

Ned in 1901 married Josephine Murphy and Herva in 1900 married Emma Point, of Newell; both live at the old home.

**Thompson** Albert (b. Ill. 1854), brother of Frank, in 1875 married Mary Frances Chapman and located on a farm in Winnebago Co., Ill. In 1882 he settled on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, Dover township, which he improved and occupied until 1899, when he

moved to Cedar township, where he died in 1901. He possessed some inventive genius and just before his death perfected and patented a valuable contrivance for fastening cattle in stanchions. Of his family of eleven children eight are living: Bertha and Elizabeth, teachers; Clarence, Lola, Wilber, Judd, Charles and Nellie.

**Watts** George (b. 1832), resident of Dover township since 1882, is a native of New Hampshire, the son of Joseph and Mahala (Smith) Watts. At the age of five years he moved with his parents to New York state and in 1838 to the vicinity of Springfield, Ill., where both of them lived the remainder of their days. In 1852 he went to Council Bluffs and remained nearly a year prospecting. In 1854 he went to California and engaged in mining and ranching. Two years later he returned to Illinois via the Isthmus of Panama, and while coming down the river from Lake Nicaragua on a steamer it was captured by the Costa Ricans who had organized an insurrection for the expulsion of Gen. William Walker, the filibuster, who during the previous year, had gained control of the Nicaraguan government.

In 1858 he went to Lenawee Co., Mich., where that same year he married Lydia P., daughter of Ai and Hannah Stephenson Gould. In 1873 he went to Sacramento City, but four months later returned to Michigan. In 1882 he came to Iowa and located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, Dover township, which he has improved and still occupies. He purchased this and other lands five years before he located upon it and is now the owner of about 600 acres in that vicinity.

He has pursued the policy of buying rather than selling grain from the farm and during recent years has not raised more oats than he expected to feed in the sheaf. He has not made a specialty of raising fine stock but has endeavored to maintain a high

grade. He kept large herds of sheep for a few years, more than any other farmer in the township. He believes in the principles of right, equity and justice. From his youth he has been an ardent advocate of the utter extinction of the traffic in intoxicating liquors and on several occasions has voted for the nominees of the prohibition party. He served as a justice in Dover township seven years and as president of the school board in 1885-86. He was treasurer of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association of Pocahontas Co. four years and has been a director of it since it was organized in 1890. He has been president of the board of trustees of the Varina Presbyterian church since its organization in 1901.

His family consists of five children, all of whom are located near him in Dover township.

1. Paralee in Lenawee Co., Mich., in 1878 married Wm. A. Metcalf (b. 1853), a native of Michigan, who came to this county in 1882 and occupied the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Dover township, until 1894, when he died, leaving two children, Herman and Odell. In 1897 she married John W. Taylor and in 1900 located in Varina.

5. Ai Joseph in 1887 married Bessie Pinneo, occupies the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29, which has been improved with fine buildings, and has a family of two children, Zella and Xena. He is an elder and treasurer of the Varina Presbyterian church.

3. Flora in 1886 married Charles A. Sayre (see Sayre).

4. Lucretia in 1883 married Joseph Morrison (see Morrison).

5. Levona in 1900 married Allen F. Thompson (see Thompson).

**Barnes** John (b. 1852), is a native of Dubuque Co., Iowa, the son of Geo. W. and Azenath (Smith) Barnes. In 1876 he located in Monona Co., and the next year on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27, Dover township, which he improved.

and still occupies. He was clerk of Dover eight years, 1881-84, '91-94; assessor four years, and president of the school board five years, 1890-94. In 1877 he married Phoebe Edith Miller, of Calhoun Co., and his family consists of six children; Franklin H., George A., John E., Jesse M., Lola R. and James F.

**Burdick** Algernon Franklin (b. 1829), is a native of Susquehanna Co., Pa. In 1849 he came to Winnebago Co., Ill., where in 1852 he married Minerva (b. 1830), daughter of James and Melinda Haven. In 1854 he moved to Allamakee Co., Iowa, and in July, 1864, to Dubuque Co., where in October following he enlisted in Co. K., 6th Iowa cavalry and spent thirteen months in the frontier service (pp. 43-46). In 1881 he located on a homestead in Buena Vista Co. and four years later on Sec. 21, Dover township. In 1888 he moved to Oregon but six months later returned to Dover township, locating on his present farm on Sec. 28.

His family consisted of three children: Eugene (b. 1853), a carpenter; Mary who in 1871 married Albert Sayre lives on Sec. 28, and raised a family of two children; Dora, who married John Thompson and lives in Varina; and Budd. Martha married Harrison Taft (see Taft). A. F. Burdick was a trustee of Dover four years, 1881-84.

**Chamberlin** Percius R. (b. 1823), is a native of Vermont, where he married Angeline C. Baird. In 1857 he located near Oshkosh, Wis., and ten years later near Woodstock, Ill. In the fall of 1873 he located on a soldiers' claim of 160 acres on Sec. 20, Dover township, which he improved and occupied until the death of his wife in 1889, when he sold it to his son, Orland and moved to Newell, where he found employment as a painter. Two years later he moved to Fonda where he still resides. On Sept. 26, 1864 he became a member of Co. B., 4th Wis.

infantry and, passing through the states of Kentucky and Tennessee, continued in the service until July 2, 1865.

His family consisted of three children: Ada married Frank Holbrook and located at Newell, where she died in 1885, leaving four children; Azore, Earl, Jerediah and Rollin. Lena married Hiram Baxter, located at Sioux City and has a family of four children, Lula and Lola, twins; Bernia and Clarence. Orland E. married Effie Henthorne, occupies the old homestead and has a family of three children: Hiel, Merl and Floyd.

**Whitney** Allen H. (b. 1853), is a native of Oswego Co., N. Y. At the age of seventeen he came with his uncle, George Allen, to Shelby Co., Iowa, and his parents followed him the next year. In 1874 he married Frances H. Baird and located on a farm. In 1885 they came to Pocahontas Co. and located in Marshall township, and in 1890 on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, Dover township. This farm includes a part of the homestead of E. F. Osburn and the tree claim of Joseph Southworth, on which the latter planted in 1876 about twenty acres of forest trees, making it the largest grove in the township and the source of a good supply of fuel. He is an industrious, upright and highly respected citizen.

His wife died in 1891, leaving a family of nine children: Luella, a seamstress; Lizzie, who in 1895, married Carl E. Pinneo (see Pinneo); Rhoda M., who in 1897 married Emory R. Fox, a farmer and carpenter; William R., Thomas F., Burton S., Allen H., Frances E. and Chester C.

#### FIRST DEATH.

The first death that occurred in Dover township was that of Mrs John A. Belden at their home on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, in the spring of 1872. They arrived in 1871 and were living in a frame shanty. They had two sons about twelve and fourteen years of

age, who were permitted to handle later. She was about forty years of the gun about as they pleased. One age. As no place had yet been set day while one of them was doing apart for burying the dead her remains were interred on the farm of something with it outside the house Ephraim Garlock and later removed it went off unexpectedly while pointed to the Fonda cemetery.. Mr. Belden towards it. The load, passing through to the Fonda cemetery.. Mr. Belden the shanty, struck Mrs. Belden in the returned the next year to Wisconsin. groin and caused her death two weeks





MR. AND MRS. DAVID BRINKMAN.



CHARLES L. GUNDERSON AND FAMILY.

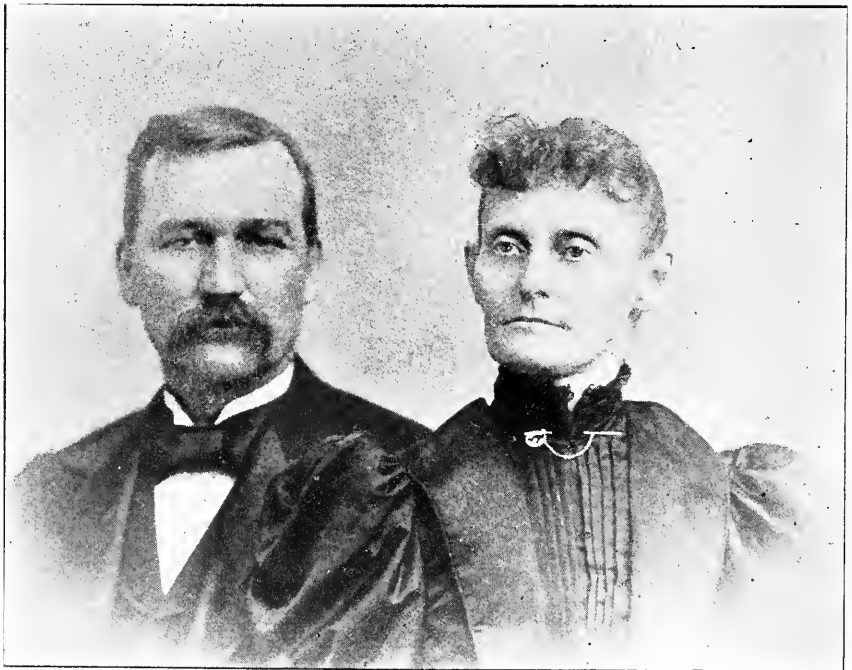
Center Township.



**THOMAS REAMER.**  
Grant Township.



**JACOB CARSTENS.**  
Lizard Township.



**MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. CRUMMER.**  
Grant Township; Sheriff, 1890-97.



## XIX.

### GRANT TOWNSHIP.

“Green be the turf above thee,  
Friend of my better days;  
None knew thee but to love thee,  
Nor named thee but to praise.”

“The loyal people of the nation look to you, under the providence of God, to lead their armies to victory.”—Lincoln to Grant, when he handed him his commission as Lieutenant General.

Grant township (91-33), at the time of its establishment, June 6, 1870, was named in honor of Gen. U. S. Grant.

The main part of this chapter is a contribution from Mr. C. H. Tollefsrude, one of the pioneers of the township, who was later elected county auditor and now resides at Rolfe. Appreciating their historic value in future years he made a record of events as they occurred during the early days in a diary. His valuable contributions therefrom to the public press of the county in the past have caused him to be recognized as the historian of Grant township. His true historic instinct appears in the fact that his interest embraced all the families in the township and every event worthy of mention. He will be gratefully remembered by the citizens of this township for the loving service he has thus rendered by placing the experiences and deeds of their fathers in everlasting remembrance. The author of this work is greatly indebted to him for other literary contributions to it; for a number of photographic views of places and objects of historic interest in the north-east part of the county, and for valuable services rendered by constantly acting as a special correspondent.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

**T**HE first entries of land in Grant township are of date Aug. 6, 1858, when several persons purchased most of sections 14 and 20, and all of 12, 22 and 24. The remainder of section 14 and all of 18 were sold a few days later, Very soon afterward all the lands north of the Dubuque & Sioux City railway grant were purchased by speculators, and

there remained for homestead entry only about 3,200 acres on the even numbered sections in the southern part of it.

**1868.** The first homestead entry in this township was made Sept. 19, 1868, by C. H. Tollefsrude, of Rock Co., Wis., for the E½ SW¼ Sec. 28. Hans C. Tollefsrude, his father, on the same day made the first cash entry of government lands within the limit of the railroad grant, consisting

of 400 acres on Sec. 28. Ole Moe, of Chicago, on the same day, bought the  $W\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 30. Two months later Elisha M. Tollefsrude entered as a homestead the  $W\frac{1}{2}$   $SW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, but none of these persons located that year upon these lands.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

**1869.** The first permanent settlements were made May 3, 1869, when F. W. Parrish and I. E. Parrish, of Warren Co., located, the former on the  $S\frac{1}{2}$   $NE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and the latter on the  $E\frac{1}{2}$   $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26. The first breaking was done by these brothers four days later on the homestead of Felix W. About this date Joseph Brinker and Fred Steendorf, of Columbia Co., Wis., homesteaded the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26; and Stephen W. Norton and Herkimer L. Norton, his son, from Sauk Co., Wis., located on homesteads on the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20.

In June Rev. John A. Griffin and Chas. H. W. Payne, both of Dallas Co., located on homesteads, the former on the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and the latter on the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34; and a Mr. Comstock, of Illinois, located on the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36. In July Alexander McGuffey, of Wisconsin, located on Sec. 36, and N. D. Noyes on Sec. 20. In August Rudolph F. Cedarstrom and his brother, Claus A. Cedarstrom, Hans Hammer and Anna Anderson, a widow lady, all from Sweden, located on the  $E\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 36, Mrs. Anderson entering a homestead of 40 acres, R. F. Cedarstrom purchasing the interest of Felix W. Parrish, who returned to Warren Co., and Claus Cedarstrom and Hans Hammer buying out Mr. Comstock, the former taking the  $N\frac{1}{2}$  and the latter the  $S\frac{1}{2}$  of the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$ . In September Geo. W. Smith and Samuel Jeffrey, of Cedar Co., located on Sec. 26; and M. and H. Thompson, of Fort Dodge, on the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34. During this season about 80 acres of land were broken, most of it being done by Squire

John H. Johnson and Daniel Johnson, of Lizard township. The first birth occurred July 9, when Charles E., son of F. W. Parrish, was born. During the winter of 1869-70, owing to the fact that only temporary dwellings, consisting of small shanties and sod houses, had been erected, only eight of the settlers, namely, I. E. Parrish and family, Rudolph and Claus Cedarstrom and Mrs. Anderson, their cousin, remained in the township; the others having sought employment or the comfort of a home by going to Lizard township, Fort Dodge and elsewhere. H. L. Norton, after removing to Bellville, returned to his cabin and engaged in trapping.

**1870.** In the spring of 1870 Asher W. Rake of Bureau Co., Ill., purchased McGuffey's farm on Sec. 36, and Thomas Reamer, of Jones Co., bought Jeffrey's homestead on Sec. 26. Torkel Larson and A. N. Monkeliën, both of Rock Co., Wis., purchased railroad lands on Sec. 27, and began the work of their improvement. Hans C. and Elisha M. Tollefsrude located on Sec. 23, the former building a shanty in February. On June 6th the township was severed from Lizard and Clinton townships, with which it had been connected since Dec. 1, 1862, and established under the name of Grant. In the fall C. H. Tollefsrude and N. J. Rude located on their homesteads, the former on Sec. 28, the latter on Sec. 34; and Henry Brown, of Lizard, bought and located on Noyes' farm on Sec. 20. During that year fifteen dwellings were built and 220 acres of land were broken.

For several days previous to Oct. 14, 1870, prairie fires were seen raging in the country north and six days later the wind changing to the northwest drove the fire over the settled portions of Grant township, destroying the hay and stables of Reamer, Brinker and Steendorf, on Sec. 26.

The continuous line of fire seen that night was the sight of a lifetime.

**FIRST ELECTION, SCHOOL AND DEATH.**

At the first general election, held Oct. 11, 1870, at the house of A. W. Rake, six votes were cast, namely, by C. H. Tollefsrude, A. W. Rake, Geo. W. Smith, Thomas Reamer, S. W. Norton and H. L. Norton. Messrs. Reamer, Smith and H. L. Norton were elected trustees; S. W. Norton, clerk; A. W. Rake, assessor; H. C. Tollefsrude and A. W. Rake, justices; H. L. Norton, road supervisor; H. L. Norton and Geo. W. Smith, constables. The first death in the township occurred at the home of Joseph Brinker on Dec. 20, when his daughter, Louise, wife of Charles Bischoff (Colfax) died. She was buried at Fort Dodge. A. W. Rake taught the first public school during the winter of 1870-71 in a sod house opposite the residence of L. E. Parrish. The population at the end of the year had increased to 49.

**1871.** In March, 1871 the township was organized for school purposes by the election of a school board, consisting of Rev. John A. Griffin, Thomas Reamer and H. L. Norton. The first school house was built that year on the northeast corner of Sec. 35.

Early in the spring Lars Hanson homesteaded 40 acres on Sec. 26. Asa W. Harris, of Dubuque Co., located on M. Thompson's farm on Sec. 34, and Wm. Wharton, of Illinois, on H. Thompson's 80 on the same section. During the summer E. P. Rude of Clayton Co., bought Wharton's 80, T. Larson bought the homestead of F. Steendorf, and Charles Ekstrom settled on the 80 of Hans Hammer. Stephen and H. L. Norton discovering that their homesteads on Sec. 20 were on lands that had been deeded to other parties secured new locations on Sec. 32. On June 2d the first work on the roads was done by H. L. Norton on the line between sections 35 and 36. On Oct. 1, 1871, and for sev-

eral days previous prairie fires again passed over the township and Brinker was entirely burned out. When his sod house caught fire they carried the bedding, clothing, etc., twenty rods distant to a lot of plowed land, but the fire was carried to them by burning tumble weeds and most of them were destroyed.

At the general election that fall 11 votes were polled and A. W. Rake was elected a member of the board of county supervisors. The population had increased to 78.

**1872.** In 1872 Andrew Jackson, of Cedar Co., bought out Brown on Sec. 20, and M. J. Synsteliem, of Rock Co., Wis., located on the  $W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28. J. P. Anderson, of Boone Co., Ill., and Hans Johnson located on homesteads of 40 acres each on sections 36 and 22 respectively.

A post office called "Hard Times" was established that spring at the home of I. E. Parrish, but owing to the lack of a carrier, it was soon discontinued. The second school house in the township was built that year on Sec. 34. At the presidential election that fall 12 votes were cast, all republican, and the population had increased to 85.

**1873.** On April 2, 1873, the Grant Grange of Husbandry was organized with 33 charter members; A. W. Rake, Master. In the spring A. T. Omtvedt, of Will Co., Ill., settled on the  $W\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 30, and A. N. Monkeliem on Sec. 27. In June N. C. Fossum, of Rock Co., Wis., located on the  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, and Frank P. Anderson homesteaded the last vacant government lot in the township, the  $NE\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36. C. H. W. Payne returned to Dallas Co.

During the same month swarms of grasshoppers came and destroyed the greater part of the growing crops. The first marriage occurred Aug. 23, 1873, when E. P. Rude and Clara Hanson were married. According to the

census taken in April by Thomas Reamer, assessor, the population had increased to 93, 51 males and 42 females, of whom 17 were voters and 9 had not yet been naturalized. At the election that fall 15 votes were cast.

On Oct. 7-8 large prairie fires were raging all around and the settlers were compelled to work day and night breaking and burning fire guards.

**1874.** In 1874 the grasshoppers reappeared, but considerable grain was raised. Bonifacius Erne, of Pocahontas, who had successfully contested S. W. Norton's homestead on Sec. 32, was the only new settler. The number of votes cast that fall was 16, and the township went into winter quarters with a population of 99.

**1875.** In 1875 no new settlers arrived except Felix W. Parrish, who returned from Warren Co., and bought the farm of his brother, Isaac E., on Sec. 26. Rev. John A. Griffin, Andrew Jackson and Isaac E. Parrish moved away. At the election that fall 20 votes—18 republican and 2 democratic—were polled, and the state census showed a population of 114.

**1876.** During the Centennial year only two families were added to the settlement, Messrs. Gibson and Noble, the former on the Jackson farm and the latter on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24. The Pocahontas and Fonda mail route having been established in the spring, Shirley, P. O. was established at the home of C. H. Tollefsrude. He was appointed postmaster, the office was named in honor of Maria G. Shirley, his wife and the first mail was received June 27th. An M. E. class was organized and regular services established by Rev. A. J. Whitfield of Fonda.

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS.

On Aug. 1, 1876, 3,409 of the 23,206 acres in the township were owned or held by actual residents, 1,160 acres were under cultivation, 34 acres of artificial groves and 1,600 rods of wil-

low hedge had been planted. A little work had been done on the highways and two bridges had been built. No one had yet built any fence or done any ditching or tiling.

The population had increased to 132 and consisted of 44 Americans, 4 Irish, 6 Germans, 22 Swedes, and 56 Norwegians. The population included 17 that had been born in the township, 37 church members, 18 grangers, 24 voters, 36 school children, one widow, 3 widowers, 7 young ladies and 13 young men of a marriageable age. Of the families ten had come from Wisconsin, 3 from Illinois and 4 from other parts of Iowa. Four persons had died and ten had married.

The following persons had been employed as teachers in the township: A. W. Rake, Flora Russell, of Webster county, J. M. Brown, of Lizard, Nellie R. Remtsma (Swingle) of Webster county, Mary Fifield, Pomeroy, John A. Griffin, Delilah Hamble (McEwen) of Washington township, C. H. Tollefsrude. S. A. Smith, of Calhoun county, and Sarah Reamer (Hamerson).

**1877.** The year of 1877 was a very quiet one in Grant township; no changes were made in the settlement.

**1878.** In 1878 N. C. Fossum having sold his farm to H. C. Tollefsrude who took possession in June, returned to Wisconsin. Wm. J. Curkeet, of Darlington, Wis., settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27 and R. F. Hull, of Davenport, took the place of A. W. Rake, who moved to Creighton, Neb. Henry H. Felch, of Colorado, bought the farm of Anna Anderson on sec. 36. J. F. Burg bought the land of Claus Cedarstrom and John Soder, of Colfax, the land of Rudolf Cedarstrom. Rudolf and Claus Cedarstrom then located in Colfax. Fred Steendorf soon afterward bought the farm of John Soder, sec. 36, Andrew Oleson, of Fort Dodge, the farm of Charles Ekstrom, sec. 36, and Rob-

ert Russell, of Colfax, the farm of Andrew Jackson, sec. 20.

On Feb. 4, 1878 the Norwegian Lutheran church was organized and Rev. Amon Johnson, of Aurelia, was called as pastor. At the general election that fall 27 votes were cast.

**1879.** The summer of 1879 was very dry. Odin and Martin Anderson purchased lands on sec 31, Grant, and on sec. 6, Colfax, where they located their buildings. David Terry moved from Dover to the  $W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 31. A. W. Warren, of Marengo, Ill., purchased sec. 17 and built in the fall. Many of the old shanties and sod houses were replaced by the erection of comfortable dwellings and a great deal of land was broken. "Learned" post-office was established at the home of H. H. Felch on the  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, on the Pocahontas and Pomeroy mail route. Thirty-three votes were cast and the population had increased to 130.

**1880.** This was another dry season. W. J. Curkeet having become paralyzed moved to Fonda. R. F. Hull traded his farm to A. C. Knight and moved to Fonda. N. N. Wallow, of Beloit, Wis., settled on the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30 and James O'Connor, of Dover, bought the  $E\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19 and built. Henry Russell, of Colfax, settled on sec. 7 and D. C. Ferguson, of Cass Co., on sec. 22. Rev. Amon Johnson bought the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29.

The third school was established in January 1880 and the three teachers employed, H. T. Willey, Sarah Reamer and Ida Norton were all residents of the township. John Hamerson, a young Swede, organized and taught two singing schools, one in the Reamer schoolhouse and the other in the Murphy schoolhouse, Colfax township. He also conducted religious services at the Enfield schoolhouse in Lincoln township. Andrew N. Monk- elien died in the fall. At the general election Garfield received 31 and

Hancock three votes. The population had increased to 151.

**1881.** The winter of 1880-81, commencing with a great snow storm on Oct. 16-17th, was the severest on record. Deep snows were frequent and as a result fuel and feed became scarce. Many cattle died from exposure and lack of food.

D. C. Ferguson sold his farm to Peter Knudson, of Pomeroy, and S. W. Norton sold his to N. N. Wallow. Charles E. Brown, of Appanoose Co., bought land on sec. 20, M. G. C. Jeman on sec. 18 and Anton P. Rude on sec. 22. John A. Crummer bought the farms of H. H. Felch and Fred Steendorf on sec. 36. A. W. Warren returned to Marengo, Ill., and Mrs. Geo. Smith died on Sept 20th. Thirtyone republican and four democratic votes were cast at the election.

**1882.** C. H. Tollefrude, elected county auditor, moved to Pocahontas in January. T. Larson sold his farm on sec. 26, to Geo. Spiess, of Calhoun Co., and settled on the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  sec 29. Thor Mathison sold to Martin Nelson and moved to Dakota. Fred Steendorf also moved to Dakota and Geo. W. Smith to Pomeroy. Wm. C. Lieb built on the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 20 and Charles Levene on the  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 35. Hans and Ole Noss, of Mitchell county bought on sec. 22; Ole J. Synsteliien settled on sec. 27 and Peter Byrne on sec. 18. Mrs. Geo. Spiess and A. C. Knight died, the latter in Fonda.

#### RECENT GROWTH.

**1883-1901.** During recent years the increase in population and the material development in Grant has kept pace with the progress in the neighboring townships. For more than a decade during the period of its early settlement, the wet seasons, the limited means of the pioneers and their distance from railways retarded its settlement and development; but after a few years of incessant toil, rewarded by the ingathering of good

crops there was ushered in a period of prosperity and rapid development that has continued until the present time. Whilst some during the preliminary struggles were compelled to seek "greener fields" their places were speedily taken by men of push and practical energy who have left the impress of their good judgment in the fine permanent improvements they have made. The footprints of the early drones have been entirely obliterated.

The people of Grant now form a community of industrious and intelligent farmers who have grasped the true import of advanced husbandry and are pursuing their avocations in accordance with the most approved methods. In every part of the township beautiful homes, furnished with modern conveniences, may now be seen, and large barns many of which are filled with graded stock or large supplies of feed. Luxuriant pastures and dairy appliances may be seen on every hand. Nearly all the farms are well stocked with cows and many farmers are feeding hogs and cattle on a large scale.

#### RUSK.

Rusk, a brisk little village located near the pioneer home of Elisha M. Tollefsrude, along the road between sections 27 and 28, is the business center of the township. It was named after the late Gov. Rusk, of Wisconsin, at the suggestion of C. H. Tollefsrude. That which gave rise to this village was the erection at this place of a creamery in the fall of 1888 by Eric O. Christeson and Fred Dilmuth. It has now in addition thereto a good general store and postoffice, both under the management of E. O. Christeson, a blacksmith and a harness shop, a Norwegian Lutheran church, a school house and a few residences. The mail facilities consist of a daily mail by carriers both ways between Fonda and Pocahontas.

#### THE GRANT CREAMERY.

The Grant creamery building was erected by Eric O. Christeson and Fred Dilmuth, who opened it for business May 2, 1889. After operating it that year the latter removed its machinery to Bellville township. In the spring of 1890 the Grant Creamery Association, consisting of A. N. Monkeliën, Hans C. Tollefsrude, E. M. Tollefsrude, Torkel Larson, E. P. Rude, B. G. and Andrew Carlson, E. O. Christeson, M. J. Syustelien and L. E. Hanson, was organized on the co-operative plan with a capital of \$2500, by the election of E. P. Rude, president; L. E. Hanson, secretary; and E. M. Tollefsrude, treasurer. The building was supplied with new machinery and it was operated for this company by E. O. Christeson until 1895. It is now (1901) operated by Oscar Peterson. The operations of this creamery have gradually increased in volume and now it is considered one of the best enterprises in the county. During the year 1896, there were received 1,498,500 pounds of milk that made 59,620 pounds of butter, that netted \$9,241, or 15½ cents a pound. It has been a source of untold benefit to many of its patrons. Many of the farmers who have hitherto looked upon a creamery as an institution intended only for the benefit of its proprietors, now perceive that a proper appreciation of it is one of the best ways of lifting a mortgage from the stock or farm.

The Grant Creamery Association was incorporated in January, 1895. The trustees are E. O. Christeson, T. Larson and A. N. Monkeliën. The officers at the present time are the same ones that were elected at the time of organization in 1890.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES—Geo. W. Smith, 1870-72; Thomas Reamer, '70-73, '81-89; H. L.

Norton, '70-71, '79-81; E. M. Tollefsrude, '72-76, '78-80; Andrew Jackson, '73; A. H. Harris '74; I. E. Parrish, '74; Geo. W. Smith, '75, '77-78; S. W. Norton, '75-76; T. Larson, '76-79, '89-96; N. P. Rude, '77, '82-84, '91-1901; David Terry, '80-82; A. T. Omtvedt '83-88; A. N. Monkeliën, '85-90; J. W. Anderson, '90-92; Henry Russell, '93-98; O. E. Christeson, '97-1901; Wm. C. Lieb, '99-1901; Oren Phillips, 1902.

CLERKS—S. W. Norton, '70-71; C. H. Tollefsrude, '72-79; Asa H. Harris, '80-84; Wm. C. Lieb, '85-92; C. E. Brown, '93-96; L. E. Hansou, '97-98; J. A. Crummer, '99-1900; H. M. Larson, '01-02.

JUSTICES—A. W. Rake, '70-71, '75-78; C. H. Tollefsrude, '70-74, '77-81; A. H. Harris, '72-82; John A. Griffin, '73-74; W. J. Curkeet, '79-80; H. T. Willey, '81; Thomas Reamer, '82-90; David Terry, '83; S. W. Norton, '84-86; J. A. Crummer, '87-90; L. E. Hanson, '91-96; Henry Russell, '91-93; C. F. Pattee, '94-96; O. E. Christeson, '97; W. P. Rude, '98-1900; E. T. Reamer, 1901-02.

ASSESSORS—Thomas Reamer, '71-75; A. W. Rake, '76; A. H. Harris, '77-79; Geo. W. Smith, '80; C. H. Tollefsrude, '81; E. P. Rude, '82-88; L. E. Hanson, '89-96; C. E. Hunter, '97-98; A. B. Olson, '99-1900; Matt Buttertton, 1901-02.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Grant township school district was organized at a meeting of the electors on March 4, 1871, S. W. Norton serving as chairman and John A. Griffin as secretary. At this meeting it was decided to levy a tax of ten mills for school purposes; John A. Griffin, Thomas Reamer and H. L. Norton were elected directors, and the various powers conferred by law on the district meeting were delegated to the board of directors. The directors met on March 20 and organized by electing John A. Griffin, president; Asher W. Rake, secretary, and Geo. W. Smlth, treasurer.

On June 13th the board met at the

home of John A. Griffin and engaged E. B. Clark to build school house No. 1 on Sec. 25. Flora Russell taught the first school in this building that winter and there were enrolled 23 pupils—12 boys and 13 girls. A. W. Rake taught the first term of school in the township the previous winter in a sod house built for that purpose opposite the home of I. E. Parrish.

In 1872 A. D. Moore built school house No. 2 on Sec. 34, and when it was completed the township was divided into two districts diagonally by the section lines extending from the west sides of sections 4 and 35, so that No. 1 embraced the NE $\frac{1}{2}$  and No. 2 the SW $\frac{1}{2}$  of the township.

In 1874, owing to the great distance of some of the pupils from these two school houses, the board adopted the plan of boarding some of the pupils in their vicinity. It also built an elevated foot walk 18 inches wide and 16 rods long, across the slough near the Russell school house to enable a few families to get to it. These buildings were protected from prairie fires in the fall of the year by plowing fire guards of considerable width around them when the grass began to mature. The annual term of school was increased from four to eight months and each school was furnished with wall maps at a cost of \$55.

In 1880 the third school house was built on Sec. 32, and the schools were supplied with copies of the unabridged dictionary.

In 1881 the fourth school was established in the home of Henry Russell, who lived in the third district, and the next year a temporary building 12x14 feet was built for the convenience of his family.

In 1883 shade trees were planted around each of the three permanent buildings by F. W. Parrish, H. C. Tollefsrude and Irwin Boyd, respectively.

In the spring of 1886 the fifth school

was established in the home of N. N. Wallow, and the fourth school house was built that fall by T. L. Dean on Sec. 17. In 1889 the Center school house was built by Ira D. Drake on Sec. 21, and the text books of the American Book Co. were adopted.

In 1880 another temporary school house was built in what is now district No. 2, by T. L. Dean. The next year a copy of the Teachers' Anatomical Aid were placed in each of the seven schools at a cost of \$250. In 1892 a good building was built in place of the temporary one in the Russell district by August Levene for \$650. In 1895 the arrangement of all the districts was completed and two years later the last of the permanent buildings was erected.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS.

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD**—John A. Griffin, 1871; C. H. Tollefsrude, '72; Andrew Jackson, '73; Thomas Reamer, '74-75; E. P. Rude, '76, '92-95; Geo. W. Smith, '77-79; David Terry, '80; A. H. Harris, '81; Felix W. Parrish, '82-83; A. N. Monkeliën, '84-85; Elisha M. Tollefsrude, '86; N. P. Rude, '87-88; Martin Nelson, '89; C. E. Brown, '90; Peter Gralton, '96; Thomas Byrne, '97-98; L. O. Crummer, E. T. Reamer.

**SECRETARIES**—Asher W. Rake, 1871; C. H. W. Payne, E. M. Tollefsrude, C. H. Tollefsrude, '74-75, '78; A. H. Harris, '76-77; Thomas Reamer, '79-89; L. E. Hanson, '90-99; John A. Crummer, 1900.

**TREASURERS**—Geo. W. Smith, '71; Thomas Reamer, '72-73; Torkel Larson, '74-77; E. P. Rude, '78-88; A. T. Omtvedt, '89-92; L. J. Lieb, '93-1001.

#### CHURCHES.

The moral and religious progress of the people has kept pace with their material prosperity. Rev. John A. Griffin, one of the early settlers, but now pastor of the Congregational church at Sherrard, Ill., held the first religious services soon after the first frame school house was built in 1871.

During the summer of 1876 Rev. A. J. Whitfield, of Fonda, held services in the school houses and a class was organized consisting of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Omtvedt, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reamer, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Rude, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Rake and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Saylor. In 1889 the services were transferred to the Saylor school house, Lincoln township, and a church was built there in 1899.

In 1896, after some special services held in the Omtvedt school house by Rev. W. J. Dodge, of Pocahontas, a Christian church of 21 members was organized. During the next two years it was served on alternate Sabbaths by Rev. L. E. Huntley, of Fonda, and then the services were discontinued.

#### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Norwegian Lutheran church of Rusk was organized February 4, 1878, and incorporated February 5, 1894. Rev. Amon Johnson, of Aurelia, later of Sioux Rapids, and now deceased, in 1877 began to visit this section occasionally and held services in the houses of those who became charter members. Through his efforts the church was organized the next year and a call being extended to him he became its first pastor and continued to serve it in an able and acceptable manner once a month until the year 1896, a period of 18 years. On May 10, 1896, he was succeeded by Rev. N. Tosseland, of Dows, the present pastor.

The original members were Lars and Mary Hanson, L. E. Hanson, E. P. and Clara Rude, Torkel and Helen Larson, A. N. and Julia Monkeliën, Andrew and Karen Monkeliën, E. M. and Sarah Tollefsrude, C. H. and Maria G. Tollefsrude, Nils C. Synsteliën and A. H. Vestrum—17.

The first trustees were Lars Hanson, T. Larson and E. P. Rude. C. H. Tollefsrude was elected secretary,



and E. P. Rude, treasurer. The trustees now are A. N. Monkeliën, A. Johnson and E. M. Tollefsrude. Secretary, L. E. Hanson; treasurer, O. E. Christeson.

On December 9, 1894, a church building 40x28 feet, with vestibule 10x10 feet and costing \$1200, was dedicated at Rusk. The adult membership now numbers 57, and public services are held once a month. A Sunday school has been organized and it meets every Sabbath. The society is free from debt and is making a substantial and steady growth.

#### UNIFORMLY REPUBLICAN.

Grant township has always cast a majority for the republican party. At the first five general elections, 1870-74, all the votes cast were republican. Two democratic votes were cast the next year. On local issues party ties have not always been observed. During the 90s, the democrats and populists, increasing in numbers and influence, joined forces and quite closely contested the field. After the memorial free silver campaign of 1896, 173 votes were polled, more than in any other strictly rural township in the county, and the republicans had a majority of 15. In 1901, when 134 votes were polled, their majority was 32.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

The following residents of Grant township have been elected to county offices:

SUPERVISOR—A. W. Rake, 1872-73.

AUDITORS—C. H. Tollefsrude, 1882-85. F. G. Thornton when elected in 1894; L. E. Hanson, 1899-1902.

SHERIFF—John A. Crummer, 1890-97.

#### COUNTY FARM.

In 1890 the county house and other necessary out buildings were erected on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4. In 1898 an asylum was built for the care of the insane of this county. The farm (p. 315) was recently increased to 409 acres and is

under the management of Wm. A. Elliott. During 1901 there were 22 persons cared for at this farm, of whom 12 were inmates of the asylum. This institution was visited by the State Board of Control in 1900 and its management was heartily approved.

#### WELLINGTON FARM.

The Wellington farm in this township is one of the large stock farms in this county. During the early 80's W. E. Wellington of Dubuque bought all of sections 13 and 23, the S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 14 and N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 24—1920 acres. In 1884 a strip 20 feet wide, that had been previously broken around the entire farm of three sections, was planted with choice timber. It was then divided into quarter section lots of 160 acres each, and two rows of trees were planted around all of them. In 1885 some good buildings were erected and 900 acres were seeded to timothy and bluegrass. Wellington gave his personal attention to the improvement of this large farm and manifested real pride in converting wild and waste prairies into beautiful and fertile fields. At the home he occupied that year, he raised a flock of forty wild geese that became sufficiently tame to eat out of one's hand, and formed a beautiful sight. About 1895 this farm was bought by Moody & Davy of Pomeroy and it is now owned by the former.

#### ELK AND DEER.

In January 1870 I. E. Parrish shot and wounded an elk in the large pond on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, that was pursued and captured on the breaking of C. H. Tollefsrude on 28. It added materially to the supply of meat in the settlement.

In 1871 another large elk was seen passing in a southwesterly direction over Sec. 28.

In December 1874 C. H. Tollefsrude and his brother, E. M. Tollefsrude, concealing themselves for a short time in an old well that had been partly

filled, secured a fine deer that came within range of their guns. Soon afterward H. L. Norton and N. A. Palmatier shot three deer at Devil's Island, on Sec. 5. During the early days this was one of the best localities in the county for game. During the winter of 1877-78 H. L. Norton and Geo. E. Hughes shot four deer in this vicinity and three more in January 1879.

#### EARLY SETTLERS.

Many of the early settlers who moved to other sections or have died are still kindly remembered. Joseph Brinker and Fred Steendorf, well known characters in the early days, moved to South Dakota, where the former died Oct. 10, 1896, and the latter was accidentally killed. Asa W. Harris died in Nebraska. N. C. Fossum, in 1899, died at Beloit, Wis. Frank P. Anderson returned to Sweden and his wife lost her life in the terrible cyclone at Pomeroy in 1893. Others that have died are Andrew Monkeliën, Wm. J. Curkeet, Mrs. John A. Griffin, Mrs. Geo. W. Smith, N. N. Wallow, Mrs. Mary and Mrs. A. T. Omtvedt, Mrs. I. E. Parrish, Mrs. Bertha Larson, S. W. Norton, Claus Cedarstrom, Mrs. Anna (widow) Anderson, Asher W. Rake, John P. Anderson, John Anderson, Mrs. Joseph Brinker, Thor Mathieson, Rev. John Crummer, Lars Hanson and Eric P. Rude.

Henry Russell and Charles E. Brown are now living in Kansas, O. J. Synsteliën in Minnesota, Felix W. Parrish in Sherman township, John F. Burg in Bellville township and I. E. Parrish in California.

There remain, of those that were prominent in the early history of the township, L. E. Hanson, T. Larson, N. P. Rude, David Terry, A. T. Omtvedt, John A. Crummer, Wm. C. and L. J. Lieb, A. N. Monkeliën, H. C. and E. M. Tollefsrude, James O'Connor, Martin Anderson, M. J. Synste-

lien, Hans Johnson, Carl Peterson, Thomas Byrne, Charles Elg and Andrew Olson.

Of the young people born in the township, or residents of it in the early days but now permanently removed, the following ones are recalled: Julia (Fossum) Gulack, Ashley, N. D.; Caroline (Rake) Allen, who died in Oregon in 1899; Sarah (Reamer) Hamerson, Canton, S. D.; Andrew Hanson, Texas; Henry Hanson, South Dakota; Elwin Reamer, physician, Minnesota; John Fossum, who died in Wisconsin in 1882; Walter J. Smith, Calhoun Co.; Aaron and Edward Harris, Knox Co., Nebraska. These are still residents of this county: Ida (Norton) Vaughn, Effie (Norton) Riley, Elmer Reamer, Rose (Tollefsrude) Christeson, Lottie (Tollefsrude) Thornton, William and Louis Rude, Horace and Ira Larson, Maria and Henry Monkeliën, L. E. and Eric Hanson, Emma and Cyrus H. Tollefsrude.

#### PIONEER WOMEN.

It seems eminently appropriate to make brief mention of a few of the pioneer women who, by their perseverance, economy and good judgment, contributed so much toward securing the comfortable homes that are now so numerous in Grant township.

"Man cannot advance in the march of progress except by the side of woman." This saying is fully confirmed in the early history of our country. Men are very ready to exclaim, we settled the country, we struggled and labored, we did all this, etc., as if they did everything.

In the early settlement of Grant township not a single instance is recalled where a bachelor achieved permanent success. The early settlers that succeeded best in acquiring a competency and in developing a fine community, were those who enjoyed the co-operation of the pioneer woman. Those who endured the privations and hardships of 1869 and now dwell in comfortable homes see in the

changed conditions a very striking contrast. The horrors of the sod house, the dugout, the shanty and the empty larder, and the drudgery of twisting hay for fuel are no longer experienced. In many instances the sacrifices and exposures of those early days meant future suffering and loss of health, but in the midst of the present improved conditions they are seldom mentioned or even recalled.

**Mrs. H. L. Norton** was perhaps the first woman to show her ability to cope successfully with the hardships of pioneer life in Grant. During the month of December, 1869, when Mr. Norton was trapping in the sloughs on sections 20, 21 and 27 and his family was stopping at the home of Henry Shields on Sec. 8, Lizard township, she could occasionally be seen, mounted upon a load of wood and provisions drawn by an ox team, making a bee-line across the snow covered prairies to the camp of the hardy trapper, twelve miles distant. Having completed her errand the return was made with the same unerring directness. Such trips were extremely hazardous and could be made only by the most courageous and enduring. The modern woman shrinks from the idea of taking such a trip.

Mrs. Norton was always ready to nurse the sick, encourage the disconsolate and extend friendly assistance to the new settler. She seemed to be called upon to do more than her share in ministering to the needs of others. She and her husband are now enjoying the fruits of a well earned competency and live at Fonda.

**Mrs. N. P. Rude** is another of the pioneers. She came with her husband in the fall of 1870, and during all the years since has shown herself a woman of true merit. Courageous and hopeful she loyally aided her husband in his early efforts to secure a home and cheered him when difficulties and discouragements came

thick and fast. She and Mrs. T. Larson are now the only resident pioneer women of 1870-71. Instances are recalled when, their husbands having gone to Pomeroy or Fort Dodge, and the terrible prairie fire came sweeping down from the northwest, these women single-handed and alone saved their little homes from the flame of the destroying element. Both of these women have raised interesting families and though no longer enjoying ruddy health they do enjoy comfortable homes and are satisfied to forget the past in the joyous present.

**Mrs. Thomas Reamer** was another woman who did well her part in the early days. By her sweetness of temper, cheering words and helping hand she did much to allay the homesick restlessness that often prevailed among the lonely settlers on the prairie. Sociable and interesting she is kindly remembered by all her former neighbors and friends. She died at Pomeroy in 1901.

**Mrs. Geo. Smith**, who came in 1870 and died in 1881, is remembered as a woman of great energy, though small in stature and not possessing a very rugged constitution. She was one of the best of women in ministering to the needs of others. She was even known to watch her neighbor's cattle. Her death was lamented by a large circle of friends.

**Mrs. A. T. Omtvedt** who came in the early 70's and died in 1901, merited more than ordinary credit for her part in securing a beautiful home, rearing a large and interesting family, and acquiring a competency for them in future days. She faced all the vicissitudes of frontier life with a spirit that was always radiant with sunshine and hope. She had a rich religious experience, the outgrowth of a faith that took God into all the affairs of life. The result of her watchful care and arduous labors in behalf of her family must have been a

source of great satisfaction to her, and now to them.

**Mrs. Elisha M. Tollefsrude**, who came as a bride in 1872 to assist in reducing the wilderness, entered into the new life with hearty cheer. She met all her difficulties bravely, became the mother of a happy family and is now enjoying one of the most inviting homes in the township. The Evergreen Lodge at Rusk looked forward to a comfortable and easy future but disease, a few years ago, that caused long and severe sufferings, finally reduced her to the condition of an invalid.

**Mrs. C. H. Tollefsrude** coming in 1870, gave her health and eleven of her best years to life on the farm, then lived twelve years at Pocahontas, and since December, 1893, at Rolfe. The struggles of life in the 70's are now almost forgotten, while the delightful associations and valuable lessons of those early days cause them to be remembered as the happiest period in a life of unceasing toil and activity.

**Mrs. A. N. Monkeliën**, who came to the settlement with her husband in 1873, has performed her part well. In one of the most interesting homes in the county she holds an enviable position. Her words and deeds of love and affection have been showered upon the family and home, and her sunny disposition has led the home circle along easy and pleasant paths. She is the mother of twelve children, all but one of whom are living, and ten of them are still under the parental roof.

**Mrs. Lars Hanson**, who lost her husband in 1889, was a worthy wife and mother, and still resides with her sons on the old homestead. Her life has been one of constant usefulness and she developed a character of great worth. Dwelling in a comfortable home and surrounded by kind relatives, the period of her old age is not

chafed by the cares of this life, but cheered by the christian's hope of newness of life in the world to come.

**Clara Hanson**, her daughter, became the wife of E. P. Rude Aug. 23, 1873, the wedding taking place at the home of her parents on Sec. 26. This was the first marriage in Grant. She became one of the best of wives and mothers and her relation to the home, church and society has always been that of the true woman, ready to respond to the calls of duty. Her life has been crowded with work and cares but the joy of a large and cherished family, the possession of a comfortable home and the kindly greetings of hosts of friends are considerations that now bring comfort and consolation. She did as much as any woman in the township to transform the wilderness. Her husband died in 1901.

**Mrs. Hans C. Tollefsrude** is one whose early days of pioneer life did not begin with her settlement in Grant, but in 1844, when she came in a sailing vessel from Norway to New York that required 102 days for the trip. She passed thence through New York state in a canal boat, through the great lakes to Chicago in a sail boat and thence across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin afoot. Nearly six months were thus occupied in making a journey that now requires only 12 or 15 days. Her pioneer days in Wisconsin during the 40's formed a period of constant struggles, hardships and incessant toil. Courage and perseverance were essential to success under these circumstances and she possessed these requisites in a high degree. She now enjoys her well-earned temporal reward, and in the contentment that has followed she has forgotten many of the vicissitudes of a half century ago. She is now 85 years of age and realizes that the end of her earthly career is not very far distant.

## LEADING CITIZENS.

**Byrne** Thomas (b. 1843), owner and occupant of a farm of 400 acres on Sec. 20, is a native of Ireland. In 1865 he emigrated to New Jersey where two years later he married Ellen Kelley. In 1878 he located in Grant township on a farm of 80 acres, which he has since increased five fold and improved with good buildings and groves.

His family consisted of four children, Mary, Thomas, John and Ellen. Mary in 1896 married Eugene Kirken-dall, a farmer, lives in Grant township and has two children, Thomas E. and John.

**Christeson** Eric O. (b. 1862), post-master and merchant at Rusk, is a native of Norway, the son of Christ and Enger Christeson. In 1870 he came to this country with his parents and located in Webster Co., Iowa, where his father died two years later, leaving a wife and five children, of whom Ole E. and Eric O. were the oldest. They supported their mother and the other children, first by herding cattle and other available employments, and later by engaging in farming. They had very little time left to go to school.

In 1883 Ole E. married Nettie Flugstad and in 1887 he and Eric located in Grant township. In 1900 he bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, on which he now lives and has erected good improvements. He has been a trustee of the township since 1897.

Eric O., in the fall of 1888, forming a partnership with Fred Dilmuth, built the creamery at Rusk and they operated it until January, 1890, when the partnership was dissolved, and the former, retaining the building, effected the organization of the Grant Creamery Association, of which he is still a member and one of the trustees. On Feb. 22, 1892, he established a general store at the creamery and on Jan. 5, 1894, being appointed post-master, opened the Rusk postoffice

Feb. 7th following. In 1893 he married Rose, daughter of E. M. Tollefs-rude and has two children, Luverne E. and Gladys M.

Andrew H. Christeson, his brother, a clerk in the store, in 1900 married Augusta Lundgren and has one child, Ethel A.

**Crummer** John A. (b. 1848), owner and occupant of a farm of 285 acres on Sec. 36, is a son of Rev. John and Mary S. Crummer. He is a native of Illinois, where in 1869 he married Mary C. (b. Ohio 1849) daughter of William Pulley. In 1871 he located in Floyd Co., Iowa, but two years later returned to Illinois. Later he moved to Kansas and in 1881 settled on his present farm which, under his development, now ranks as one of the best improved farms in the county. His dwelling house is 40x48 feet, two stories, and the barn and other out-buildings are of ample size for the protection of stock and the successful management of the farm. He keeps the farm well stocked with the best grades of cattle and hogs and usually feeds more grain than he raises. He has found the pasturage of stock about as profitable as raising grain, and aims to keep a fair proportion of all kinds. His annual herd of pure bred and high grade calves is a beautiful sight, and many of them are sold each year to his neighbors at fine prices. He has filled the offices of township clerk, justice and secretary of the school board. He was sheriff of Pocahontas county eight years, 1890-97, during which period he attended 33 full terms of court and proved himself a faithful and efficient public officer.

His family consisted of seven children.

1. Wellington F. (b. 1870), in 1891 married Ida P. Trenary, lives on his own farm of 80 acres in Lincoln township and has two children, Ellsworth and Loren.

2. Lem Ora (b. 1874), on Jan. 1, 1900, married Mary, daughter of Jason N. Russell, has one daughter, Leona May, and occupies a farm of 85 acres in Lincoln township on which he has erected good buildings.

3. Ada B. in 1897 married Wm. J. Saylor and lives in Lincoln township.

Charles C., Clara E., Raymond A. and Lorenzo are at home.

William Pulley, his father-in-law, lives with him. He is the owner of a farm of 160 acres on Sec. 17, Lincoln township, on which he located in 1892. His wife, Mary Kuhn, died there in 1893. His family consisted of three sons and five daughters.

Joseph S. Pulley, his son, in 1886 began to occupy and improve his present farm of 160 acres on Sec. 35, Lincoln township. He is a native of Ohio and moved with his parents to Illinois, where he married Mary Laughlin and located first in Grundy Co., then in Pocahontas Co., Iowa. He has been a trustee of Lincoln townships since 1895. His family consists of three children, Roy, Tama and Jay.

**Fossum** N. C. (b. 1837), owner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33 from 1870 to 1878, was a native of Norway. In 1848 he came with his parents to Rock Co., Wis., where in 1862 he married Nellie Lunde. In 1873 he located on his farm in Grant township which he improved and increased to 240 acres. In 1878 he sold it to his uncle, Hans C. Tollefsrude, and returned to his old farm near Beloit, Wis., where he died Oct. 16, 1899.

**Griffin** John A. Rev., resident of Grant township from 1869 to 1875, is the son of Henry G. and Isabella (McGaughey) Griffin. His father was a native of Stockbridge, Mass., and at eighteen came to Illinois, where he married and located on a farm near Cambridge. His family consisted of ten children of whom John A. was the oldest. John's grandfather was a soldier from New York in the war of

1812, and his father was 1st Lieutenant Co. D., 112th Ill. Inf. in the civil war. John remained with his parents until April 19, 1861, when he enlisted in Co. D., 17th Ill. Inf. He was seriously wounded in the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing. He received later from President Lincoln an appointment as 2d Lieut. 53d Reg. U. S. colored troops, and when mustered out in March, 1866, had spent nearly five years in the army.

In 1864 he married Mary E., daughter of James M. and Elizabeth Payne, late of Adel, Iowa, and soon afterward located in this county. He assisted in organizing Grant township for school purposes, served as president of the first school board and held the first public services in that township. He had previously received only a good common school education but had an intelligent desire to be useful in promoting the interests of Christ's kingdom. During his residence in this county he accepted an appointment from the Rev. Dr. Guernsey, of Dubuque, to establish preaching appointments in this section. Under this appointment he organized Congregational churches at Newell and Fonda, and held services also at Pomeroy and as far east as Jackson Center, Webster county. Afterward he entered the Union Park Theological Seminary and successively served the churches at Atkinson, Danville, Spring valley, Cable, Quincy, Danville again 1890-96, in Illinois; Coal Mine Mission, Ind., and Sherrard and Cable, Ill., living at the former, since December, 1897.

Mary E., his wife, died at Danville, in 1887, leaving four children. Chester D. is located at Grinnell, Iowa; Alice became the wife of Elmer T. Reamer (see Reamer); Grace G. married Lou E. Heinley, Litchfield, Ill.; and James H. lives at Danville, Ill.

In 1888 he married Margaret Haddick and their family consists of three

children, Robert T., John H. and Lot-tie L. He still preaches three times on Sabbath, looks after the Sunday schools and is kindly remembered by the pioneers of Grant township.

**Hanson** Lars H. (b. 1817, d. 1889), who located on a homestead of 40 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26 in 1871, and died there in 1889, in his 72d year, was a native of Norway where, in 1847, he married Mary Loken. In 1869, with a family of eight children, he came to America and lived two years in Wisconsin.

Previous to his settlement in this county he was called Lars Hanson Loken, the last name having been given him in Norway because he lived on one of the three farms that were called upper, middle and lower Loken. His wife was called by the same name, because she lived on the upper Loken farm. On meeting at Manson a brother, who had lived on another farm and dropped its name, on coming to this section, he decided to do the same and was afterwards called Lars H. Hanson.

He served several years in the army of Norway and was an officer at the time of his discharge. He was a man of considerable intelligence and, as a citizen, exerted an influence that was not limited to the people of his own nationality. In matters relating to morals and religion, he had very positive convictions, and took a leading part in the establishment and maintenance of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Rusk. His faithful wife still lives on the old homestead. Uprightness of character and sturdy morality have been characteristics of their large family, and during the thirty years that have passed they have left the indellible impression of their influence and work in the history of Grant township.

1. Clara married Eric P. Rude (see Rude).

2. Mary married Lewis Wold, a

farmer, lives in Colorado and has a family of six children.

3. Miranda in 1880 married Martin Anderson, who the year previous came from Norway and now owns a farm of 172 acres on sections 31 and 32, that he has finely improved. They have two children, Arthur and May.

4. Henry W. (b. 1855), in 1871 came with his wife to Grant township and remained until 1877, when he learned telegraphy. He is now located at Baltic, S. D.

5. Leonard Edward (b. 1859) occupies the old home farm with his mother, and is now the owner of 240 acres besides. He received a good education and is an excellent penman. In the township he has served as clerk two years, as a justice six years, as assessor eight years and as secretary of the school board ten years. He is now serving his second term as recorder of Pocahontas county. He recently introduced for use on the records in his office a book typewriter, an instrument that is operated like the ordinary one, but moves across the page instead of moving the paper.

6. Andrew L., in 1890 married Rosa Johnson and has a family of two children. He resides on his own farm in Texas.

Eric and Lars are at home.

**Harris** Asa W., who in 1871 came from Dubuque county and located on Sec. 34, took an active part in the management of the affairs in the township during his residence of fourteen years in it. He was twice elected a justice, served as a trustee, and as clerk five years, 1880-84. He was a man who commanded the respect and confidence of all who knew him. In 1885 he moved to Star, Knox Co., Neb., where he died in 1900. His family consisted of nine children, Joseph, Henry, James, Aaron, Edwin, Mary (Smith), Rhettta (Rake, Johnson), Emiline and Elizabeth.

**Larson** Torkel (b. 1845), owner and occupant of a finely improved farm of

240 acres on Sec. 29, is a native of Norway and came with his parents, Lars and Maggie (Thompson) Larson, to Rock Co., Wis., in 1862. Two years later they moved to Worth Co., Iowa, where his father lived the remainder of his days. Torkel in 1870 married Helen Shirley, of Rock Co., Wis., and the next spring located in Grant township, buying the homestead right of Fred Steendorf on Sec. 26. He improved and occupied this farm until 1882, when he moved to his present one. He keeps his premises in fine looking condition and has achieved good success as a farmer and stock raiser. He is one of the best citizens in the township and has taken a leading part in the management of its affairs, having served as treasurer four years and as a trustee twelve years. He was one of the original promoters and has since been one of the leading supporters of the Grant Creamery Association and Norwegian Lutheran church at Rusk. He is also a good singer and serves as chorister for the church.

His family consists of five children, Horace Moe (b. Wis. 1871) and Ira L. (b. 1873), the two oldest, own and occupy a farm of 340 acres on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 17. Cora L. in 1898 married Ira Hunter and lives on their own farm in South Dakota. Ella M. and Ivah Adelina are at home.

**Lieb** Louisa, widow of Jacob, accompanied by her three youngest sons and one daughter, located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33 (McKillip's farm), Cedar township. The next year they secured a homestead of 80 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, on which a cabin 12x16 feet had been erected. Five years later they bought 80 acres more adjoining. In 1882 she died and the next year Frederick, the oldest son, married Louisa Lichtenburg, of Dubuque county, and William C. married Helen Halder. At this time they had acquired 240 acres. In view of the changes just mentioned

these lands were sold that year. Wm. C. and Louie J. then in partnership bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, 160 acres, Grant township.

Louie J., two years later, bought the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19 and built a good house



**Mrs. Louisa Lieb.**

upon it, having married the previous year Sophia Spielman. He still occupies this farm, having increased it to 280 acres and improved it with fine buildings, orchard and groves. He has been treasurer of the school funds since 1893. His family consists of seven children, May, Adelbert, Louis, Florence, Vincennes, Frederick and Dorothea.

William C. increased his farm to 360 acres and improved it with large and beautiful buildings. The barn, 56x60 feet, built in 1897, is one of the best in the township. He raises horses and cattle and has the reputation of having the best draught horses in that section of the county. He was one of six that paid \$2,500 in 1885 for Matchless Wonder, an imported English Shire horse. He is now a trustee of the township and served as clerk eight years. His family consists of eight children, Louisa, Ida, Josephine, Clemens, Theresa, Francis, Allouise and Margarite.



Magdaline, their sister, in 1873 became the wife of Louis Fuchs (see Fuchs).

Henry, their oldest brother, is a druggist at Alton, Iowa. Frederick located on a farm near Alton and died there in 1897, leaving a family of seven children. Otto is keeping store in Alton and Cornelius is in Texas.

**Monkelien** Anton N. (b. 1845), occupant of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27 and owner of a farm of 480 acres in that vicinity, is a native of the parish of Land, Norway, the son of Nils and Mari Monkelien, who owned a small farm in the mountain districts of that country. He became inured to hard work on that farm and by rafting logs from the pineries in that locality. In 1866 he came to Rock Co., Wis., where he learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1869 he married there Julia A., the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans C. Tollefsrude. In 1873 he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on 120 acres on Sec. 27, Grant township, having previously spent the summer of 1870 in this neighborhood assisting the Tollefsrudes in breaking prairie. As the years have passed he has devoted his attention to the improvement and enlargement of his farm, and he is now the happy possessor of one of the largest and best improved farms in the county. A recent inventory of his stock showed that he had then on the farm 20 head of horses, 150 head of swine and 180 head of cattle. He has become an extensive feeder and each year buys large quantities of grain from his neighbors. He has thus greatly increased the income of his own farm and provided a home market for some of the surplus on neighboring ones.

He is an enterprising, public spirited citizen, an ardent republican and liberal supporter of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He was president of the Grant township school board two years and has held other positions

of trust in the township. His family consists of eleven children, Henry, Ellen Maria, who in 1900 married Joun Peterson and has one child, Earle; Hannah A., who in 1896 married Oscar Peterson and has three children, Myrtle S., Herbert L. and the baby; Sebert, Albert, Nellie, Clarence, Robert, John, Theodore and Bertha.

Andrew N. Monkelien, his brother, died at his home in the fall of 1880.

**Norton** Stephen W. (b. 1812, d. 1890), one of the early homesteaders in Grant, was a native of New York state where in 1836 he married Jane Paddock and located near Milwaukee, Wis. A few years later he moved to Lake county, Ill., where after a residence of three years she died in 1840, leaving a family of five sons, Herkimer, Lester, William, Charles and George.

Soon afterward he married Elizabeth Thatcher and moved to Sauk county, Wis., where in 1863 she died leaving two daughters, Fannie and Emma. In 1869 he came to this county with his son Herkimer and family and secured a homestead in Grant township. He participated in the organization of the township, served as the first clerk in 1871 and later as a trustee. He inherited a hardy constitution and was a member of the Baptist church. Four of his sons located permanently in Wisconsin and his two daughters in South Dakota.

**Norton** Herkimer Lewis (b. 1837), is a native of Milwaukee and grew to manhood in Sauk Co., where in 1861 he married Orilla Kingsley, who has been a faithful helpmeet throughout all the vicissitudes and experiences of pioneer life. They were among the very first to locate in Grant township, arriving there May 11, 1869, accompanied by his father and their two children, Ida and Elias. The two Parrish families that had preceded them were still living in their wagons, and when Mr. Norton's shanty 12x16 feet was completed in 1870, it was the first and

only frame dwelling place in the township.

In the fall of 1869 he found a home for his family with Henry Shields in Lizard township until January, and with Nils Hanson in Bellville during the remainder of the winter. For his own comfort he constructed a dugout near one of the sloughs, engaged in trapping and secured furs during that winter to the value of \$105.00.

In 1871 he moved to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32 where as the years advanced he erected good improvements and planted a large grove. He was postmaster and the Shirley postoffice was located at this place from Dec. 1, 1881, to Dec. 15, 1887 (p. 285), when it was discontinued. He continued to live here until 1896, when he moved to Fonda.

He circulated the petition and assisted in the organization of Grant township in the fall of 1870. He was one of the first trustees and a member of the first board of school directors. During the 27 years of his residence in the township he became widely and favorably known as one of the leading citizens of the township.

His family consisted of five children:

Ida F. married Ira G. Vaughn (see Vaughn).

Elias Stephen, proprietor of a chop house at Laurens, in 1890 married Viola Eaton, who died in 1897 leaving two children, Ray and Frances Viola. In 1900 he married Alice Reddington.

Effie May married George Riley, a traveling salesman, lives in Fonda and has three children, Hazel, Basil and Denzel.

Nathan L., a druggist, in 1896 married Sybil Farnsworth and is now located in Fonda.

Dottie is at home.

**Omtvedt** Anders Thorgrimson (b. 1835), is a native of Norway and in 1863 came to Chicago where he found employment as a shoemaker. In 1867 he married Beata Hanson Rude (b. Norway 1842) and three years later located

on a farm in Illinois. In 1873 he began to occupy his present farm on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 30, Grant township, which he has finely improved and now contains 380 acres. The buildings he has here erected rank among the largest and best in the township. His plum orchard seldom fails to furnish a bountiful supply of delicious fruit. He is a man of unquestioned integrity and has filled with credit nearly all of the township offices, including those of trustee and treasurer of the school funds. His estimable wife died in 1901, leaving a family of five children, for whose education good opportunities have been afforded.

Matilda H. married Mati Milligan and lives in Wisconsin. Martinius T. is at home. Alma Emilie married Ernest J. Chingren, a real estate agent, and lives in Fonda. Magnus E., Olaf A., Laura L., a stenographer, Arthur R., Mamie A. and Abraham Clarence are at home.

Mrs. Mary A. Omtvedt, his mother, died at his home in her 90th year in 1893.

**Parrish** Isaac Eldridge (b. 1840), and Felix Worden (b. 1844), his brother, the first settlers in Grant township, were born near Louisville, Ky., and are sons of Edward Nelson and Frances Parrish. On May 3, 1869, they and their families located on homesteads of 80 acres each, near each other in Grant township, the former on the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, the latter on the S $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and four days later the first breaking was done on the homestead of the latter.

Isaac E. married Helen Miller, who in 1900 died at Fernando, Cal. Their family consisted of four children, Alice, Frank, Cordelia and Frederic, and all of them live in California.

Felix W. in 1867 married Matilda McConnell and two years later located in this county. About 1885 he moved to Polk county and in 1899 returned to this county, locating in Sherman

township, near Havelock. He was president of the Grant school board two years, 1882-83. He has been a live-long and faithful member of the M. E. church.

His family consisted of eleven children:

Mary Frances married Oscar Wilcox, a farmer, and lives near Merville.

Charles Edward (b. June 30, 1869), the first child born in the township, married Amanda Bleam and lives near Ware.

Martha married Frank Morse and lives in Arkansas.

Thomas J., a farmer, married Hattie Doty and lives in North Dakota.

Louisa Victoria married Philip D Wile, a farmer, and lives near Fonda.

William J., John M., Joseph E., Henry C., Kittie E., Bessie E. and Bertha A. are at home.

**Peterson** Carl (b. 1841), owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, is a native of Sweden. On coming to this country he located in Boone county, Ill. In 1882 he became a resident of Lincoln township, this county, and soon afterward of Grant. In 1885 he purchased 80 acres of his present farm and, locating on them five years later, has now a finely improved farm of twice that size.

He married Sophia Olson (b. Sweden 1841) and she now enjoys with him the results of their many years of toil and economy. The results have been very gratifying and illustrate what honest hearts and willing hands, when intelligently applied, can accomplish in this county. They have raised a family of thirteen children.

August married Annie M. Johnson. Minnie married Fred Dilmuth and has two children, Carl H. and Albert. John married Ellen M. Monkeliën and has one child, Earl. Oscar married Hannah A. Monkeliën and has three children. Andrew, Eamer, Albert, Frank, Annie, Mary, Emma, Julia and Carl are at home.

**Rake** Asher W., County Supervisor in 1871-72, in 1870, came from Bureau Co., Ill., and located on Sec. 36. The township was organized at his home that fall and he served as one of the judges at this first election. He taught the first school in the township in a sod house erected for that purpose. In 1871 he served as the first secretary of the school board and as one of the first justices. In 1879 he moved to Knox Co., Neb., where he died a few years ago. His family consisted of five children, Joseph, Samuel, Elmer, Caroline (Allen), who died in Oregon in 1899, and Isabella.

**Reamer** Thomas (b. 1839), resident of Grant from 1870 to 1892, is a native of New York. In 1859 he came to Jones county, Iowa, where in 1862 he married Margaretta Titus. In April, 1870, he located on the homestead of Samuel Jeffrey on Sec. 26, Grant township. He erected the first improvements on this homestead, which consisted of a stable for his team and a small shanty for himself, wife and three children. He experienced all the hard times of the early settlers but overcame them in a spirit of noble heroism. He was an industrious and thrifty farmer, enlarged the farm to 220 acres and improved it with substantial buildings and beautiful groves. The house built in 1887 was provided with all the modern conveniences of a first class home on the farm.

He assisted in the organization of Grant township, was one of the first trustees and school directors, served four years as the first assessor and eleven years as secretary of the school board. In 1872 he effected the organization of a Sunday school in school house No. 1, now No. 9, and served a number of years as its first superintendent. He has always been a faithful member of the M. E. church and performed a loyal part in establishing and maintaining religious services in Grant township.

In 1892, accompanied by his wife and daughter, Florence, he moved to Pomeroy, where his wife died in 1901. His family consisted of two sons and two adopted daughters.

Elmer T., in 1888 married Lou Alice, daughter of Rev. John A. Griffin, occupies his own farm of 160 acres on sections 36 and 25, and has a family of four children, Elmer Claudius, Howard T., Louis Hal and Byron Vaughn.

Elwin F., M. D., after graduating at Epworth Academy, Coe College and from the medical department of the Northwestern University, Chicago, in 1894, has since been engaged in the practice of medicine at Eveleth, Minn.

Sarah (Young) in 1897 married John Hamerson, who in 1878 came to Grant township with the family of Wm. J. Curkeet, and entering the ministry of the M. E. church, served as pastor of the churches at Wall Lake, Fonda, Schaller, Duncombe, Hawarden and Whittimore, Iowa, and is now at Canton, S. D.

Florence (Duer) is at home.

**Reamer** John A., brother of Thomas, lived a number of years during the 80's on Sec. 6, Colfax township. He was a member of Co. 111, N. Y. Inf. He and Catherine, his wife, are now living at Perry. Their family consisted of six children. Eugene is located in Minnesota. Eva M. married Robert M. Legg and died in 1896. Lydia married Frieb Legg and lives in Calhoun county. Luke is at Spencer, Carrie at Keosauqua and John, the youngest, died a few years ago.

**Rude** Eric Peterson (b. 1838, d. 1901), and Nils P., his brother, are two men that have been prominently identified with the history of Grant township since 1871.

Peter Erickson, their father, lived upon a small farm near Christiana, Norway, that was called Ballingrude. Both of their parents died when they were young, and when they inherited their father's homestead they received

also its name and were called Ballingrude. When they were filing their claims for homesteads, at the land office in Fort Dodge, they were induced to drop most of this long name and have since been called "Rude."

In the spring of 1871 they located on homesteads of 80 acres each in Grant township. They came to their homesteads empty handed and just before the period of hard times. They yielded not to the discouragements that confronted them in the early days, and both accumulated a clever competency for their large families and the eventide of their own lives.

Eric, the oldest, at Christiana in 1860, married a lady, who in 1869 came with him to Clayton county, Iowa, where she died later that year, leaving one son, Peter Eric. August 23, 1873, he married Clara, daughter of Lars Hanson, and of their family of eleven children, nine are living, namely, Lewis M., Ida A., Emil A., Roy G., Calvin H., Alfred L., Bert E., Mabel L. and Cornelia L.

He improved his homestead with good buildings and groves and increased it to 250 acres. He was a liberal member and faithful worker in the Lutheran church at Rusk from the time it was organized in 1878 until his decease Feb. 3, 1901. He performed a very prominent part in the management of the affairs of the township, serving six years as president of the school board, seven as assessor, and ten as treasurer of the school funds. He was a man whose sense of honor was quickly perceived and he was widely known throughout the county.

Peter E. (b. Norway 1861), his oldest son, in 1887 married Johanna Calbaken and located in Clay county, Minn., where he is now the owner of a finely improved farm of 240 acres and has a family of four children.

**Rude** Nils Peter (b. Norway 1841), in 1868 emigrated to Wisconsin where later that year he married Annetta

Mallingen (b. Norway 1838). In 1869 they came to Fort Dodge and the next spring to their homestead on Sec. 34, Grant township, which he has since improved with good buildings and enlarged to 180 acres. By working on the railroad he saved the funds that enabled him to erect his humble pioneer cabin. He stuck to the farm, when it meant hard work and poor pay, and is now gratified at the result. He is an active and faithful member of the M. E. church and has been a trustee of the township fifteen years. His family consists of six children, William, Anna, who in 1894 married Sylvester Pierce, a stock dealer, lives at Pomeroy and has two children; Irene, who in 1896 married Robert Pierce, a farmer, lives in Colfax township and has one child, Lawrence; Milford, Della and Alvin.

**Rude** Anton Peterson (b. Norway 1858), brother of N. P., in 1896 married Lucy Anderson, a teacher, occupies a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 22, and has two children, Alvin and Florence Irene.

**Smith** George W. (b. 1836), resident of Grant from 1870 to 1882, was the son of John and Olive (Pearsall) Smith and a native of New York, where in 1861 he married Almira C. Henry. In 1867 he moved to Cedar county, Iowa, and in 1870 to Sec. 26, Grant township. He participated in the organization of the township, served as one of its first trustees and as the first treasurer of the school funds. In 1881 his estimable wife, who had been very useful in the settlement, died leaving one son, Walter J. The next year he moved to Pomeroy and engaged in the implement business. In 1900 he moved to Fort Dodge. In 1882 he married Gertrude Whaley, of Oswego, N. Y., and their family consists of one daughter, Effie. Walter J., in 1891, married Cora G. Holcomb, embarked in the insurance business at Pomeroy and has a family of five children, Ed-

na, Iva, Margarite, Elwood and Esther.

**Synsteliën** Matthew J. (b. 1849), owner of a fine dairy farm of 160 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, is a native of Norway and in 1867 came with his parents to Rock county, Wis. In 1870 he came with his brother, Nils C. Synsteliën and family, to Grant township, where in 1872 he entered as a homestead the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28. In 1882 he married Maria Hagen (b. 1857) and has one son, Bernhard Julius.

**Synsteliën** Nils C. (b. Norway 1841), came to Grant in 1870 and bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33. A few years later he moved to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Colfax township, where he still resides. His finely improved farm of 106 acres is used exclusively for dairy purposes. In 1881 he married Kari Amundsend and has one daughter, Julia Maria.

These two brothers are worthy citizens. By hard work and an economical use of the proceeds of the farm and dairy, they have secured fine homes and a clever competency, and they now bless the star of fortune that guided them to the rich prairies of Pocahontas county.

**Terry** David (b. 1834), owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on Sec. 31 since 1889, is a native of Vermont, where, in 1864, he married Sarah Lane and soon afterward located in Livingston county, Ill. In the fall of 1872 he secured a homestead on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Dover township, which he improved and occupied during the next seven years. He is a man of excellent principles, an industrious worker and is highly esteemed as a citizen.

His family consisted of six children. Emma married Millard Butler, editor of the Kansas City Daily Journal and has one child, Laura. Nellie married Owen Phillips, a farmer, and lives near Pocahontas. William A., Arthur J., Hazel M. and Edith M. are at home.

**Tollefsrude** Hans Cristopher (b. Jan. 1, 1822), resident of Rusk, and the venerable head of the Tollefsrude families in Pocahontas county, is a native of Torpen, Norder Land, Norway, the son of Christoffer Hoovel (Oct. 14, 1781—1869) and Marit (Kold) Tollefsrude, whose bones rest there beneath the sod on the Tollefsrude farm. On this farm he grew to manhood and served a carpenter's apprenticeship.

In 1844 he married Bereth C. Lunde and coming to America, located in the wilds of southern Wisconsin. In 1852 he went to California and during the next four years engaged in mining. In 1857 he resumed farming in Wisconsin. In 1878 he located on Sec. 28, Grant township, where he had purchased 400 acres of land in 1868, and his two sons, C. H. and E. M., had located on homesteads in 1870 and '71, respectively. The Tollefsrude home on this farm was a pretty cottage in the center of a shady and grassy lawn. Numerous groves and rows of trees were planted near it and the farm was increased to 680 acres. He has been living in retirement since 1892 and the cottage has been moved to Rusk.

In 1865-6 he visited the place of his birth and scenes of his youth; also many interesting places in Denmark, Sweden, England, Scotland and Germany. The Guy Mannering, the vessel on which he went, was shipwrecked and lost off the west coast of Scotland Dec. 31, 1865, and he was one of the few passengers saved, reaching the Island of Iona after terrible hardship and suffering.

He has been president of the Tollefsrude family association in America since its organization at Rusk May 17, 1900. The object of this association is to gather and preserve the facts relating to the history of the family for the promotion of family reunions and the edification of future genera-

tions. This association was effected through the efforts of C. H. Tollefsrude, of Rolfe, its secretary, who has already enrolled nearly 300 members in America, 54 of whom, from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, were present at the second biennial reunion, held at Rusk Oct. 14, 1901. This association is believed to be the first of its kind among the Norwegians in this country.

The Tollefsrude farm in Norway has borne the family name for several hundred years. It consists of a small tract of cultivated land bordering large mountain pastures that include a lake having good fisheries that also pertain to it. Life in these rugged and elevated pastures during the summer season is arduous and lonely, but he who toils there acquires that ruddy health and strength that is even better than a fortune. Dairies were located in them at which the milk from the sheep and goats was made into cheese and butter. The boyhood of H. C. Tollefsrude was passed in these mountain pastures where he assisted those that herded the cattle and other stock during the summer months. Breathing the pure mountain air while engaged vigorously in this outdoor employment, he acquired there that iron constitution that has carried him through hardships to which a man less rugged would have succumbed.

He has taken a leading part in the development of Grant township since his settlement in it. His family consisted of three children, Elisha M., Julia A. (see Monkelién), and Christian Hansen (see page 531), who resides at Rolfe.

**Tollefsrude** Elisha M. (b 1848), is a native of Newark, Wis., where he was raised on a farm. At 16 he enlisted as a member of Co. D, 43rd Wis. Inf. and continued in the service until the close of the civil war. In 1871 he came to Iowa and located on



MRS. H.L. NORTON.



HANS. C. TOLLEFSRUDE.



BERETH C. TOLLEFSRUDE.

GRANT



ELISHA M. TOLLEFSRUDE.



MR. & MRS. FELIX W. PARRISH.



MRS. GEO. SMITH.

TOWNSHIP.



MRS. LOTTIE THORNTON.



L. J. & W. C. LIEB.



CHARLES E. PARRISH.

GRANT TOWNSHIP

First settlers and two of the first children born in the township, per favor C. H. Tollefsrude.



TORKEL LARSON AND FAMILY



ANDREW G. BLOMBERG AND FAMILY

Grant and Marshall.



a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 28, Grant township, which he still occupies and has enlarged to 200 acres. His were the first improvements at Rusk and his cozy home, now surrounded by evergreens and other ornamental trees, is called the "Evergreen Lodge." He was one of the original promoters and has been treasurer of the Grant Creamery Association since it was organized. He was one of the original members and is now a trustee of the Lutheran church at Rusk.

In 1872 he married Sarah C. Rostad of Rock county, Wis., and their family consists of four children.

Rose May in 1893 married Eric O. Christeson (see Christeson); Emma Luella, Cyrus Hanford and Winifred Blanche are at home.

**Trenary** Charles (b. 1842), owner of a fine farm of 280 acres on Sec. 36, is a native of Cornwall, England. At four years of age he came with his parents and located near Platteville, Wis., where in 1866 he married Caroline Grindrod and located on a farm. Five years later he moved to Fayette county, Wis., and in 1887 to his present farm on which Rufus F. Hull, during his residence on it, erected the large square house that is still enjoyed. He is a successful and aggressive farmer and highly esteemed as a citizen. He is president of the trustees and a liberal supporter of the M. E. church, in Lincoln township. He has raised a family of nine children, one having died at five in 1889.

Leon C. (b. 1867) in 1892 married Jennie, daughter of Richard Mates, and occupies a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 30, Lincoln township, which he has improved with good buildings. He has one daughter, Mabel.

Edward (b. 1869) in 1896 married Lilly Brown, occupies a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 30, Lincoln township, and has three children, Gertie, Lisle and Gladdis.

Ida Pearl in 1891 married Wellington F. Crummer (see Crummer).

Cora in 1900 married James Burlington who occupies a farm of 160 acres in Grant township and has one child, Coburn.

Clarence, Belle, a teacher; Robert, Blanche M. and Bessie E. are at home.

**Vaughn** Ira Gillis, owner and occupant of a fine farm of 160 acres on Sec. 32, is the son of Harvey B. Vaughn, who with wife and five children, Ira, Henrietta, Eugene and Eudora (twins, latter dead), and Adele, in June, 1869, located on a homestead on SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, Lizard township. About 1875 Harvey moved to Webster county, but soon afterward returned to Lizard township where he died in 1895. His wife died in 1881. His family consisted of six children.

Ira G., the oldest, in 1882 married Ida F. Norton, located first in Lizard township and in 1889 on his present farm which he has improved with good buildings and groves. He has one daughter, Goldie May.

Henrietta married Byron Moore and lives at Council Bluffs; Eugene, a carpenter, lives at Denver; Adele married Charles Harris, a farmer, and lives at Rolfe; Edward died at 21.

**Wallow** Anna Mrs., sister of A. T. Omtvedt, occupant of a well improved farm of 400 acres on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 30, Grant township, since 1880, is a native of Norway. On coming to this country she located in Chicago where in 1865 she became the wife of Ole Moe, who in 1868 at Fort Dodge, made the purchase of the land above described. Later he made other purchases in this county while residing in Chicago, and after visiting it in 1870, mysteriously disappeared, being recognized last at Fort Dodge. He left one son, George Moe, who on attaining manhood, became an auctioneer and in 1899 located in Idaho.

In 1873 Mrs. Moe became the wife of Nels N. Wallow. In 1880 they located in Grant township where he

died in 1893, leaving a family of six children; Elmer, Alfred, Aleeda, who in 1900 married Arthur L. Norton of Keokuk county; Amelia, who in 1901 married Gust T. Johnson; Elvin and Harry.

RAKE'S SALVE.

Asher W. Rake in the early days manufactured and sold in Grant and other parts of the county a salve for the healing of cuts, burns, etc., that caused him to be widely and favorably known. It was called "Rake's Salve," was of good quality and sold

for 50 cents a box. Its formula was as follows: Take one pound each of rosin, mutton tallow, beeswax, sweet oil, and one-half pound of camphor gum; dissolve each separately and then boil together slightly.

This incident calls to mind the fact that the oldest medical formula, according to a French medical journal, was one for a hair tonic for an Egyptian queen. It is dated 400 B. C. and directs that dogs' paws and asses' hoofs be boiled with dates in oil.



XX.

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

I count this thing to be grandly true;  
That a noble deed is a step toward God,  
Lifting the soul from the common clod  
To a purer air and a broader view.

—Holland.

GENERAL FEATURES.



**L**AKE township (91-31) is situated in the east tier of the county, and received its name from the fact that it included several small lakes, of which the largest is called Lizard lake. This lake is located on sections 22 and 27, and is about one mile long and a half mile wide. It is a body of fresh water and has a fringe of natural timber along its eastern shore. The other lakes are located on sections 10 and 20, two on each. The surface of the township is principally a rich and fertile prairie and it is traversed in a

southeasterly direction by the north and west branches of Lizard creek.

On Sept. 15, 1860, the territory included in this township was assigned to Clinton. On Dec. 1, 1862, the south row of sections, and on Sept. 6, 1870, the remainder of it was assigned to Lizard. June 5, 1877, it was established under the name of "Burke," but on Sept. 3rd following the name was changed to "Lake." It was organized Oct. 9, 1877. On Sept. 12, 1894, it was divided into two voting precincts, designated Lake No. 1 and Lake No. 2, the latter including only the E½ Sec. 1, on which the west half of Gilmore City is located.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

As the advance guard of the pioneer settlers moved westward from Fort Dodge, it reached the southeast corner of Lake township in 1856, when Caspar Henry Brockshink (p. 161) and family located on Sec. 36. On July 8, 1856, he entered the first claim for lands in the township, a pre-emption claim for 160 acres on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ . He built his house, 20x24 and 18 feet high, in 1857, from timber obtained along the north branch of Lizard creek, which crossed the farm. During their first two years his family was the only resident one in the township.

In June, 1858, the remainder of this section was entered by Patrick Forey, Edward Quinn, John Martin, H. M. Whedon and Thompson, Martin, Samuel and Marselaer Rea. The Reas and Whedon were purchasers and did not become residents. Forey, Quinn and Martin filed pre-emptor's claims. The only other pre-emptor's claim in the township was filed by John W. Russell June 7, 1858, for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34. There were no homesteads in this township. All of the odd numbered sections on Dec. 27, 1858, were assigned to the grant to the Dubuque & Pacific railroad and nearly all of the remaining lands were bought by non-resident purchasers in July and August, 1858.

Of the pre-emptors last named only Forey and family resided any length of time in the township.

John W. Russell secured the patent for his land in 1861 but lived most of the time with his brother, Philip, in Lizard township, enlisted in the civil war and died soon after it.

John Martin entered the W $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and after a residence of a few months, moved to Fort Dodge, where for many years afterwards he kept a boarding house. He had been preceded on this claim by a German whose name has been forgotten, and who lived in a cave he had

constructed in a clump of timber. One day in 1858, when his wife was at home alone, some troublesome Indians surrounded the place, sounded the warwhoop, danced about an hour, shot the dog at the door of the cave, and then sauntered off in the direction of the Des Moines river. The poor woman was so frightened that when her husband returned they left the frontier. A few years after Martin left this farm, it was purchased by Michael Fitzgerald, who still owns and occupies it.

Edward Quinn, who entered the S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, 80 acres, was a brother of the wife of Patrick Forey, came with him from St. Louis in 1856, and had also his experience in locating on railroad lands in Jackson township, Webster county. He was one of the few men among the early settlers that had a team of horses. He secured a patent for the land but resided on it only a very short time. He moved to Fort Dodge and began to keep hotel. Three years later he moved to Colorado and it is believed that he and wife were murdered by the Indians on the plains in 1865, while returning to Fort Dodge. He was a graduate of Dublin college and a good performer on the piano and violin.

Patrick Forey (p. 165) moving to his claim on the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, in the spring of 1858, a few months later that year, leased and began to occupy the home of the Brockshinks who then moved to Clay county. He continued to reside here until the year 1865 when he moved to Sec. 2, Lizard township. During the last six years of this period he and his family were the only residents of the township. He was a man of intelligence and influence and became well known to all the early settlers in this county. He participated in the first election held in this county and in 1860 assisted in the organization of Clinton township in which he was included. He was elected one of the first justices of Clinton township

and as one of the first trustees of that township served four years, 1861-62, '64-65.

In 1865 Dennis Mulholland, who bought the Brockshink farm, became the successor on it of Patrick Forey, and during the next five years, he and his family were the only residents in the township. In 1870 Joseph S. Thurber and Michael Fitzgerald (b. Ireland 1837) became residents, the latter on the Martin farm on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36. The next year Michael McCormick (Ireland 1857) located on Sec. 22. In 1872 John Oldaker (Ohio 1839) located on Sec. 6. About this period John W. O'Keefe (Ireland 1848) located on Sec. 34, George Dickinson (N. Y. 1852) on Sec. 30, and John Donahoe (Ireland 1828) on Sec. 25. In 1876 H. A. Chipman (Vt. 1843) located on Sec. 17, Edwin D. Dunn (Ireland 1847) on Sec. 26, and Charles Rahdohl on Sec. 3. In the spring of 1877 Gerd and Charles Elsen located on adjoining farms on Sec. 33. There had also arrived during these years preceding the organization of the township, John Buckner, James Cook and Uriah Elliott, all of whom were leading and influential citizens at that time.

Other permanent residents that came soon afterwards were John Lotz (Mich. 1851) who in 1880 located on Sec. 8; E. S. Whittlesey (N. Y. 1853) who in 1881 located on Sec. 34; Thos. Nolan, Levi Garlock and F. E. Beers who located at Gilmore City about the same time. In 1883 Hugh Ovens (Ireland 1824) located on Sec. 6, and John Weaver (Ohio 1843) on Sec. 14, and Will E. Campbell, who has become widely known as a breeder of Polled Angus cattle and English draft horses, on Sec. 15, but now at Gilmore City. In 1884 A. Guernsey located on Sec. 12, G. N. Tedford on Sec. 8, Geo. B. Jordan and E. H. Osborn on Sec. 24, and Geo. Landmesser on Sec. 35. In 1885 there was a large number of new residents among whom were

Richard Mullen, Albert Rohl, J. H. and George Schnug, J. W. and Samuel Wallace, Ludvig Doeringsfeld and James Steele.

#### ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

Lake township was organized at a public meeting held at the home of Uriah Elliott Oct. 9, 1877, James Cook acting as chairman. James Cook, Joseph S. Thurber and John Mulholland were appointed judges of the election held that day, and twelve votes were cast. The following officers were then elected: John Mulholland, Charles Elsen and Uriah Elliott, trustees; H. A. Chipman, clerk; J. S. Thurber and James Cook, justices; James Cook, assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES**—John Mulholland, 1878, '88; Charles Elsen '78-79; Uriah Elliott, '78-79, '83; LaFayette Chipman, '79; Gerd Elsen, '79-84, '97-1902; J. S. Thurber, '79-83; D. B. Hallock, '80; R. J. Weber, '81, '84-85; J. W. O Keefe, '82; John Oldaker, '84-88; J. Melsen, '85-87; David Mulholland, '86-87; George Schnug, '88-90; Wm. Minkle, '89-90; M. T. Sinnott, '89, '91-93; Henry R. Weber, '90-92, '95-97; Wm. Pahre, '91-92; Geo. McCormick, '93-94; John McCormick, '94-96; Wm. Doeringsfeld, '96-1902; Denny Donnelly, '98-1900; H. C. Wiegert, 1901-02; E. A. Daniels, 1902.

**CLERKS**—H. A. Chipman, 1878-79; Uriah Elliott, John McCormick, '81-84; Edward D. Dunn, '85-92; John Lotz, '93-94; Aaron Cook, '95-99; Peter H. Bendixen, R. E. Stamper, 1901-02.

**JUSTICES**—J. S. Thurber, 1878-79; Seymour Chipman, '79-80, '83-85; M. Leahy, '79; John Buckner, '81-82; Geo. Dickinson, '85-86; F. E. Beers, '83-90; John Lotz, '87-92; D. Mulholland, '91-93; M. Shine, Herman Weigert, '94-98; H. C. Jordan, '95-98; E. A. Daniels, '95-96; John Oldaker, E. S. Whittlesey, John McCormick, H. C. Jordan, E. F. Forey, P. H. Bendixen, John Crowell, J. M. Resh, T. J. Calligan.

**ASSESSORS**—James Cook, '78; H. A.

Chipman, John Buckner, '80-81; F. E. Beers, '82-3; J. W. O'Keefe, '84-6; Wm. Nolan, '87-88; P. H. McCormick '89; Chris Cain, '97-98, 1901-02; E. G. Fargo, '99-1900.

At a special election held Aug. 20, 1881, to vote aid to the St. Louis & North-Western R. R., 23 votes were cast, 8 for and 15 against it.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

During the year 1877, when Lake was still included in Lizard township, the citizens met several times as electors of Lizard township to attend to the school interests intrusted to them. The first meeting was held March 5, 1877. At this meeting nothing more seems to have been done than to elect John Buckner chairman and J. S. Thurber secretary of the meeting. One week later, pursuant to adjournment, they met again and on motion of Geo. Dickinson, it was decided to levy a tax of \$300 on the taxable property of the township for school purposes. One week later, March 19, the directors previously elected met at the home of Geo. Dickinson and organized by the election of John Buckner, chairman; H. A. Chipman, secretary; Gerd Elsen, treasurer. On Oct. 23, the directors met at the home of Uriah Elliott, one of their number, to arrange for one or more schools that winter. After the discussion of several propositions, however, it was decided to have none. On Dec. 29, Thurber plead for a three months school at his home, but his request was not granted. On Jan. 19, 1878, the directors met again at the home of Uriah Elliott and closed a contract with E. K. Cain for the erection of three school rooms, all to be completed by April 1. He employed Joseph Osborn to assist him to build them, and they were located, No. 1 on Sec. 17, in the Thurber settlement; No. 2 on the farm of Michael McCormick, Sec. 22, and No. 3 on the Mulholland farm on Sec. 36.

On March 4, 1878, the township hav-

ing been organized the previous fall, the electors of Lake township met at the home of Uriah Elliott, John Buckner serving as chairman, and H. A. Chipman as secretary. John Buckner, J. S. Thurber and Michael Fitzgerald were elected as the first board of directors of Lake township. At another public meeting held one week later at the same place it was decided to levy a tax of \$150 for building purposes. The powers and duties conferred by law on the district meeting were then delegated to the board of directors, who met one week later and organized by electing John Buckner, president; H. A. Chipman, secretary; and Gerd Elsen, treasurer.

Three schools were established that spring and the teachers employed that year were J. Sinnott, Lillie Chipman, Mary Walsh and Mary E. Mulholland. In 1879 they were M. Fitzgerald, Jos. S. Thurber, Mary Griffin, Mary C. Conley and H. A. Chipman.

In 1882 the little pioneer school rooms were replaced by larger and better buildings.

In 1885 M. A. Leahy was employed to plant shade trees around No. 2 and No. 5, and the next year Gilmore City was set off as an independent district. In 1893 the board was increased from 3 to 9 members and the next year the seventh building was built by E. G. Fargo. In 1897 all the districts had been supplied with good buildings and the term was increased from 7 to 8 months.

Among the teachers that taught during the 80's were A. B., C. E. and Mary Condon; Annie Kelly, M. J. Calligan, W. F. Mulholland, W. F. Porter, Mary Torpy, Mary and Annie McCormick, Addie B. Cain, Florence M. Thurber, Wm. Nolan, Lizzie M. Ryan, Maggie C. McLarney, Mary J. Weaver and B. F. Ford.

The succession of school officers has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD—John

Buckner, 1877-78; James Mulholland, '79; D. B. Halleck, J. S. Thurber, '80; Uriah Elliott, '81; John McCormick, '82-83, '96-98; John Oldaker, '84, '87; Charles H. Halleck, '85-86; M. Wolfe, '88; Wm. Pahre, '89-90; E. G. Fargo, '91; Aaron Cook, '92; Michael Donnelly, '93; Geo. McCormick, '94-95; J. F. Rinehart, '97; J. M. Resh, 1900-01; H. C. Weigert.

SECRETARIES—H. A. Chipman, '77-78; M. P. Leahy, Uriah Elliott, John Buckner, Charles Elsen, '81; John W. Kief, '82-85; John McCormick, '86-90; E. A. Daniels, '91-92, '95-1900; E. G. Fargo, '93; P. H. McCormick, J. J. Donohoe, 1901-02.

TREASURERS—Gerd Elsen, '77-78, '80-84; E. D. Dunn, Levi Garlock, '85-88; D. Mulholland, '89-91; John Lotz, '92-95; E. S. Whittlesey, 1896-1901.

#### GILMORE CITY IND. DISTRICT.

PRESIDENTS—F. M. Coffin, '86-87; P. J. Gaughen, F. W. Coffin, L. E. England, '90-92, '95-96; R. H. VanAlstine, W. VanSteenburg, A. L. Belt, '97; W. E. Campbell, L. E. England, A. Guernsey, 1900-01.

SECRETARIES—F. G. Wright, '86-87; C. B. Moyer, '88-89; C. B. Fitch, '90-1902.

TREASURERS—Levi Garlock, '86-87; E. P. Jackson, L. E. England, John Weise, '90-92; L. H. VanAlstine, '93-1901.

The first teachers in this district were Capt. F. E. Beers, in a room over Conn's store in winter of 1882-83; and in the school house, Angeline Jackson, Charles Sargent, Ida Garlock, Miss McCormick and Mrs. E. Blake.

Recent teachers in this district have been: Principals—B. J. Stell, '97; Mrs. E. Blake, '98-1902. Assistants—Harriet Eversole, Mrs. Wagner, Ida Porterfield, Mattie Alexander, Mrs. Kate Melson, Ida Wallace, Mrs. Beguin, Mrs. Harrison and the Misses Woolman, Connor, Jenson and Cowie.

#### GILMORE CITY.

Gilmore City, a pretty town of 700

people, is located on the line between Pocahontas and Humboldt counties, on Sec. 1 of Lake, and Sec. 6 of Weaver township. The site of the town is an elevation so high that before the view was obstructed by artificial groves, there could be seen from it the three neighboring county seats—Pocahontas, Humboldt and Fort Dodge. It is on the line of the Des Moines and Ruthven branch of the C. R. I. & P. Ry., and was named in honor of its superintendent, C. N. Gilmore of Des Moines. The track was laid to Gilmore City about June 1, 1882, and this event led to the founding of the town. It is 18 miles northwest of Tara and is in the center of a rich agricultural section of country that at that time was comparatively unsettled, so that only here and there could be seen a spot of cultivated ground. The prairies, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass and flowers, and stretching away in every direction as far as the eye could reach, like a rolling sea of green and yellow hues, presented to the observer a scene as beautiful as the eye of man ever rested upon. It was a splendid range for stock and game, and a sporting engineer thought it not inappropriate to commemorate this fact in the names of the towns further north—Plover, Mallard and Curlew. The few old settlers of this section, who previously had to haul their lumber, coal and other necessities from Fort Dodge and other distant places, and did not leave their farms in grasshopper times, because they could not sell them for the price of government land, are now happy in the possession of valuable farms and comfortable homes.

About one third of the town of Gilmore City, including the depot, three grain elevators, two churches, the postoffice, a number of fine business blocks and dwelling houses, is in Lake township. The first part of this portion of the city was surveyed and

platted in May, 1884, by Lute C. Thornton for the North-Western Land Co. The street running north and south on the county line is called Gilmore street. It is intersected by Main street a short distance north of the depot. North of it are Whitehead and Spafford streets. In June, 1893, H. C. Jordan platted Jordan's Addition on Outlot No. 3, north of Whitehead street. On Nov. 15, 1895, Griswold's 2d Addition was platted on Outlot No. 4, south of the railroad, by M. W. Fitz, cashier of Griswold's bank at Manson, having Highland Avenue parallel with Gilmore street, and View, Fitz and Funk streets intersected by the avenue.

Near the city is a splendid quarry of limestone, that furnishes an inexhaustible supply of good rock either for building purposes or for use as a fertilizer. Many of the business blocks have been built of this substantial material and the large number of fine buildings erected would prove a credit to a town of much larger size. One of the largest general stores in the county will be found here.

The first store building was erected by L. E. Childs in 1882 and soon after its completion he was appointed postmaster. This was a frame building, and after the site of the town was permanently arranged, it was moved to its present location, where since 1891, it has been occupied by the Collins Bros.

#### POSTMASTERS.

In March, 1878, when the mail route from Pocahontas to Humboldt was established Mrs. E. C., wife of Sewall VanAlstine, was appointed postmistress of "Blooming Prairie" office at their home on Sec. 25, Clinton township. This office was maintained until about July 1, 1882, when it was transferred and the name changed to Gilmore City. The office here has always been in Pocahontas county and

the succession of postmasters has been as follows:

L. E. Childs, Rep., July 1, 1882 to May 1, 1886; Francis E. Beers, D., May 1, '86 to Oct. 1, '89; Henry C. Jordan, R., Oct. 1, '89-93; Joseph Collins, D., Oct. 1, '93-97; F. J. Tishenbanner, Oct. 1, '97 to date.

#### RAILROAD AGENTS.

The succession of railroad agents has been as follows:

C. S. Cooley, 1882-90; George Ogilvie, '90-92; E. A. Folsom, '92-94; M. A. Henry, '94-99; I. W. Brokaw, '99 to date.

#### NEWSPAPERS:

The first newspaper was the Gilmore City Times established by C. B. Moyer in June 1884. It was printed in Sioux City and, after March 1885, was edited by Theo. Dunn, who as editor was succeeded by Wm. Grove, who changed its name to the Gilmore Breeze, which was continued only a few months.

The Gilmore Gazette was established by F. J. Tishenbanner Nov. 10, 1886, and he conducted it until Sept. 20, 1888, when it was purchased by L. A. Woodward, Fred L. Ellis and John P. Pederson, each successively serving as editor a few months previous to this change. W. A. Howell became the successor of Woodward and in 1891 sold the outfit to Bruce & Lighter, proprietors of the Reveille at Rolfe.

The Gilmore City Globe was established in 1892 by W. R. Prewett. In 1893 he was succeeded by H. C. Marmon, who is still its editor and proprietor.

#### BANKS

The first bank was established in 1886 by Levi Garlock under the name of the Exchange Bank of Gilmore. The next year it was purchased by Leslie H. and Howard VanAlstine, its present proprietors. The other bank, the Security, is owned by their brother, Rollin VanAlstine and Lyman Beers.

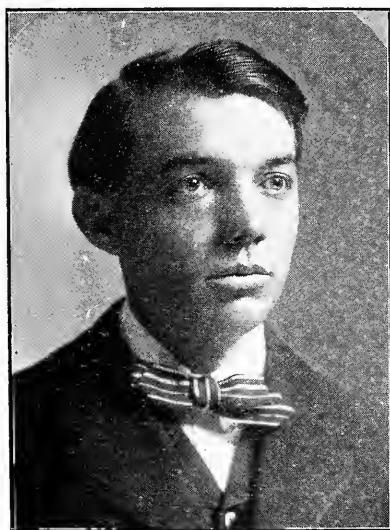




DAVID MULHOLLAND.



DR. F. W. McMANUS.

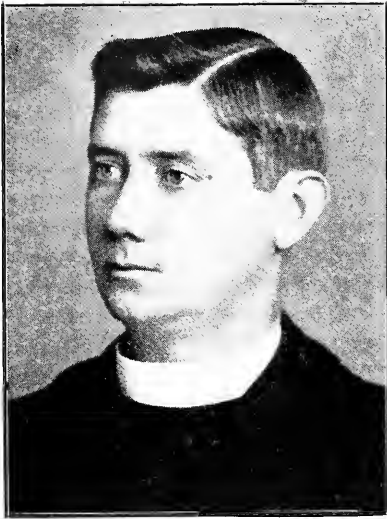


PERCY M. BEERS,  
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT.

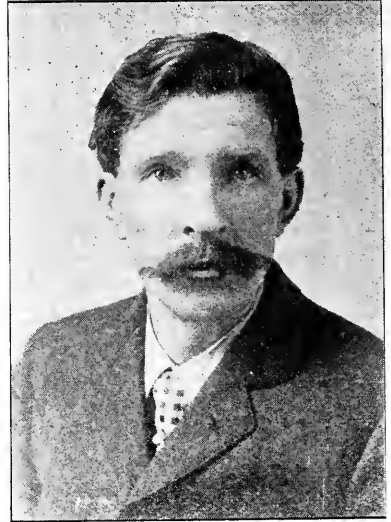


HENRY C. MARMON,  
EDITOR, GILMORE CITY GLOBE.

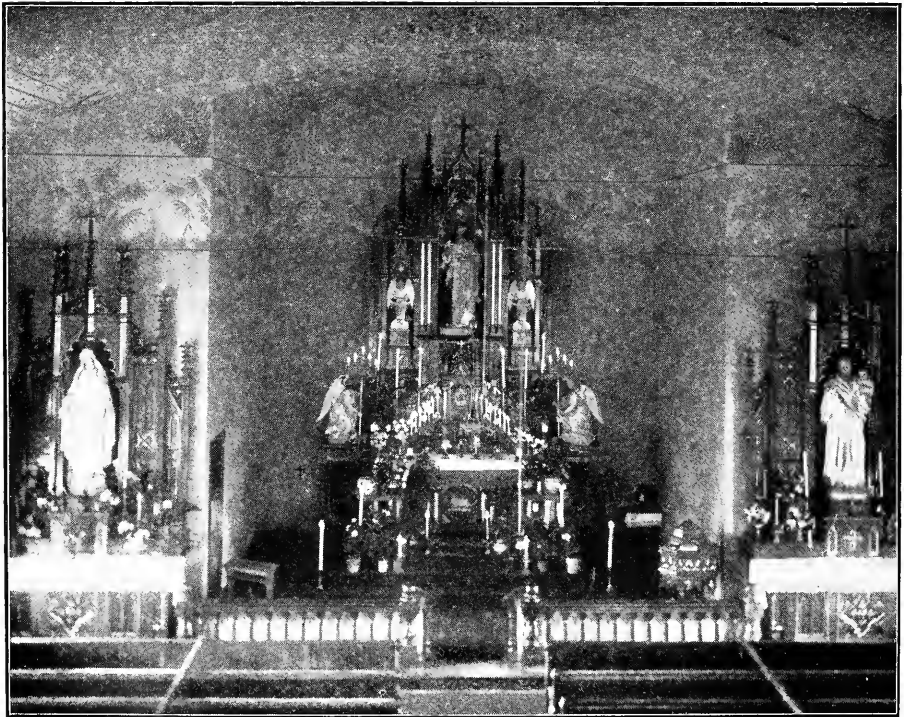
GILMORE CITY.



REV. STEPHEN BUTLER.  
CATHOLIC.



FRANK TISHENBANNER.



INTERIOR OF ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, GILMORE CITY.

## CHURCHES.

**PRESBYTERIAN**—During the summer of 1887 Rev. Geo. H. Duty, of Rolfe, began to hold services on alternate Sabbath afternoons at Gilmore City. In Aug., 1888, a Ladies' Aid society was organized and on Oct. 15th following, the walls of a church building having been nearly completed, a Presbyterian church of 15 members was organized by a committee of the Presbytery consisting of Rev. R. E. Flickinger, Rev. Geo. H. Duty and W. C. Kennedy of Rolfe. The charter members were James Steele, Chas. F. Shaffer and Robert Hunter, who were elected elders; Mrs. Anna Steele, Mrs. Mary J. Shaffer, Mrs. Jennie Hunter, Mrs. Mary H. Campbell, Mrs. Ida England, Mrs. Mary A. Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew O. Bobel, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Reed and their daughter, Blanche.

On Feb. 3, 1889, a church building 26x36 feet and costing \$1750 was dedicated. This was the first church building in Lake township. In 1900 a good parsonage was built and the congregation is now in a very flourishing condition.

The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. G. H. Duty, 1887—Oct. 1890; Rev. A. C. Keeler, Rolfe; Rev. J. Malcolm Smith, Pomeroy; Rev. Norman McLeod, D. D., Fort Dodge; Rev. O. F. Wisner and Rev. J. R. Vance, Pomeroy; Rev. W. C. Pinkerton and Rev. Frank E. Hoyt—1901.

**CATHOLIC**—The St. John's Catholic church at Gilmore was organized July 4, 1889, by Rev. John Hennessey, Arch-bishop, Dubuque, of the families of P. J. Gaughan, T. C. Connelly, P. J. Kelly, J. J. Griffin, D. Mulholland, M. McCormick, J. J. Sinnott, N. Myers, M. Fitzgerald, T. Comminskey and others. Soon afterward they erected a church building 72x38 feet, costing \$2,576, and a parsonage 32x32 feet, costing \$1,873. This church has had a steady and substantial growth

and Rev. T. D. Sullivan was the popular pastor of it from the time it was organized until April 1, 1901, when he was succeeded by Rev. Stephen Butler.

**COUNTY OFFICER**—Charles Elsen, supervisor since 1897, chairman of the board in 1902.

## GILMORE CITY IN 1901.

**POSTMASTER**—Frank J. Tishenbanner.

**MAYOR**—Leslie H. VanAlstine.

**COUNCILMEN**—Andrew Bull, Thos. J. Calligan, W. A. Pollock, John McBride, Jackson Hunter, Lyman Beers. Assessor, C. A. Belt; recorder, Geo. W. Spurger

**ATTORNEYS**—L. E. England, Percy M. Beers.

**BANKS**—Exchange (Est. 1886), L. H. VanAlstine, cashier; Security (Est. 1894), Rollin H. VanAlstine, president; Lyman Beers, cashier.

**BAKERY**—A. H. Keck, since 1896.

**BARBER**—Charles Kennedy, since 1888.

**BLACKSMITHS**—I. B. Long, since 1887; Geo. Lyst, (1895), Williams & Lyst.

**COAL**—Robert Gibson.

**CREAMERY**—A. A. Briggs.

**CARPENTERS**—Wm. Barker, C. L. Belt, Albert Freeman.

**CLOTHING STORE**—C. L. Hatfield, since 1893.

**CHURCHES**—Methodist Episcopal, built 1888, Rev. Arthur Ward, pastor; Presbyterian, 1889, Rev. Frank E. Hoyt, successor to Rev. W. E. Pinkerton, pastor; Catholic, 1889, Rev. Stephen Butler, pastor; Christian Church, 1896, Rev. B. F. Shoemaker, pastor.

**DENTIST**—J. T. Hambly.

**DRESS MAKER**—Mrs. Hattie Hogan.

**DRAYMEN**—McQuarrie & Brown, Wm. Rice.

**DRUGGISTS**—Gilmore City Drug Co., L. E. England, Esq., proprietor, since 1885; John McCormick, 1899.

**ELEVATORS**—C. W. Edgington, since

1891; Mullen & Hunter; Counselman & Co., Thomas Maher, manager.

FURNITURE—C. W. Smith, since 1896.

GENERAL MERCHANTS—Charles L. Hatfield, large department store since 1893; Guernsey & Spargur, 1895; J. J. Mulholland, 1899.

GROCERS—Pollock, since 1895; Green & Hartbelt.

GRAIN DEALERS—Mullen & Hunter, since 1887; T. F. Maher, 1892.

HARDWARE—E. P. McEvoy in 1901, successor of C. B. Fitch.

HARNESS MAKER—C. L. VanAlstine, since 1883.

HOTEL—Gilmore House, R. L. Weir.

IMPLEMENT DEALERS—Mullen & Hunter, since 1887; C. W. Edgington, 1898.

INSURANCE—Frank J. Tishenbanner.

JEWELRY—I. P. Davidson, since 1896.

LIVERY—Wm. Cavanaugh, since 1894.

LIVE STOCK—Andrew Bull, since 1894.

LUMBER & COAL—B. L. Willis Lumber Co., A. L. Gill, manager; Black & Neel.

MASONS AND PLASTERERS—Wilkes Woolman, O. A. Willard.

MEAT MARKET—City, T. McMahon & Co.

MILL—Horace Keller, since 1896.

MILLINERS—Mrs. M. J. Wood, Mrs. A. Brown.

NEWSPAPER—Gilmore City Globe, H. C. Marmod.

PAINTER—Mark Whitcomb.

POULTRY—John McBride.

PHOTOGRAPHER—D. A. Rice.

PHYSICIANS—A. L. Belt, M. D., since 1891; U. G. Grigsby, 1896.

TELEPHONE—Northwestern Co., Emery Eversole, operator; Iowa Co., L. E. England, operator.

RAILROAD—C. R. I. & P., I. W. Brokaw, agent.

REAL ESTATE—Rollin VanAlstine,

F. J. Tishenbanner, T. J. Calligan.

RESTAURANT—The Farmers—Benjamin Kidd.

SHOE MAKER—Joseph Hocking.

UNDERTAKER—C. W. Smith.

WAGON MAKER—I. B. Long, since 1887.

WELL DRILLER—Henry Hocking.

VETERINARY SURGEON—Wm. Saxby, 1879.

#### RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

On Feb. 1, 1902, two rural free delivery routes were established from Gilmore City. J. C. Smith was appointed carrier for route No. 1, which runs through south Avery, west Corinth and Weaver townships, Humboldt county, and D. A. Rice carrier for route No. 2, which passes through south Clinton, Lake and north Lizard townships, Pocahontas county. This last route rendered the Lizard post-office unnecessary and it was discontinued Feb. 1, 1902.

To keep them warm on cold days each carrier is provided with a muffled heater, that has the form of a small flat muff and is dropped on the floor of the conveyance. The fuel for this unique contrivance consists of a small cake of material resembling carbon, that, when heated in a stove a few minutes and placed in the center of it by means of a drawer, continues to burn without flame or smoke an entire day.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Bendixen** Peter H, (b. 1837), a resident successively of Des Moines, Clinton and Lake townships, is a native of Denmark, the son of Niels and Martha M. (Buck) Bendixen. His father, from his earliest recollection, was the owner and captain of a merchant vessel, which he sold in the spring of 1864, when the family came to America. Peter, coming to McHenry county, Ill., in 1861, found employment as a farm hand and clerk in a grocery store until the fall of 1863, when he returned to Denmark and

married Petra Alberta Svendsen. The next spring, accompanied by his wife, a sister and his parents, he located in McHenry county, Ill.

In the spring of 1869, making the trip in a lumber wagon, he moved to a rented farm in Des Moines township, this county. The next year he bought 80 acres on Sec. 33, Lake township, and his father 80 acres on Sec. 28. Later Peter bought 80 acres more on Sec. 27. Their nearest market then was Fort Dodge, afterward Manson, Humboldt, Algona, Rolfe and finally Gilmore City. The visits of the grasshoppers made it necessary for him to live two years on cornmeal, and to keep his horses the same period without grain.

His father died on his farm in 1881 at 81, and his mother in 1898 at 87. Both were devout members of the Lutheran church and are buried at Rolfe.

After his father's death Peter became the owner of 240 acres, which he occupied until 1893, when he moved first to southern Missouri and the next year to a farm of 160 acres in Ellington township, Palo Alto county. In 1898 he moved to a farm in Lake township and three years later to another one adjoining Gilmore City on the east, where he is now living. He is a man of considerable intelligence and rendered thirty years of public service in Clinton township, as follows: Assessor one year, a justice two years, a trustee two years, clerk four years, and secretary of the school board twenty-one years. In Lake he served as a justice and clerk in 1900. By his strict integrity and faithful performance of every duty devolving upon him he has won and held the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

His family consisted of eleven children. 1—Erasmus Nelson (b. Ill. 1864) married Elizabeth Christenson, occupies a farm of 160 acres on Sec. 28,

Clinton township, and has a family of six children. 2—William (b. Ill. 1866) married Minnie Thompson, lives in Minnesota and has one son. 3—Charles B. (b. Ill. 1868) married Carrie Kennedy, lives on 80 acres on Sec. 32, Clinton. 4—Maggie (b. Poc. Co. 1870) married Peter Hendrickson, a farmer, and has five children. 5—Alice B. married Charles Borg, owner of 80 acres on Sec. 32, Clinton, and has two children. 6—Matilda B. married Anton Peterson and lives at Gilmore City. 7—John (b. 1876) in 1901 married Emma Hanson and is proprietor of a blacksmith and wagon-maker shop at Westbrook, Minn. 8—Minnie B. married John Lyuch, a farmer. Albert G., Peter Hansen and Nellie B. are at home.

He died Feb. 11, 1902, three days after reading this sketch in The Fonda Times.

**Buckner** John, who acted a very prominent part in the early history of the township, was a professional trapper and fisherman, and also a squatter. He neither bought nor rented any land in Lake township, but built a shanty on the bank of Lizard lake and occupied it about seven years, from, about 1876 to 1883. He caught and sold fish to the early settlers in that vicinity and marketed annually a large amount of fur. He was a man of considerable influence and was accorded the honor of serving as chairman of several meetings of the citizens in 1877 and 1878 for the purpose of organizing the school district of the township. He served two years as the first president of the school board and two years also as a justice.

**Daniels** Emmet Abram (b. 1860), owner and occupant of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21 since 1885, is a native of Webster county, Iowa, the son of David M. and Sarah Daniels. In 1884 he married Ida Hayes and the next year located on his present farm. He was secretary of the school board seven years. His family consists of five children,

Martin F., Emmet G., Joel V., Clinton D. and Frederic J.

**Elsen** Henry, accompanied by wife and two sons, Gerd and Charles, in 1870 came from Germany and stopped in Lizard township. Three months later he located on a homestead of 80 acres on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Bellville township, which he improved and occupied during the next seven years. Here in 1876 his wife died at the age of 58. In the spring of 1877 he moved to a farm of 120 acres on Sec. 33, Lake township, where he died in 1884 at the age of 62. His family consisted of two sons and two daughters, the latter coming to this country in 1893.

**Elsen** Gerd (b. Ger. 1852), occupant of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, Lake township, and owner of a farm of 738 acres in that vicinity, is one of the most successful men in the township. His subsequent purchases have averaged 80 acres every three years since that date, and the buildings he has erected are among the largest and best in the township. He is a fine illustration of thrift on the farm and the success that has constantly crowned his labors has been no doubt due in great measure to the valuable co-operation of his excellent wife and family, as the latter have become able to render assistance. He was treasurer of the school funds seven years. He has been an active member and a trustee of the German Lutheran church of Lizard township since it was built in 1885.

In 1877 he married Louisa Redman, a native of Wisconsin, and of their family of thirteen children eight are living; Charles, William, Gerd, Harmon, Emma, Henry, Louie and Bernhard.

**Elsen** Charles (b. Ger. 1855), chairman of the board of county supervisors in 1902, became a resident of this county with his parents in 1870, first in Lizard and Bellville townships and of Sec. 33, Lake township, since 1877.

Beginning with a small farm of wild prairie he improved it, and, turning his attention to raising and fattening stock, has now a finely improved farm of 480 acres. He assisted in the organization of Lake township, served as one of its first trustees in 1878-79, and as secretary of the school board in 1881. He is now serving his sixth year as a member of the board of county supervisors.

In 1879 he married Caroline Kron and his family consists of eight children, Mary, Henrietta, Louisa, Annie, Carl, Bertha, Lena and Gerhard.

**Elsen** Carl B. (b. Ger. 1862), merchant and postmaster, is the son of Herman Gretjelina (Mueller) Elsen, and on coming to this country in 1881 located in Lake township. In 1891 he married Gerhardina Jaussen and in partnership with Otto Siebels, established a store and postoffice at the old Schoonmaker place on Sec. 4 Lizard township. In 1893 he became sole proprietor of the store and so continued until 1900, when he moved to Plymouth county.

**Elliott** Uriah, at whose home the first elections in the township were held in 1877 and 1878, was the owner and occupant of 40 acres on Sec. 22 from about 1875 to 1883. His family consisted of a wife and two children. He served two years as one of the first trustees, was township clerk and secretary of the school board in 1880, and was president of the latter in 1881. He was a very successful trapper and spent much of his time trapping around Lizard lake on the bank of which he lived.

**Hatfield** Charles L. (b. 1859), merchant, is a native of Evansville, Wis., the son of William H. and Margaret (Evans) Hatfield. In 1881 he married Seba Shaw, of Dayton, Wis., and located on a farm near Evansville. In the spring of 1892 he moved to Scranton, Iowa, and a few months later to a farm in Humboldt county. In 1893

he bought a half interest in the general store of W. T. White, Gilmore City, and has since been engaged in the mercantile business. In 1900 he became sole proprietor of this store, the largest in the city and one of the largest in this county. He is a modest, unassuming man and gives his undivided attention to his business. During most of the year a half dozen clerks are kept busy arranging the goods and waiting on the customers that daily throng this popular emporium of trade. His family consists of one child, Harold C.

**Leahy** Michael Anthony (b. 1818), resident of Gilmore City and owner of a good farm on Sec. 22, Lake township, is a native of Ireland and, coming to New York state in 1847, married there that year Catherin Roache (b. Ireland 1820). He found employment in railroad building, which was then a new enterprise. After a few years he moved to Michigan and two years later to a farm in Fayette county, Wis. In the spring of 1869 he located on 40 acres on Sec. 10, Lizard township, making the journey in a wagon, and ten years later on Sec. 22 Lake township where the family has secured many acres of land. His sons are practical and successful farmers. A few years ago he moved to Gilmore City. He and his wife are both four score years of age. His family consisted of eleven children, five of whom died under 16.

Nora married Michael Higgins, and Jane married James Saddler, and both live at Gilmore City. Michael P., a mason, married Ella Crowder and lives at Pocahontas. Thomas J. and Anna are at home. John, who married in 1895, and Agnes, who married Robert Hanke, a farmer, live in South Dakota.

**Marmon** Henry C. (b. 1856), editor of the Gilmore City Globe, is a native of Zanesfield, Ohio, the son of Asa and Mary Marmon. He was brought

up on a farm and there became inured to steady employment and hard work. In 1871 he moved with an uncle to Crawfordsville, Ind., and two years later to Polk county, Iowa, where in 1883 he found employment in the office of the Mitchellville Index. The next year he moved to Holt county, Neb., where in 1888 he married Ina A. Balcome. The next year he returned to Mitchellville and resumed work in the office of the Index. In 1893 he moved to Gilmore City where he has since been the editor and proprietor of the Globe, a five-column quarto. He has greatly improved this paper by adding to its outfit a good cylinder press and increasing the home print from two to four pages. He has one of the neatest and cleanest offices in the county and is an elder in the Presbyterian church. His family consists of two children, Harold A. and Ethel.

**McCormick** Michael (b. 1829; d. 1898), one of the early pioneers, was a native of Ireland and in his boyhood came with his parents to upper Canada, now the province of Ontario. In 1854 in Gray county he married Honora Kearns, and in 1871 located on Sec. 22, Lake township. He was a lonely settler on the frontier for a number of years but did not become discouraged. He improved his farm on the prairie, increased it to 320 acres, and occupied it until the time of his death. He participated in the organization of Lake township and two of his sons, John, and Patrick, have been prominently identified with its history since that event.

His wife who was a native of Clare county, Ireland, died in 1889 in her 54th year. Their family consisted of eleven children, two of whom, Anna and Mrs. Mary Walsh, died in 1895.

John (b. Can. 1855), owner of the old home farm in Lake township, occupied it until 1899 when, accompanied by Elizabeth and Nora, two of his sis-

ters, he moved to Gilmore City where he has since been engaged in the drug business. In Lake he was a trustee two years, clerk four years, president and secretary of the school board each five years. Michael M. is the owner and occupant of 240 acres on sections 21 and 22. Patrick H. married Bridget, daughter of John Cain, and lives at Pocahontas. Mary married Philip Walsh, a farmer, and died in 1895, leaving five children, Margaret, Thomas, Philip, Edward and Nora. Thomas P. is the owner and occupant of 80 acres on Sec. 21. Margaret married William Bollard and lives on the old farm. Nellie lives with her sister Margaret and Rosa with her brother Patrick.

**Mulholland** Dennis (b. 1820), one of the most prominent of the pioneers of Lake township, was a native of Ireland. In his youth he came alone to Massachusetts, where he found employment in connection with the iron industry and married Margaret McEwen. A few years later he moved to St. Louis and in 1857 to a farm in Allamakee county, Iowa. In 1865 he located on the Brockshink farm on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Lake township, with a family of six children, and during the next five years they were the only residents of the township, the next to arrive being the families of Joseph S. Thurber and Michael Fitzgerald in 1870. He was a member of the Catholic church and lived on this farm until he died in 1873. His wife died at 72 in 1892.

Their family consisted of five children:

1. John J. one of the first trustees of the township, later became an invalid and died at St. Louis in 1897.

2. James J. in 1883 married Mary J., daughter of Nicholas Nolan, and located first on the old home farm, which he still owns. Later he moved to Gilmore City and engaged in the

hardware business, and since 1901 in general merchandise. His family consists of three children, William, Frank and Christopher.

3. Mary E., a teacher, is now a dressmaker at Dubuque.

4. David, a real estate agent, in 1886 married Maggie Condon and became proprietor of a general store in Gilmore City. In 1891 he embarked in the land, loan and insurance business, in connection with the purchase of hay and grain. Since 1901 he has devoted himself to the real estate business alone. He is the owner of 320 acres of land on Sec. 11, Lake township, and of other lands in that vicinity. He has become well and favorably known as one of the leading business men of Gilmore City. He served as a trustee and justice of the peace of Lake township. His family consists of four children, Matthias, Mary, Emmet and Clement.

5. William F., an insurance agent, in 1889 married Catherine, daughter of John Cain, and since 1891, has been engaged in the insurance business at Gilmore City. His family consists of four children, Frances, Margaret, Lucile and William.

**Oldaker** John (b. 1839), a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Lake township for many years, was a native of Ohio and located on Sec. 6 in 1872. He and his son Andrew became the owners of all of Sec. 7 and 80 acres on Sec. 6, making altogether 720 acres. He was highly esteemed as a citizen, and served two years as president of the school board and five years as a trustee. In the spring of 1900 this large and excellent family moved to Geddes, S. D.

**Tishenbanner** Frank J. (b. 1863) postmaster, is a native of Whiteside county, Ill., the son of Peter and Catherine (Wiseman) Tishenbanner. In 1870 he moved with his parents to Chicago, where he went to school and worked in a factory. In 1879 they



moved to Webster county, Iowa, and two years later to Sec. 27, Clinton township, Pocahontas county. Nov. 10, 1896, he began the publication of the Gazette, the first newspaper printed in Gilmore City, and continued its publication about eighteen months. He then returned alone to Chicago and found employment as a school teacher, traveling salesman and foreman of a machine shop. In 1889 he married Minnie Willette and two years later returned to the farm in Pocahontas county. He has been postmaster at Gilmore City since Oct. 1, 1897, and in this capacity has rendered the community a very efficient and acceptable service. His family consists of two children, Floyd and Lena.

He had two sisters, Lena and Susa, that came with him and his parents to the farm. Lena in 1889 married Eugene W. Otis and located in Des Moines, where she died in 1895. Susa died in 1891, and his mother in 1893. Frank now owns his father's farm and the latter lives with him.

**Thurber** Joseph S., one of the first justices, teachers and school directors, was the owner and occupant of 80 acres on Sec. 17 from 1870 to 1884. He served two years as a justice and five as a trustee. He came from Strawberry Point, Iowa, with a family consisting of wife and one son, and after a residence of about fourteen years in the township moved to California.

**Beers** Francis E. Captain (b. 1833), one of the most widely known of the citizens of Lake township, is a resident of Gilmore City and the owner of 360 acres of land adjoining that town. He is a native of Cayuga county, N. Y., the son of Lyman and Sally (Everett) Beers. His mother died when he was four years of age. Seven years later he moved with his father to Fairfield county, Conn., and in 1854, in his 21st year, graduated from the civil engineering department of the Wesleyan University at Middletown,

Conn. Soon afterward he came west and found employment as a railroad agent at Dunton, twenty-two miles from Chicago, but now called Arlington Heights and near the center of the city. He was compelled to relinquish this position on account of sickness and on recovery taught a term of school. May 1, 1856, in search of other employment, he came to Fort Dodge. In the fall of 1857 he was appointed surveyor of Webster county and rendered almost constant service in this capacity until some time in January, 1858 when his work was interrupted by heavy rains and a persistent overflow of water.

#### CAPTAIN OF WHEELBOAT—THE ROLLING WAVE.

The incidents that led to his being the captain of the first wheelboat and also of the first steamer that plied on the Des Moines river from Des Moines to Fort Dodge have their beginning at this period. The story of these boats and his connection with them not having been published hitherto, except a few brief references thereto, some of which are incorrect or wholly ignore Captain Beers, it has been deemed not inappropriate to present herewith a correct and quite full account of these interesting pioneer incidents.

In February 1858, F. E. Beers, William Beers, a carpenter, and an acquaintance that had come with him from Connecticut, and Oliver Ryall, who had entered a pre-emption claim up the river near Bradgate, were living together in a cabin in the edge of the timber on the river land claim of Aaron F. Blackshire, about two miles southeast of Fort Dodge. Not one of them had anything special to do. The financial panic of the previous year had put a sudden check on every new enterprise and closed nearly every avenue of employment. There was no railroad, no employment, no money, and the flooded condition of the

streams made travel by team almost impossible. As a matter of diversion F. E. Beers proposed that they join together and build a boat. Though not one of them had ever been a boatman, the proposition met with favor and a rude plan of a sidewheeler was soon approved. About six weeks were occupied in its construction, as the timber had to be cut from the stump, and when completed it was 40 feet long and 5 feet wide. Two side wheels, 5 feet in diameter and having paddles 6x22 inches, were located at the center, and they were connected by a crank so that four men standing in the middle of the boat might propel it. It was built in the ravine opposite the gypsum quarries, a mile from the river, and was drawn to the latter on a pair of bob sleds by Jacob Miracle about the first day of April, 1858. All efforts to maneuver it that day proved a disappointment. One week later they returned to the boat and, elevating the wheels so they would not dip so deep in the water, made a trip three miles up the river to Fort Dodge. Here their boat, the first one that had been built on the river north of Des Moines, was an object of curiosity to the entire population and awakened interest in river navigation.

It was called the Rolling Wave, and Howe, a merchant in Fort Dodge, being out of flour and having no prospect of getting any soon by conveyance, proposed to F. E. Beers, captain of the boat, to bring him a cargo of flour from Boone. He finally gave him an order on the miller there for forty sacks or 4,000 pounds of flour. The trip to Boone was made in two days, but when the miller learned there was no flour at Fort Dodge, its high price and the tonnage offered the captain, he accepted the order but loaded the flour on three wagons instead of the boat. Not daunted by this disappointment, Capt. Beers went further down the river to Elk Rapids

and, passing to the mill at Swede's Point, now Madrid, obtained 40 sacks of flour, paying for them with government scrip. As the boat sunk deeper into the water under this load it leaked considerably, until the water swelled the timber, and the wind was against them at first, so that at the end of the fifth day, they had gotten only five miles from the mill. Afterwards they made better speed and on the sixteenth day, when they were within five miles of their destination, the wind changing to the south, they hoisted their sail and moved up the river to Fort Dodge at a pace that relieved and gladdened every man on the boat.

The view of the river was not obstructed then as it is now, and when about noon the boat was anchored at a point south of the place now occupied by the Minneapolis depot, a crowd of men were waiting who took the flour as fast as it could be delivered to them and the change made, at \$6.00 per sack.

Towards evening on that same day the three teams from Boone arrived with their 40 sacks of flour for Howe. They were sixteen days in making the trip, and, according to their own explanation, over a good part of the distance they had to hitch the three teams to one wagon and, drawing it a short distance, had to return and bring the other two wagons one by one in the same way.

A few days later he returned to the mill at Swede's Point and brought 60 sacks of flour, making the round trip in ten days. He then went to Des Moines and brought five tons of freight, making the round trip in sixteen days.

#### THE STEAMBOAT—CHARLES ROGERS.

During his absence on this last trip the citizens of Fort Dodge, under the leadership of A. F. Blackshire and Henry Carse, became so much interested in the boat enterprise that they

began to subscribe stock at \$25 a share, and after his arrival organized a company for the purchase of a steamboat to ply on the Des Moines river between Fort Dodge and Des Moines. A. F. Blackshire, who was elected president of the company, subscribed \$250; Henry Carse, who was elected secretary and treasurer, subscribed \$500 at first and later paid \$500 more; F. E. Beers subscribed \$200 and later paid a good deal more; S. C. Hinton subscribed \$100; John F. Duncombe, Chas. Rand and others subscribed \$25 each. It was estimated that \$1700 would be required to purchase such a vessel as was needed, and when a little more than \$400 of the stock was paid, it was placed in the hands of F. E. Beers and he was commissioned to go to Pittsburgh to secure the steamboat, of which he was to be the captain.

Once more F. E. Beers started down the Des Moines river on the Rolling Wave, its last trip, taking with him four passengers to Des Moines. At this place he encountered a bridge so low that he had to remove the upper half of the side wheels in order to pass under it. Here he also received a number of passengers some of whom went with him as far as Bentonsport, the terminus of the railroad from Keokuk, where he left the boat forty miles above the latter place. Passing to St. Louis by rail and packet he secured a passage to Pittsburg where he arrived Aug. 6, 1858.

Three days after his arrival he concluded a contract with a ship builder at Manchester, a suburb of Allegheny City, for the construction of a rear-wheel steamboat 90 feet long, 19 feet wide and 5 feet deep at the bow. It was completed Oct. 14, 1858, at a cost of \$2,250 and was called "Charles Rogers" in honor of its builder. It was a powerful boat for its size, being equipped with steam and engine power sufficient to send it wherever it was wanted. It was built for river work

and set low in the water so as to pass under bridges.

Henry Carse, who arrived just before its completion with more money, was appointed clerk and he held that position as long as F. E. Beers continued as captain. Ed. Entwistle, of Des Moines, was appointed fireman. They employed pilots on the Ohio but when they arrived at St. Louis Capt. F. E. Beers took the wheel and became steersman. When they arrived at Keokuk, two days later, or about Nov. 1, 1858, Lord & King, general merchants, gave them a cargo of meat and groceries for Des Moines, the freight bill of which was \$500, and King arranged to go with them to pay the bills along the route.

The trip down the Ohio river had been attended with no small amount of troublesome anxiety, thrilling incidents and practical experience. Having nearly exhausted their cash in paying for the boat, they had to trust to a favoring providence to replenish their treasury along the route. Beers and Carse were wholly inexperienced as boatmen, and having to employ pilots with whom they were unacquainted, this was done with a varying success. The first one soon ran the boat aground. Soon afterward the fireman reported that one of the grate-bars in the fire box of the engine was burned out, and the only available substitute was a stick of hickory wood, which had to be frequently replaced, until they came to a sunken vessel from which they obtained a half dozen grate-bars of a size that happened to suit them exactly. At length their supply of coal became exhausted and they had to stop and gather driftwood for fuel. After a few stops for this purpose they were so fortunate as to find and secure about fifteen cords of good hickory cordwood that had lodged on an island in the river. They had no passengers at first, and the fares re-

ceived from those that were carried further down the river scarcely paid the wages of the pilots. When, therefore, they had secured a valuable cargo, and Mr. King was on board to pay their bills, they indulged in a sigh of relief, fancied their troubles were over and believed they were now on the high road to success.

The first trip from Keokuk to Des Moines was successfully made in five days, and greatly relieved the financial embarrassment of the proprietors of the boat. They passed through three locks, namely, at Croton, Bonaparte and Bentonsport, where dams had been built across the river, all within forty miles of Keokuk. The locks had been constructed by the Des Moines River Navigation & Improvement Co., about the year 1854. About forty miles below Des Moines A. F. Blackshire joined the boat to act as a huckster on it, having come down the river from Fort Dodge in a little skiff, which he then turned adrift.

Returning to Keokuk they received and delivered another cargo of goods for Lord & King at Des Moines.

They immediately returned to Keokuk and received a third cargo, but this trip was not so successful. When they arrived at Bentonsport the cold weather set in and they became ice-bound opposite the home of Thomas Cooper, near Ottumwa. The cargo, first transferred to Cooper's barn, was later delivered by means of teams sent from Des Moines. David Nash, the engineer, and James Jolley, the mate, then returned to their homes. Henry Carse, the clerk, engaged a school in that vicinity and began teaching, and Capt. Beers remained with the boat to guard it from the ice and look after the cargo.

On Feb. 23, 1859, the ice on the preceding day having left the river at Ottumwa, Capt. Beers secured some new employees and resumed operations with the boat. Henry Carse re-

mained to complete his term of school and then joined him. James Drake was employed as engineer, and, at Keosauqua, Mr. Foote as pilot.

A few miles above Keosauqua the ice had formed a great gorge and as it passed further down the river it left on each side of the channel a wall of broken ice that ranged from ten to twenty feet in height. They had to cut a channel through this barrier of ice before they could get to the shore at that place. Inasmuch as the locks below were reported in bad condition he did not go further down the river than Bentonsport, and after making two trips between that place and Ottumwa, went to Keokuk and returned to Des Moines with 50 tons of freight, arriving there March 9th, a short time before the Clara Hine, they being the first arrivals at that place in 1859.

This was the "boss year" for steamboats on the Des Moines river. There were many heavy rains and they occurred at the right intervals to keep the river in good condition for boating. The season opening early did not close until the first of September, and two of the steamboats, the Charles Rogers and De Moine Belle made trips from Keokuk to Fort Dodge. \*

#### RACE WITH CLARA HINE.

For some reason unknown to Capt. Beers, about a dozen passengers that had engaged passage on the Charles Rogers from Des Moines to Keokuk disappointed him by getting aboard the Clara Hine at the time of departure. This was exasperating and led to a test of the speed of the two vessels. Leaving Des Moines about the same time the Charles Rogers soon out-distanced the Clara Hine and arrived at Keokuk five hours before it. Both vessels were unloaded and reloaded as speedily as possible, and starting about the same time, the Clara Hine managed to get first into the lock at Keosauqua. Considerable

\* Tacitus Hussey.

difficulty was experienced in passing through the lock, and Capt. Beers, becoming impatient at the delay, decided to try the experiment of running his boat up over the breast of the dam in the middle of the river, and, performing this feat successfully, passed the Clara Hine while it was still in lock. The latter, however, overtook the Charles Rogers about fifty miles above the lock and arrived first at Des Moines. This race served to show that a steamboat that could easily outrun another one going down might not be able to keep pace with it when going up the stream.

#### TRIP TO FORT DODGE.

As the "Charles Rogers" was a Fort Dodge enterprise and those in charge of the boat had now gained some experience in its management, it was decided to make a trip to Fort Dodge. For this trip it was loaded with a cargo by Chittenden & McGavie, wholesalers at Keokuk, who sent Mr. Davis with it. In order to pass under the bridge at Des Moines the upper half of the wheel and the top of the pilot house had to be removed to the shore and afterward be replaced. Another serious barrier at this place was the mill-dam, the danger from which was increased by a ferry rope that was stretched across the river only a few rods above the breast of it. Capt. Beers requested Hall, the ferryman, to lower this rope so the boat might pass over it; but as he could not be persuaded that it was possible for a boat to surmount the dam, he made no promise, save to await the outcome of affairs. To avoid the danger incident to being checkmated by the rope, a man with a hatchet was sent from the boat to the place where the rope was fastened to the bank, opposite the ferryman, with instruction to sever the rope when the signal should be given. As the boat crested the dam the signal was given and the ferryman was about as much surprised

and exasperated at the sudden fall of rope as he was astonished at the unexpected and wonderful feat of the boat.

The Charles Rogers, on this trip, arrived at Des Moines March 27th and at Fort Dodge April 6th, 1859. As it came steaming up the river near the latter place the whistle was blown so long and loud that the citizens imagined a Mississippi river fleet had arrived. Before the bowline had been fastened to the levee, the bank of the river was lined with a mixed multitude, consisting of men, women and children, every one of whom was anxious to get a sight of this plucky, noisy new-comer.

The arrival of this first steamboat, with 40 tons of freight for the merchants of Fort Dodge, was regarded as a very auspicious event by the ambitious citizens of that lonely village on the frontier. It was graphically described by John F. Duncombe, editor of the Fort Dodge Sentinel, in the issue of April 7, 1859, as follows:

"Yesterday will be remembered by many of our citizens with feelings of extreme delight for many years to come. By the politeness of Capt. F. E. Beers of the Charles Rogers, in company with about one hundred and twenty ladies and gentlemen of the town, we enjoyed the first steamboat pleasure excursion on the Upper Des Moines river. The steamboat left the landing at Colburn's ferry about two o'clock and, after crossing the river and loading with coal from the mines, started for the upper ferry. All our citizens are well aware of the shallow ford on the river at the rapids at this place, which is at the head of the island at the mouth of Soldier creek, where the river divides into two equal channels. The steamer passed up over the rapids in the west channel with perfect ease. At the mouth of Lizard creek the boat "rounded to" and passed down the eastern channel of the river at race horse speed. The scene was one of intense interest. The beautiful plateau, on which our town is built, was covered with men, women and children. The river bank was lined with joyful spectators. Repeat-

ed hurrahs from those on the boat and on the shore filled the air. The steamer passed down the river about six miles and then returned. Old grudges were settled, downcast looks brightened, hard times were forgotten. Everybody seemed perfectly happy. We had always believed that the navigation of our river was practical, but to know it, filled our citizens with more pleasure than a fortune. We felt like a boy with a rattlebox, "only more so." The Fort Dodge steamboat enterprise has succeeded, in spite of sneers and jeers. Long may the friends of the enterprise live to remember the first pleasure excursion at Fort Dodge."

At a public meeting of the citizens held at the school house that evening, Major Williams presiding, a vote of thanks was tendered Capt. F. E. Beers, Henry Carse, T. A. Blackshire and others associated with them in this steamboat project, and the merchants were urged to patronize the Charles Rogers in preference to any other boat.

There was then nearly twice as much water in the Des Moines river than there is now, and while the water continued at high tide two loads of long joists and other timber for the Fort Dodge court house were hauled from the mouth of the Boone river. Four other trips were also made from Fort Dodge to Des Moines for salt and other commodities.

On June 12, 1859, another steamboat, the Des Moines Belle, 100 feet in length, arrived at Fort Dodge, while Capt. Beers was unloading his boat, and the sight of these two steamers lying at the wharf at the same time caused the hearts of the citizens to beat high with hope a second time, but with the departure of these two steamboats on this occasion the running of steamboats on the Upper Des Moines river forever ceased. The next season was a dry one and no boatman thought of undertaking a task so hazardous.

Capt. Beers, passing to Des Moines

in June, continued boating on the river, and during that season made altogether thirteen round trips from Des Moines to Keokuk. The boat traveled about fifteen miles an hour and a trip was usually made in three days. The winter of 1859 overtook him at Keokuk, and in March 1860 the Charles Rogers was sold to Capt. Thomas Davis, of Bellevue, Jackson county, Iowa.

The persons associated with Capt. Beers in its management during the year 1859 were Henry Carse, clerk; David Smith, assistant clerk; Frank Davidson, pilot; James Cleve, mate, and Mahlon Davidson, engineer. Aaron F. Blackshire most of the time, both in 1858 and 1859, traveled with the boat, carrying a stock of groceries for sale and buying hides and other articles of country produce. He sold his interest in the boat to Capt. Beers about Dec. 1, 1858, when they had their first experience with ice at Bentonsport, when about forty passengers had to be removed from it to the shore, 200 feet distant, over thin ice by means of planks and two tightly drawn ropes.

Tacitus Hussey, in the annals of Iowa, April 1900, states that steamboating on the Des Moines river began in 1837, when Capt. A. W. Harlan ran a steamboat up the river to Keosauqua, and Capt. S. B. Clark another one, the S. B. Science, to Iowaville, a few miles above Keosauqua. The latter is the first one mentioned in history and it went as far as the white man had at that date ventured in the wild west. The first steamboat to arrive at Des Moines was the Agatha, under Capt. J. M. Lafferty, in May 1843. It was accompanied by two keel-boats and brought a cargo of government supplies from St. Louis, Mo., and soldiers from Fort Sanford, near Ottumwa, to Fort Des Moines. During the early 50's about a dozen steamboats made occasional trips on the river from Keokuk to Des Moines in the spring of the year, and in 1854 and 1858 respectively, the Colonel Morgan and the Des Moines Belle were built at Des Moines.

## SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.

Capt. Beers spent the winter of 1859-60 at Keokuk, and the next two years at Pella and Eddyville, where he secured and delivered 750 cords of wood for the Des Moines Valley R. R. Co. He then returned to his home in Connecticut, passing through the oil region in Pennsylvania. Soon afterward he returned to the oil region, built another steamboat and ran it on the Allegheny during the next six years.

In 1871 he married Emma I. Trask, a graduate of the State Normal school at Edinboro, Pa., and soon afterward located on a farm in Grundy county, Iowa. In the fall of 1881 he moved to Des Moines, and the next spring to his present farm, adjoining Gilmore City on Sec. 1, Lake township. His fine dwelling house was built in 1895. He taught the first school in Gilmore City during the winter of 1882-83 in a room over Conn's store. He was postmaster at Gilmore City from June 1, 1886 to Aug. 18, 1889. In 1892 and for several years afterwards he built the bridges in this county and has done

the same work for Humboldt and Webster counties. In 1890 he was the democratic nominee for clerk of the district court in this county, and in 1893 for representative in the legislature.

His family consisted of seven children.

Lyman (b. Iowa 1872), cashier of the Security bank, Gilmore City, in 1896 married Kittie A. Blain of Fort Dodge and has two children, Glenn and Dorothy.

Bertha M. in 1896 married Howard VanAlstine (see VanAlstine).

Percy (b. 1875), a graduate of the Iowa College of Law in 1899, in 1901 began the practice of Law in Gilmore City.

Ralph W. (b. 1878), a farmer, in 1900 married Fannie, daughter of Wilder Small, and lives near Pocahontas.

Bessie died in 1901 in her 20th year, while attending the West high school at Des Moines.

Fern and Helen are at home. Bertha, Percy, Bessie and Fern graduated from the Gilmore City high school.

## XXI.

### LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

“Happy the man whose wish and care,  
A few paternal acres bound;  
Content to breathe his native air,  
And improve his own ground.”

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nations wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.—Lincoln at Gettysburg.



LINCOLN Township (91-32), was assigned to Lizard in March 1859 and to Clinton June 4, 1861. On Dec. 1, 1862, the south row of sections and, before June 6, 1870, the remainder of the township was again assigned to Lizard. June 4, 1872, it was established under the name of “Carter” township, and on July 8, 1873, the name was changed to “Lincoln.”

Henry C. Carter, after whom it was first named by the board of county supervisors in session at old Rolfe, was a wealthy sugar refiner of New York City. In 1858 he bought over 4,000 acres of land in the township, including all of sections 5, 7, 9, 21, 27 and 31, and being the largest land

owner, expressed a desire that the township be called “Carter,” “Grace” or “Henrietta,” in honor of himself or one of his two daughters, who owned parts of 12, 18 and 20. The use of this name did not meet the approval of the early settlers of the township, and they sent a protest to the board of supervisors. He then proposed to donate \$100 toward the purchase of libraries for their public schools, if they would be content to let the name remain. The patriotic sentiment, however, that Abraham Lincoln, as well as Grant and Colfax, should be remembered in this county, found its expression and the matter being submitted to a vote of the citizens at the school election in the spring of 1873, every man voted to change the name to “Lincoln.” That



settled it and the board at their next meeting changed the name.

The surface of this township is a level or undulating prairie, and the soil is a rich black loam, slightly mixed with sand. It is crossed by the west branch of the Lizard, and since 1900, by the Gowrie & Northwestern branch of the C. R. I. & P. Ry.

All the odd numbered sections were included in the grant to the Dubuque & Pacific R. R. Co., and all the even numbered ones, with the exception of section 32 and some small portions of the other sections in the south row, were sold in August 1858. Those that secured homesteads in it were C. M. Saylor, Abram Hoover, John Dooley, P. H. Niemand, Bernard Stegge, John Kreul, William Boog, Thomas and John Harrold, T. L. Dean, Gust Olson and William Springstube.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

In May, 1869, C. M. Saylor, accompanied by Abram Hoover and his brother, both of the latter being young men, came to Lincoln, then a part of Lizard township, and secured homesteads of 80 acres each on sections 32 and 30, respectively. Abram Hoover made his home with Saylor during the next five years, and the latter built on his homestead in 1869, for their mutual protection, a hut 8x12 feet, that had a door but no window. They slept in the wagon at night and their discomfort was unnecessarily increased by the fact that none of them had yet learned that a little smoke would keep off the mosquitoes.

On June 12, 1869, John Kreul, Bernard Stegge and Peter H. Niemand, all natives of Germany, coming together in wagons with their families from Highland, Iowa county, Wis., entered and began to occupy homesteads on Sec. 32. These men erected the first shanties in the township and were the only residents in it during the winter of 1869-70.

**1870.** In April, 1870, Saylor built

a story and a half house, 16x24 feet, that formed a part of his home until 1898. His wife and two sons, Calvin B. and Sanford, arrived that month. Other families that arrived that year were those of John Dooley on Sec. 30, Thomas Harrold and his brother John, a young man, both on Sec. 34, and Thomas L. Dean.

**1871.** In 1871 there arrived the families of Wm. Springstube, Wm. Boog and his two sons, Frank W. and Charles G., and A. A. Loats.

**1872.** In 1872 the new arrivals were E. K. Cain and Gust F. Olson.

**1873-80.** During the next few years there arrived the families of John Olson, Wm. Tobin, Diederick Beneke, Martin Eral, John Bartok, Frank Hronek, Bernard Schmaing, Wm. Barger and Mr. Enfield.

The next arrivals in the early 80's were Asa F. Embree, S. E. Reinholtz, John F. Pattee, F. F. Fitzgerald, Joseph S. Pulley, John W. Reimer, Patrick Russell, W. D. Paddock and Theo. Miller.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The first election was held Nov. 5, 1872, when John Dooley, John Kreul and John Harrold were elected as the first trustees; C. M. Saylor, clerk; T. L. Dean and C. M. Saylor, justices, and Abram Hoover, assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES**—John Dooley, 1873-75; Bernard Stegge, '73, '76-80; Wm. Boog, John Kreul, '74-94; John Harrold, 74-77; John Bartok, '76-77; Peter H. Niemand, '79 84; Diederick Beneke, '81-82; Frank Hronek, '83; W. D. Paddock, '84; John Stegge, '85-86; F. F. Fitzgerald, '85-1900; Wm. H. Kreul, '87-89; F. Wm. Boog, '90-95; J. S. Pulley, '95-1902; Henry Stegge, '96 98; John H. Niemand, '98-1902; John L. Pascal.

**CLERKS**—C. M. Saylor, '73, '75-77, '79-80, '83-84; T. L. Dean, '74, '77-78, '86; Henry Stegge, '81-82; W. D. Pat-

tee, '85; J. E. Pattee, '87-91; Theodore Miller, '92-1900; Henry Stegge.

JUSTICES—Thomas L. Dean, '73-1900; C. M. Saylor, '73, '80-83; E. K. Cain, '74-77; J. F. Pattee, '80-83; W. D. Pad-dock, '84; (Elected but not serving: J. H. Niemand, Edward Forey, Terrence Doyle, John Stegge, Charles Kezer); Frank Reyburn, '93-94; Lee C. Trenary, '95-96; John O'Malley, '97-1902; John W. Reimer, J. J. Harrold.

ASSESSORS—Abram Hoover, '73; John Dooley, E. K. Cain, '75-76, '83-84; John H. Niemand, '77-82, '87-88; Theo. Miller, '85-86; Terrence Doyle, '89-90; A. A. Loats, '91-92; Wm. S. Clark, '93-94; Geo. L. Dean, '95-99; John H. Lampe, 1900-01.

It may be noted that John Kreul, serving as a trustee 21 years, and Thomas L. Dean as a justice 23 years, the latter from the organization of the township, take the plum for long periods of successive service in the same office in Pocahontas county.

On Sept. 13, 1887, at a special elec-tion, a tax of 2½ mills was voted the Sioux City & North-Eastern R. R. Co., Sioux City to Livermore, the vote be-ing 23 for and 6 against.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school was a four months term taught by Christian M. Saylor in his own home during the winter of 1871-72. Eighteen pupils were en-rolled. The first school house was built in 1872 on Sec. 32, and C. M. Say-lor taught the first school in it the next winter.

The Lincoln township school board was organized March 10, 1873, by the election of John Dooley, president; T. L. Dean, secretary, and John Kreul, treasurer. At this meeting it was de-cided to insure the school house that had been built the previous year by Lizard townshipschool board to which they had belonged. One week later it was decided to have two schools that year, one seven and the other four months. March 8, 1875, the various

powers conferred by law on the dis-trict meeting were delegated to the board of directors, and arrangements were made for three schools. In 1876 1½ mills were levied for library pur-poses. Feb. 8, 1893, the township was divided into nine equal districts, the membership of the board was increas-ed from three to nine and the persons elected that year were Maurice Wolfe, Henry Stegge, Patrick Russell, Emory Peterson, Theodore Miller, George Hauk, Gust Peterson, Herman Beneke and C. M. Saylor.

The succession of School officers has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD—John Dooley, 1873-75; John H. Niemand, '76-78, '86; Wm. Barger, '79; Wm. Boog, '80-81; Henry Stegge, C. M. Saylor, T. L. Dean, '84-85; Terrence Doyle, '87-89; A. A. Loats, Patrick Russell, Jos. Wolfe, Theo. Miller, '93-98; J. S. Pul-ley, Milo L. Miller, 1900-01.

SECRETARIES—T. L. Dean, '73-74; C. M. Saylor, '75-77, '87; E. K. Cain, '78-82; Bernard Kreul, J. F. Pattee, '84-85; F. F. Fitzgerald, '86, '94-99; W. D. Pattee, '88-89; Frank Reyburn, '90-94; Theo. Miller, 1900-01.

TREASURERS—John Kreul, '73-77; T. L. Dean, '78-82; Wm. Tobin, '83-86; C. M. Saylor, '87-93; Terrence Doyle, '94-1901.

Early teachers were C. M. Saylor, Catherine E. Condon, J. E. Pattee, Catherine Ellis, Annie Condon, Alice Fifield, Jennie E. Lucas (Saylor), Liz-zie O'Niel, Wm. Russell, Mary A. Mc-Larney, Lillian Chipman, M. E. Mul-holland, N. M. Moore, Ella Westlake, Lizzie Fitzgerald, Wm. D. Pattee, Effie Wallace, Eliza Forey, Alice Bur-nett, Henrietta Torpy, Minnie Le-hane and Wm. Edwards.

#### PIONEER EVENTS.

The first homestead claim was filed by Thomas Harrold on Sec. 34, and he was assisted in locating it April 21, 1869, by J. J. Bruce.

The first child born in the township





C. M. SAYLOR AND FAMILY, Lincoln Township.

Mr. Saylor.

Herbert B.

Mrs. Saylor.

William J.

Calvin M.

was Maggie Stegge. She was born Nov. 13, 1871, and died of diphtheria Jan. 3, 1882.

The first marriage occurred April 1, 1873, when Justice C. M. Saylor performed the ceremony for Diederick Beneke and Augusta Niemand.

The first religious services were held in the school house in the fall of 1874 by Rev. Mr. Martin, a German Lutheran minister from Fort Dodge.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

**SHERIFFS**—Thomas L. Dean, '78-79; John F. Pattee, '84-89.

**SUPERVISOR**—Terrence Doyle, '93-1901.

#### METHODIST CHURCH.

The Methodist church of Lincoln township was organized in 1876 in Grant township (p. 602), where the services continued to be held until July, 1889, when they were transferred to the Saylor school house (No. 7) in Lincoln. Sept. 10, 1899, a church building that is 22x36 feet with lecture room 14x20 feet, both 12-foot studs, spire 36 feet high, and costing \$1600, was dedicated. It is located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30. This appointment was connected with the charge at Fonda (p. 372) until 1886; with Pomeroy until Oct. 1, 1901, and since that date with Pocahontas under the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Flint. The succession of pastors that served it from Pomeroy is as follows; Revs. H. L. Smith, G. E. Stump, G. N. Pendall, W. T. McDonald, '92-94; E. R. Mahood, C. E. Chapler, '95-97; J. C. Harvey, '98-99; I. N. Tibbitts. The board of trustees for a number of years has consisted of Charles Trenary (president), John A. Crummer (secretary), C. M. Saylor (treasurer), Joseph S. Pulley and N. P. Rude. C. M. Saylor, who was superintendent of the Sunday school several years in Grant, continued to serve in that capacity until 1898, when he was succeeded by J. A. Crummer.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Beneke** Diederick (b. 1842), one of

the most prosperous farmers of Lincoln, is a native of Germany, the son of Henry and Mary Beneke. In 1868, accompanied by his younger brother, Rudolph (p. 345), he came to Scott county, Iowa, and four years later to the Cain homestead on Sec. 4, Belleville township, this county. The sod shanty occupied here had a rather open shingle roof and the next winter, when he arose one morning after a blizzard that had raged during the night, he alighted in about two inches of snow that lay on the floor and the top covers of the bed. In 1879 he moved to Lake township, and in 1880 to a farm of 60 acres of raw prairie on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25, Lincoln township. On this little farm this industrious and persevering Teuton decided to make a permanent settlement. Here he found a suitable place to acquire a home and lay the foundations for successful farming operations. He erected first a stable, but during the next six months used it as a dwelling place, while he completed a story and a half house of the standard size, 16x24 feet. Two large additions have since been added, making this a spacious and comfortable home. As the years have passed eight additions ranging from 40 to 160 acres have been added to the little farm of twenty years ago, making it now 720 acres. Groves have been planted, wells have been sunk, windmills have been erected and in 1887 a large barn. One cannot visit this farm and see its improvements, cultivated fields and fine stock, without drawing the inference that here is a fine illustration of that which intelligent industry can accomplish on a Pocahontas county farm. Mr. Beneke's success on the farm is all the more marked by reason of the fact that in the old country he had never harnessed a horse or put a hand on a plow. When he became of age he spent two years as a soldier in the German army, and previous to that time,

found employment on a vessel and in a factory. When he came to this country he was not only willing but wanted to learn how to raise cattle and hogs successfully, and his efforts have been well rewarded. He has also succeeded in raising a large and industrious family, every one of whom perceives that there is no place like the farm. "Don't go in debt" and "Don't sell grain from the farm," are two rules he never violates.

In 1873 he married Augusta, daughter of Peter H. Niemand, and she died at 26 in 1881, leaving two children, John (b. 1876) and Henry (b. 1878). In 1882 he married Amelia Julius (b. Ger. 1855) and their family consists of seven children, Mary, William, Bertha, Diederic, Gerret, Arthur and Annie.

**Dooley** John (b. 1827), one of the early pioneers of Lincoln township, is a native of Ireland and, coming to America in 1853, located in Maryland where he found employment in the iron industry. Later he moved to Ohio, where he married Ellen Riley. Soon afterward he moved to Pennsylvania, then to Webster Co., Iowa, and in the spring of 1870 to a homestead on Sec. 30, Lincoln township, which he improved and occupied during the next ten years. Later he located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Dover township, and since 1887, he has been a resident of Fonda.

He participated in the organization of Lincoln township in 1872, and served as one of the first trustees two years, as assessor one year, and as the first president of the school board three years. He was janitor of the public school building in Fonda 13 years, 1888-1900. At the public patriotic exercises held Feb. 22, 1893, he was presented with an arm chair as a token of esteem from the teachers and pupils, who expressed their appreciation of his faithfulness in the following words, uttered by their

spokesman, Earl McKee: "We would not detract any praise from our great patriot, George Washington, in speaking of the character of this adopted son of our mother country. He is a man in whose integrity there can be no doubt, and he enjoys the confidence of every one. Although he is not an American by birth, he is one whom any one may be proud to name among his friends. He has made his own way in life, and, like Washington, he is first in everything; first to win the esteem of others; first to lead when a leader is needed, and first in knowledge, which Bacon says is 'power.'"

He came to America that he might enjoy political freedom, and, as a matter of principle, naturally became a free soiler, a whig, and later a republican. He is a devout member of the Catholic church.

His family consisted of nine children:

Bernard F. lives on a homestead in Day county, S. D. Catherine in 1889 married James Bell, a farmer, who lives in Warren county. She died in 1895, leaving four children.

Michael J., who continued to occupy the Cedar Creek farm in Dover township until 1902, during the last ten years invested considerable money and became the most prominent raiser of pure bred Poland China hogs in the vicinity of Fonda. He secured a royal strain of strong, heavy boned animals that possessed acknowledged merit. His annual public sales since 1893 attracted buyers from considerable distances, and he won many prizes, not only at the Big Four, but also at the Iowa State fair. At his closing out sale, Feb. 25, 1902, Pilates Chief brought \$310 and the first 50 head \$2073, an average of \$46 45 a head. In 1895 he was the democratic nominee for sheriff.

John W. and Mary A. live in Sioux City. James is in Minnesota, and

Ellen E., a teacher, is at home. Patrick is owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres in Dover township. Bridget A., in 1900 married Daniel Burns and lives in Sioux City. Joseph J., democratic nominee for clerk of the district court in 1900, is clerking in Fonda.

**Doyle Terrence** (b. 1841), county supervisor 1893-1901, is a native of Ireland, the son of John and Mary Doyle. In 1843 his father came to Grant county, Wis., and the next year he and his mother followed. In 1868 Terrence married Ellesie Williams of Illinois, and located on a farm. In 1871 he moved upon a farm belonging to W. H. Duckworth of New York, and he has continued in his employ ever since, a period of 31 years. In 1885, the latter, having through Mr. Doyle purchased all of Sec. 16, Lincoln township, transferred him to it that he might superintend its improvement and also its operations as a stock farm. The barn, 56x82 feet, was built in 1885, and the house the next year. No grain has been sold from this farm but much has been bought and fed upon it. Investments in fine horses resulted in a loss of \$5,000, Investments in cattle and hogs have been attended with large profits, though in 1896 as many as 290 head of the latter were lost by cholera. He has found preventives better than cures for this disease, and since the above loss, has used one secured by Mr. Duckworth, which is spread over the straw on which the pigs have to lie at night. He has obtained the best results by raising Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

Terrence Doyle, as chairman of the board of county supervisors 1898-1901, was the most prominent democratic official during that period in Pochontas county. He has taken an active part in the management of the public affairs of Lincoln township since he became a resident in it, and

of this county during the nine years he was a member of the board of county supervisors, 1893-1901. In Lincoln his personal influence began to be effectively felt for the improvement of the finances of the township in 1887, when he was made a member and also president of the school board. Two years later he served as assessor and in 1894 was made treasurer of the school funds, a position he has continued to hold until the present time.

In the performance of every trust committed to him he has proven himself a man of fine executive ability and unflinching integrity. He believes that a citizen owes much to his town, county, state and country, and if called on to serve in an official capacity, he should not only be willing to do so, but regarding his office as a public trust, should do all in his power to promote the public welfare. As a public official he has made a splendid record.

In 1902, the Duckworth farm having been sold the previous year, he moved to a small farm near Pochontas. His family consists of six children: Leonard, Henry C., Thomas D., Terrence A., William D., all of whom are natives of Wisconsin, and Ellen M.

**Fitzgerald Francis Frederic** (b. 1857), owner and occupant of 160 acres on Sec. 23 from 1882 to 1902, is a native of Madison, Wis., where he grew to manhood on a farm. Locating on this farm in 1882, he began the work of its improvement and the next year married Amy L. Reed of Clinton township. He erected good buildings that are conveniently arranged and planted a large maple grove around them. He also planted an orchard that is now in good fruit bearing condition. All the improvements suggest careful forethought in their arrangement and present an aspect of neatness and thrift. He served six years as secre-

tary of the school board and sixteen as a township trustee.

**Kreul** John (b. 1827; d. 1895), a township trustee from 1874 to 1894, was a native of Weseke, Ger., where in 1852 he married Helena Rosing. In 1862 he came to Highland, Iowa county, Wis. In the spring of 1869, accompanied by Bernard Stegge, Peter H. Niemand and their families, he located on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 32, Lincoln township. The sod house erected first for the comfort of his family was occupied several years. Later he built a good house and barn, and the grove planted in 1870 is one of the oldest in the township. At the time of his decease in 1895, he was the owner of 160 acres and had served as a trustee 21 of the 23 years that he had lived in it after it was organized. He was a faithful member of the Catholic church, a generous and charitable neighbor, and was highly esteemed as a citizen. His wife died at 67 in 1897.

His family consisted of seven children, one of whom died in infancy, Johanna (b. Ger. 1857) in 1872 married Henry Lampe (p. 352). Mary Catherine (b. Ger. 1857) in 1880 married Joseph E. Pattee (see Pattee). Bernard E. (b. Ger. 1859) in 1892 married Maria McAlpin, lives at Pocahontas and has four children, Mamie, Edward, Rosa and Florence. Gertrude in 1880 married Frank Shuster, a farmer, lives in Minnesota and has ten children, William, Andrew, John, Thomas, Lena, Anna, Mary, Gertrude, Joseph and Edward. Rosa in 1888 married Thomas Lehoutz and lives in Nebraska. Annie in 1888 married Nicholas Dozycimski, a native of Poland who now owns and occupies the old homestead and has five children, Helen, Mary, Angie, Joseph and Fronica.

**Niemand** Peter H., one of the first settlers of Lincoln, is a native of Germany, where he married and had a family of two children, when he lo-

cated in Iowa county, Wis. In 1869 he secured a homestead on Sec. 32, Lincoln township, which he still occupies. He has enlarged it to 160 acres and improved it with good buildings. He assisted in the organization of the township and served as a trustee six years, 1879-84. His wife died in 1892 at a good old age. His family consisted of two children. John H. (b. Ger. 1852) came with his parents to Iowa county, Wis., and in 1869 to Lincoln township where he married Mary Klingbeil and now owns 160 acres on Sec. 29. He is a prosperous farmer and has taken an active part in the management of the public affairs of the township, having served for four years as president of the school board, four years as a trustee and eight as assessor. Three of his five children are living, Ida, John and William. Augusta in 1873 married Diederick Beneke and died in 1881, leaving two children, John and Henry.

**Olson** Gustave, a native of Sweden, who in 1872 secured a homestead on Sec. 32, improved and occupied it until about 1884, when he sold it to his brother John and moved to Sec. 3, Colfax township, where he died in 1895, leaving a wife, one son and two daughters. One of the latter married Theodore Lindstrum, a farmer, and lives in Bellville. His wife, son and daughter continue to live in Colfax. In 1883 when he had a family of five children, all girls, four of them and one of his sister's children, a boy that he had taken to raise, died of diphtheria in the short period of a few weeks. One of them was saved by sending her to Fort Dodge.

**Olson** John (b. Sweden 1851), brother of Gustave, on coming to this county located first in Webster county, and in 1875 on 40 acres on Sec. 31, Lincoln township. He has met with a fine degree of success on the farm and is now the happy owner of 320 acres.



The buildings he has erected rank among the good ones in the township. His family consists of three children, Matilda, Edwin and Arthur.

**Olson** Andrew, another brother of Gustave, is the owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on Sec. 36, Grant township, and he has a family of seven children.

**Pattee** John Frank (b. Nov. 10, 1833; d. Aug. 23, 1889), sheriff of Pocahontas county from Jan. 1, 1884 to Aug. 23, 1889, was a native of Smithville, Maine. In 1850 he moved to Ohio and, as a contractor, engaged in railroad building. In 1852 he married Mary F. Ady and in the fall of 1856 moved to Farrington, Ill., where in 1867 she died, leaving a family of three sons, Joseph Edward, William D. and Charles F. In 1869 he married Lucinda Taylor and moved to a farm in Boone county, Iowa. In March 1878 he located on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, Lincoln township, Pocahontas county, where he continued to reside until the time of his decease, Aug. 23, 1889. He served three years in the civil war as sergeant of Co. F, 86th Ill. Infantry, one year as deputy sheriff in Fulton county, Ill., two years as deputy sheriff of Boone county, Iowa, and was serving his third term as sheriff of this county at the time of his death. In the performance of his official duties he became widely known and was highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of making his acquaintance.

His second wife died in Nov., 1888. His family consisted of the three sons named above.

Joseph Edward (b. 1855), a teacher, in 1880 married Catherine Kreul and became proprietor of the Nemick hotel at Pocahontas. In December following leaving the hotel he resumed teaching and has continued to reside at Pocahontas. In 1880 he was the republican nominee for recorder, but lacked 11 votes of an election. His family consists of seven children,

Mary, William, Rosella, Joseph, Adeline, Agnes and Frank L.

William D. (b. 1857), in 1884 married Ella M., daughter of Thomas L. Dean, and located on a farm. In 1889 he moved to Pocahontas, where he is engaged as a blacksmith. His wife died in 1899 and his family consists of four children, Mary, George, Minnie and Nellie M.

Charles F. in 1895 married Frederika Winegarten and engaged in farming until 1895, when he moved to Pocahontas where he is now a dealer in coal. He has two children, Emma and Zeila.

**Tobin** William (b. 1844), one of the leading farmers of Lincoln township, is a native of Germany, the son of Wm. and Anna Margareta Tobin. In 1866 he married Catharina Wilms (b. Ger. 1845) and two years later came to Webster county, Iowa. In the spring of 1869, locating on a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 20, Lizard township, he improved and occupied it until 1878, when he became the first occupant of 120 acres on Sec. 25, Lincoln township. He has enlarged this farm to 480 acres and erected buildings that rank among the fine ones in the township. The barn is 62x84 feet and numerous other outbuildings are conveniently arranged around it. His buildings are well protected by a large grove of maples, and his orchard furnishes an annual supply of apples and plums. He has been an industrious, hard worker, and the success he has achieved places him in the front rank as a farmer. He keeps the farm well stocked with cattle and hogs and they consume all the grain he raises. He is an official member of the German Lutheran church of Lizard township, and served four years as treasurer of the school funds of Lincoln township.

His family consisted of six children. Mary Henrietta, in 1890 married Geo. Schnug, who owns and occupies a farm of 160 acres in Lake township, which

he was the first to improve. Bernhard Wm. (b. 1871) in 1895 married Ettie Habben and lives on his father's farm in Lake township. Anna Eliza in 1894 married Gerd Beneke, who has been a resident of this county since 1890, and occupies a farm of 80 acres in Lincoln township. Minnie C., Henry F. and Catharina R. are at home.

**Saylor** Christian M. (b. 1844), who did the first breaking, taught the first school, served as superintendent of the first Sunday school, and as one of the first justices, married the first couple in Lincoln township, is a native of Somerset county, Pa., the son of John A. and Sarah (Miller) Saylor. He had four older brothers, Jacob, Peter, Samuel and Edward, and two younger half brothers, Uriah and Mahlon. His father died when he was fourteen months old, and four years later his mother married his uncle, Joseph Saylor, with whom he remained until he was fourteen. During the next four years he depended upon his own resources and was occupied in an earnest endeavor to obtain a good education, the last school attended being the county normal at Somerset, Pa. He taught one term of school before he was eighteen.

In 1862, riding on the first train of cars he had the opportunity of seeing, he came to Blackhawk county, Iowa, where he found employment as a farm hand in summer and as a teacher in winter. In 1865 he married Sarah Bitner, also a native of Somerset county, Pa., and located on a farm near Waterloo.

In the spring of 1869, visiting Pocahontas county accompanied by Abram Hoover and a brother of the latter, he secured a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 32, Lincoln township, and immediately began the work of its improvement, by breaking some prairie and the erection of a little hut. In the fall he returned to his family, and in

April 1870 to the homestead, on which he then erected a good dwelling house and brought his family, consisting of wife and two sons, Calvin and Sanford. When he drove the stakes on this homestead, then on the frontier of civilization, it was with the definite purpose of making it a permanent and pleasant home, and in this respect he and his estimable wife have succeeded admirably.

The farm, by subsequent purchases, was increased to 680 acres, and Calvin and William being located at the time of their marriage, each on an 80 thereof, it still contains 540 acres. The improvements erected are among the oldest and the finest in the township. The first dwelling house, after being several times enlarged by new additions, in 1898 was replaced by a splendid two story building 30x30 feet, with kitchen 14x22 feet, that in 1901 was enlarged by a two story addition 16x20 feet. In addition to several other important out-buildings, two large barns have been built, the one for horses being 32x48 feet and the one for cattle 64x78 feet. In 1895 he erected a system of water works that is both complete and effective. It consists of a deep well, worked by a wind mill, that forces the water into an elevated tank in a shed, from which it is conveyed, through underground pipes, to the house, the feed yards and pastures. Rows of tall trees and a dense grove of his own planting surround his buildings and afford a grateful protection, both from the heat of summer and the blasts of winter.

He has been a progressive and successful farmer, as a natural result of his constant endeavor to manage the farm on sound business principles. He has bought many loads of grain to feed on it, but has never sold one from it. He believes it to be better for the farmer to market the finished product at a premium than to dispose of the raw material at a discount. He

has kept the farm well stocked with Shorthorn and Durham cattle, Poland China hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens. During the last twenty years he has always kept some registered stock for the improvement of his herds, but has never undertaken to raise fancy stock. He has found the dairy very profitable and has done his own churning. In 1897 he and Calvin began to use cream separators on their farms, and these were the first ones introduced into the township.

He has also been a successful fruit grower. He acquired some practical knowledge in this line by working a short time in a nursery in Blackhawk county, and the success that has since attended his efforts has caused him to be recognized as one of the most successful fruit growers in Pocahontas county.

In 1871 he planted 30 apple trees of different varieties and six of them, namely, one Haas, two Saps of Wine and three Duchess,—all that were planted of these three varieties,—are still living and bearing fruit. He has planted trees of these varieties since and they have proved hardy. Other varieties that have proved hardy are, for summer use,—the Tetofsky, Sweet Russet, Whitney No. 20, Boorsdorf, and Blue Pearman (large); for late fall,—Plum's Cider, Wealthy and Borvinka (large); for winter,—Longfield, Waldbridge, Minnesota and Northwestern Greening; crabs—the Early Strawberry, Florence, Cumical, Byersweet and Beechersweet.

One tree of the Duchess in 1900 yielded 18 bushels. The Longfield is also a good bearer and promises to be the most popular winter variety for this section. All crabs should be marketed the same or the next day after they are picked or they will show injury from handling. The Early Strawberry crab is a prolific bearer, and the Soulard will keep till May, but the quality is not very good.

The severe winters of 1881 and 1886 killed the following varieties of apple trees,—the Red Astrachan, Sweet Pear, Fameuse or Snow, English Golden Russet and Grimes Golden.

He has recently offered a reward of \$500 to any one who will give him a hardy apple tree for this section that will produce fruit as fine for cooking as the Duchess and retain its flavor till March.

The Concord is his standard grape, and his method of treatment during the winter is to cover the vines with earth during the first three years and, after that period, with hay.

He has learned how to make home-life on the farm a source of real enjoyment as well as profitable employment. Every part of his large farm exhibits the indications of thorough cultivation and energetic improvement, yet as his sons have grown up he has sent them away to school or college. Having acquired a good education they have been content to settle on farms near the old home, assured of finding pleasant and profitable employment and the most independent road to success.

In 1902 he retired from the responsibilities incident to the personal care of so large a farm, and rented it to Calvin. In taking this step he very prudently decided not to move to town where he would prove a stranger, but to remain on the farm amid the associations that have been nearest and dearest during the active part of his life.

He has been president of the Pocahontas County Fire and Lightning Insurance Association since its organization in 1890. He is an enthusiast for this form of mutual protection on the part of farmers, because it is "cheap, safe and sound;" and by his fidelity and zeal has contributed greatly to the success of this organization.

He has always been a republican.

He participated in the organization of the township and has been intimately identified with the management of its public affairs, serving as the first teacher, the first township clerk, and then successively as secretary, president and treasurer of the school board.

His parents were Mennonites, but since his marriage he has been a faithful, liberal and honored member of the M. E. church, serving many years as superintendent of the Sunday school and a trustee and treasurer of the church, since public services were established in Lincoln township.

His family consists of three sons, Calvin, William and Herbert.

Calvin B. in 1887 married Jennie V.

Lucas, a teacher, and locating on a farm of 80 acres improved and occupied it until 1902, when he returned to the old homestead in order that his venerable parents might enjoy some respite from toil and care.

William J. in 1897 married Ida Crummer and occupies a farm of 80 acres on Sec. 29.

Herbert B. is pursuing a scientific course in Morning Side college preparatory to the study and practice of medicine. In 1893 after an illness of fifteen months from appendicitis, his life was saved by the removal of the vermiform appendix, by Dr. Senn, at the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago.

Sanford, the second son, died at four in 1873.

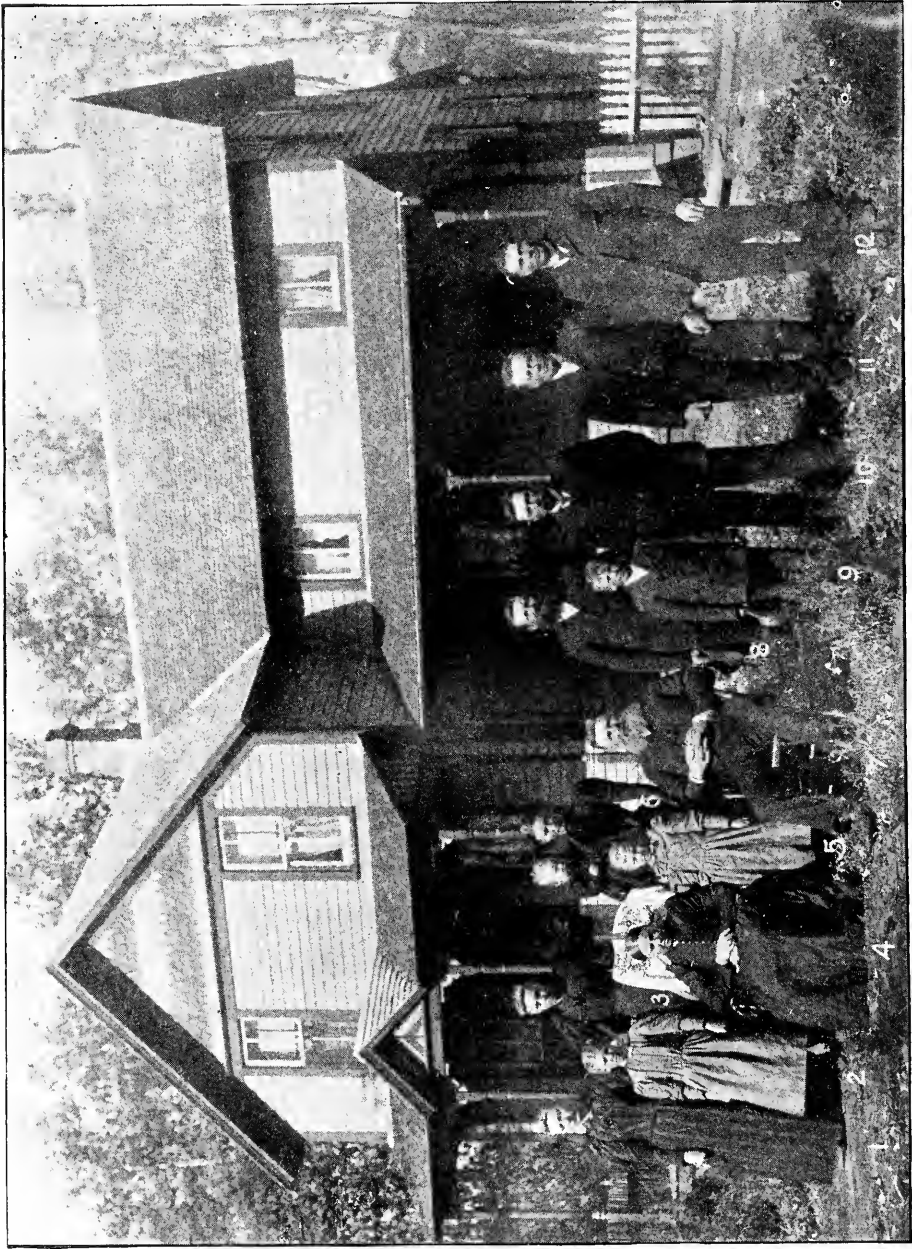




RESIDENCE OF CHARLES ELSEN, Lake Township.  
County Supervisor, 1897.—Date.



BARN OF ALEXANDER PETERSON  
Collfax Township.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILIES OF CARL STEINBRINK AND SON-IN-LAW, Lizard Township. County Supervisor 1878-1883.

1. Augusta.	3. Emma.	5. Lizzie Onken.	7. Mr. Steinbrink.	9. Henry Onken.	11. Carl F.
2. Mary Onken.	4. Mrs. Steinbrink.	6. Mrs. Onken.	8. Wm. Onken.	10. John.	12. Rudolph.

## XXII.

### LIZARD TOWNSHIP.

“Hail to the hardy pioneers!  
The men that cleared the forests,  
And built log cabins rude;  
The wives that shared the hardships  
Of toil and solitude.”

“Though the old folks talk of the good old times  
When land was plenty and cares were few;  
Yet the young folks listen with doubtful smiles,  
Convinced they were not as good as the new.”

When the author visited Lizard township to gather the materials for its history, he found that no early records of any sort were available for reference. When John M. Russell, the clerk at that time, perceived our embarrassment, he volunteered to gather the facts and prepare a correct general history of its settlement and the succession of its officers, as far as possible. Having a just appreciation of its future value, he entered upon this undertaking with considerable enthusiasm, bestowed a large amount of labor upon it, and after the lapse of several months, sent us a very complete history of the township, all of which has been embodied in this work and most of it in the general part of this chapter. The author gratefully acknowledges the valuable assistance thus rendered by John M. Russell.

#### GENERAL FEATURES.



LIZARD township (90-31) is located in the southeast corner of the county and is traversed by both the north and south branches of Lizard creek. Whilst the latter has considerable resemblance to a slough, its bottom being covered with grass, cane, rushes and flag, the former, though shallow, has a gravel bottom and a lively current. Along

its banks are several groves of natural timber that contained about 200 acres, of which the one on Sec. 24, known as the “Collins grove,” contained 70 acres, and the one on the farm of Nicholas Nolan (Sec. 4) was called “Camp grove.” The soil is a rich black loam underlaid with a subsoil of clay. It is very productive and the running water in its shady streams make it splendid for raising stock.

The Sioux name for Lizard creek was “Was-sa-ka-pom-pa,” the river

with lizards. The propriety of this name also appears in the extreme sinuosity of its course, which doubles upon itself so frequently as to give it the appearance of the tortuous trail of a lizard. The Des Moines river, into which it empties at Fort Dodge, was originally named "Moingonan" by the Algonkins, "Moingona" by Charlevoix and "Eah-sha-wa-pa-ta" or Red Stone river by the Sioux.

Lizard township was established Feb. 19, 1859, by an order of Luther L. Pease, county judge of Webster county (p. 196), and it then included the four townships in the southeast part of the county. June 4, 1861, its boundary was changed so as to include the four townships in the south row of the county and the south half of Grant and Dover (p. 194). Subsequently Lake and Lincoln townships were again attached and it was not left in its present form until Lake was detached, June 5, 1877.

All the territory included in it formed one road district until Oct. 1, 1866, when it was divided into two, in 1868 into three, and in 1869 into four road districts. In 1874 the township, as now constituted, was divided into nine road districts of four sections each, and soon afterward the same territory was organized into eight independent school districts as at present.

#### PIONEER SETTLERS.

The first settlements in this county were made in this township in 1855 and 1856. The first settlers were James Hickey (single), Michael Collins, Michael Broderic (single), Charles Kelley, John Calligan, Patrick Calligan (single), Roger Collins, Walter Ford, Dennis Connors, Philip Russell, John Russell (single), Patrick McCabe, James Donahoe, Michael Walsh and their families.

A few others, consisting of Hugh Collins, Patrick Forey, Edward Quinn, Michael Morrisey, James Condon, Michael Donavan and Thomas Ellis,

had located near them in Jackson township and Caspar H. Brockshink in Lake township. These were the families that composed the Lizard settlement at the end of 1856, and most of their first houses were built of logs from the natural timber along the north branch of Lizard creek.

**1857.** In 1857 there arrived the families of John Quinlan, James Gorman, Patrick McLarney, Thomas Crowell, Patrick Collins and Edward Bradfield.

**1858.** In 1858 there arrived Mrs. Bridget Vahey, Thomas Quinlan, Thomas Prendergast and a few others.

An account of these early pioneers will be found on pages 155 to 165. After 1858 there were no arrivals worthy of mention until the close of the civil war.

This "Lizard Settlement" was the first one west of the Des Moine river in the vicinity of Fort Dodge, and all in it were pre-emptors. That some of them were deprived of their first locations is not a surprise, when it is remembered that the act of Congress, granting the alternate sections to the Dubuque & Sioux City R. R. Co., was not approved until May 15, 1856, and the lands were not certified to that company until Dec. 23, 1858. The homestead law went into effect July 4, 1862.

#### SEVERITIES AND HARDSHIPS.

The development of a new country always involves a vast amount of hard work and it has to be performed at a great disadvantage. This Lizard settlement was founded on the frontier in the expectation of immediate railroad facilities, but the panic of 1857 followed by the civil war in 1861, put a sudden and absolute check on all such enterprises and left them unexpectedly without money or help twenty miles from Fort Dodge, the nearest trading point, which was then nothing but a deserted soldiers' barracks that was often in need of provisions



sufficient to meet local demands. There were no grades or bridges, and the sloughs and streams were impassable a great part of the year except in skiffs or dugouts.

These early pioneers were not a people on whom the goddess of fortune and luxury immediately smiled. The young farmer and his wife had to do all their own work and in the rudest or most primitive way. Mowers and reaping machines had not yet been invented. A plow that would scour in this black loam existed only in the imagination, and no one dreamed of such inventions as the present binders, threshers and corn harvesters. All grass intended for hay had to be cut with a scythe, and other crops with a corn cutter, sickle or grain cradle. The use of overshoes not having extended to this section, the common cowhide or kip boot was the only protection for his feet, and an overcoat was a luxury. They were beset on every side with innumerable obstacles of time, distance and lack of means:

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
 Their homely joys, their destiny obscure,  
 Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile  
 The short but simple annals of the poor.  
 —Gray.

Neither let modern presumption mock their bent form, or unsteady step from wearied heart and limb, nor cast a single glance of asperion on the noble work they have done.

The natural appearance of the country to them was weird and romantic. The prairies in summer were covered with a thick growth of heavy blue joint and wire grass, and the bottoms waved beneath a luxuriant growth of coarse grass so tall that a man of ordinary stature could scarcely be seen walking through it. In winter the deep snows covered the prairies and filled the ravines. The wild roar of

the storm and the weird howl of the prairie wolf at times caused the bravest adventurer to pause, and filled with terror the heart of the belated wayfarer.

On the other hand the freshness and salubrity of the air on a summer's morn, the sweet singing of the birds, the cooing of prairie chickens and the quacking of wild ducks animated one with delightful aspirations. The wild roses in June covering the banks of the streams lent their fragrance to the air and gave a lovely enchantment to the scene, which was heightened by the beautiful, billowy blending of the high and low lands, clothed with their virgin robe of summer verdure. Along the Lizard plumps of wild fowl, such as wisps of snipe, flights of plovers, bevies of quail, coveys of partidges and harrows of wild geese abounded, and occasionally a few deer would be seen browsing on the outskirts of the timber as if paying a farewell visit to their old and familiar haunts, which they were loath to abandon.

#### FEAR OF INDIANS.

One of the terrors that harrassed the early western pioneer was the constant fear of a savage incursion by the Indians. These pioneers on the Lizard served their time as "sentinels" of the commonwealth or "pickets on duty," guarding the frontier of civilization. They endangered their lives in preparing the way for succeeding generations. The pioneer, armed with the plowshare and the implements of peace, led the van of progress and civilization on these western wilds with personal peril, as certainly as the soldier who offers his life for the perpetuation of the government, and is armed with the weapons of war.

On one occasion when Wm. Walsh was in Fort Dodge there came to him the word that a band of Indians had camped on his farm after his departure, and had taken some of his shoats.

The next morning, accompanied by the sheriff of Webster county and a lot of armed men from Fort Dodge on wagons, he started home expecting to have a pitched battle with the Indians. When they had traveled about ten miles the Indians were seen coming over a little hill a short distance before them, all mounted on ponies. Ordering a halt, the sheriff and Mr. Walsh advanced to them and meeting the old chief he showed them his passport written on a large sheet of paper. As a result of the parley the Indians were allowed to continue their journey and the armed wagon train soon afterward returned to Fort Dodge.

This was the Johnnie Green tribe of the Pottawattamies (p. 135) and they had indeed stopped at the home of Wm. Walsh, very much to the annoyance of his wife. The squaws looking through the open window of the log cabin and seeing a little baby began to shout, "Pap-oose! pap-oose!" thereby awakening fears that they were going to take it with them. Happily a couple of neighboring women arrived and repeating the words, "White men coming! white men coming!" the Indians were induced to leave the premises.

On another occasion two braves that that had been trapping around Lizard Lake came to the home of John Calligan at a time when he and his wife were in the field, and Ellen Broderic (Mrs. Philip Russell) and Mrs. Dennis Connors were in the cabin. Edward, the oldest of the children, was sent to the field for Mr. Calligan and when he arrived they signified by various gestures that they wanted something to eat. Corn bread and meat was very freely served them on chairs outside the cabin.

Then they went to the home of Henry Brockshink where they frightened the women folks, shot the dog and stole a blanket and several other

articles. When Brockshink returned and learned what the Indians had done, he hastened to Fort Dodge and, returning with a posse of armed horsemen, he surprised the settlers considerably but found no other traces of the Indians.

Just after harvest in 1858 a traveler spread the word that a band of Sioux warriors, armed with guns and wearing red shawls, had been seen engaging in a "wild grass dance" and were approaching from the west. This was soon after the Spirit Lake massacre and the news so alarmed the settlers that they were afraid to sleep in their cabins and sought resting places at night under the shocks of grain. When the word reached Fort Dodge another party of mounted citizens set out to meet the menacing foe. Hastening through the Lizard settlement they found no trace of any Indians, and an investigation disclosed the fact that the spectral foe was merely a flock of sandhill cranes that had been seen at a distance enjoying a "wild grass dance," the frolicsome flapping of their wings creating the impression that they were waving red colored shawls.

A number of Indian families continued their trapping excursions for several successive autumns, locating their camp in the most sheltered and comfortable places along the north Lizard, which in those days abounded with small fur bearing animals such as muskrats, mink and beaver. The early settlers frequently visited their camp, having an eager curiosity to see the quaint appearance and habits of life of this strange, nomadic race that occupied this land long before the children of the pale face had ever heard of the New World. On these occasions the reflection often forced itself, that at the springs along the streams the swarthy maiden filled the family water pail with sparkling water, on these prairies the ruddy In-

dian youth chased the deer and buffalo, and beneath the smoky rafters of the wigwam the old chief talked at night about the brave deeds of his tribe and the Great Spirit.

#### THE LAND AND SETTLERS.

This is but a brief description of the region that awaited development when these first settlers "drove their stakes and fastened their cords" in Pocahontas county. It was an arena that presented both possibilities and impossibilities—an opportunity for successful achievement and also of failure; a basis for hope, the bright star in the firmament of the future that lures the brave, and also for dismay. The land in its primeval state, blooming as a paradise of pleasure, seemed as if it would satisfy the fancied imagination of the most querulous homeseeker, but as an unsubdued wilderness, it was destined to test the tenacity of the stoutest hearted of her adopted sons. It devolved upon them to change the wilderness from savage to civilized life, and to transform the haunts of the deer and buffalo into luxuriant pastures for sheep, hogs, horses and cattle.

The story of the log cabin which was usually nestled within or located on the sunny side of a grove of timber is not one of princely castles, or of halls hung with tapestry and gold. When the logs of oak, ash and hickory were ready a day was appointed for a hauling and building bee. These raising bees attracted all the neighbors in the vicinity and often developed a large amount of amusement, especially after the rafters were laid. Each builder made his own shingles, riving them out of a straight grained oak or ash log. The flooring and finish lumber was made from logs drawn to Hinton's saw mill near Fort Dodge. After the walls were chinked and mortared they were plastered with lime and sand, although yellow clay and water were sometimes used as a

substitute. The log cabin was warm and substantial, but nearly all of them have long since given place to larger and more elegant residences. Michael Donovan was the first one in the settlement to replace the log cabin with a good frame house.

The early settlers of this township, with a few exceptions, were natives of the Emerald Isle, who, like the New England pilgrims, longed to enjoy more tolerant laws and more hopeful prospects. Wafted on the wings of destiny they came to America in the vigor of their youth and rested not until they located on "the Lizard." They were good representatives of a hardy, robust race that had been inured to hardship and possessed great power of endurance. Though passing rapidly from the stage of action they leave behind them the footprints of hard labor and noble endeavor.

#### NOTES ON THE PIONEERS.

The first five children born in Lizard township were the first ones born in Pocahontas county. They were; (1) Rose Ann Donahoe, now Mrs. Patrick Crilly, born Feb. 23, 1857; (2) Maggie Calligan, born Aug. 11, 1857; (3) Annie Collins, born March 10, 1858; (4) Mary Walsh, born April 10, 1858; (5) Charles J. Kelley, born May 6, 1858. He was the first boy born in the county.

The first death was that of Patrick Calligan in August, 1856.

The first fields were enclosed in 1867 by Michael Collins, Charles Kelley, John Calligan and Michael Broderick. The first quarter sections were enclosed by Michael Walsh and Hugh Collins in 1870.

Philip Russell was regarded as the finest scholar and best penman.

Michael Collins, who acquired two sections of land and considerable money besides, was considered the wealthiest man.

Charles Kelley, a careful and thrifty farmer, ranked second in wealth. The elections and meetings of the town-

ship officers were held in his home from March 15, 1859 until the end of 1864.

Michael Walsh accumulated considerable wealth by honest labor and good management.

John Calligan accumulated as much from raising stock on free pasturage as from the proceeds of his farm.

Edward Calligan, 6 feet 2 inches in height and weighing 240 pounds, was the largest man raised on the Lizard.

Patrick Forey was regarded as "Lizard's most famous politician."

#### SETTLERS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR.

**1865.** There were no new arrivals during the last seven of the ten years that passed after the first settlements were made. The era of the second immigration began with the year 1865, at the close of the civil war. So great was the number of new settlers that came at this period that the population of the township was nearly doubled at the end of the first year of this new era.

Among those that came in 1865 were Christopher (Sec. 3) and Nicholas (Sec. 4) Nolan, John Henrichs (4), Michael O'Shea, David Miller, George Spragg and Wm. W. Stenson on 14; Jacob Carstens and Ferdinand Zanter on 22; William and George Price on 24; John Wiese, Adolph Fetterbaum, Rosina Vilhaber and Russell L. Sherman on 26; John Donahoe and his four sons, Michael, John, William and Wallace; Wm. G. Wiese (27); John F. Hintz and Henry Heilmick on 28; Geo. W. Cooper and Adam H. Van Valkenburg on 36.

**1866.** In 1866 there arrived Garret Schoonmaker and his son, Alonzo, on Sec. 4; James J. Bruce, David and John W. Wallace and Henry Shields on 8; John H. (Squire), Isaac W. and Daniel Johnson on 10; J. D. and Diederick Hoefing on 22; Fred Kelsow (26), Carl Steinbrink (27), William Boyd (28), Harvey B. Vaughn (30), Michael Wiese, Peter Wagner and Mrs. Jane

Maxwell on 34; Archibald, Ethan and Henry A. Brown on 36.

**1867.** In 1867 there arrived Wm. W. Westlake (28), Joseph Breitenbach (28), John H. (22) and Gerhard B. Carstens (30), John O'Niel, John Rickles and Bernard McDermott.

**1868.** The new arrivals in 1868 were Carl Redman (6), Edwin V. Brown (12), August Mullen (22), William Fisher, Abner D. Moore, Arndt E. and Benjamin Rost on 24; Robert Brown (26), John Julius (28), Fred W. Vetter (30), Thomas Brennan (34) and James N. McCormick on 36.

**1869.** The new arrivals in 1869 were Patrick and Michael J. Crahan on 8; Henry Steckelburg (14), Wm. Tobin, Michael and Gerd Renkin on 20; Jeremiah Hallahan, Patrick and John Riley on 18; John Everwine (20), James C. Carey (26), Henry Heilmick (28), John Corcoran and Robert Dickson on 34; Joseph Osburn, James Dempsey, John and Charles Olson and Daniel Messinger.

**1870-79.** Only a few additional persons located in the township during the 70's, and most of them came in 1870, namely, James Sinnott, Carl Rodman and Wm. Godfrey on 6; Martin A. and B. B. Moore on 25 and Renkin J. Weber on 34. Those that came later were John M. and his sons Orville and Clayton Brown, Fred Hoefing, M. E. Owens, Daniel Fitzgerald, Carl F. Kenning (29) and Wm. Schroeder.

During the early 80's John Christoffers and Elmo Hendricks located on Sec. 4, Otto Siebels and Herman Janssen, the latter a blacksmith as well as a farmer, on Sec. 5.

#### NOTES ON THE HOMESTEADERS.

The new immigrants or later settlers were homesteaders, and like their predecessors, the pioneers, were industrious, frugal and social. The earlier ones of them had to endure many privations and secured their present acquisitions by much hard

labor. They enjoyed unreserved freedom in raising cattle, and their herds roamed over the prairies many miles in every direction until 1875. They became planters of artificial groves, their predecessors having secured all the groves of natural timber. Many of them also engaged in trapping, a lucrative employment that had previously attracted the attention of Indians and professionals.

William Stenson, the first postmaster and storekeeper in the township, excelled in neatness and taste as a farmer. Henry Steckelburg also kept store at his home on 23 a few years. John H. Johnson was the first one elected a justice and he was afterwards called "The Squire." Wm. Price was the first one elected constable. Carl Steinbrink, a man of splendid physique and who served as a county supervisor, was the largest man in the township. John M. Brown, the most popular trustee, in 1891, on Sec. 18, erected the costliest residence. David Miller was a fine scholar, a successful teacher and a good superintendent. Old lady Weber, born in 1810, was the oldest person in the township.

In 1867 several farmers hauled their dressed hogs to the Sioux City market. Manson did not become a trading station until 1870.

The first couple married were Ferdinand Zanter and Caroline Fieldhaber, who had a Fort Dodge justice perform the ceremony in September, 1866.

#### TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

Previous to the organization of Pochontas county all the voters in the Lizard settlement belonged to Jackson township, Webster county, and the elections were held at the home of Jas. P. White, who lived two miles southeast of the Lizard Catholic church.

The first election in Lizard township was held at the home of Charles Kelley (Sec. 12) March 15, 1859, the

date on which the county was organized. At this election Michael Collins, Patrick Forey and Charles Kelley served as judges, Walter Ford and Philip Russell as clerks, and eleven persons voted. The first set of county officers were elected that day and one set of township officers for the two voting precincts, Lizard and Des Moines.

On Sept. 7, 1859, a special election was held to vote on the erection of a public building or court house, and this measure having been approved, another special election was held Nov. 19, 1859, to approve the contract for this building and a bridge over the Des Moines river at old Rolfe. The whole number of votes cast in both precincts at these special elections were 16 and 21 respectively.

At the general election held Oct. 11, 1859, according to the county records which are the only ones available for reference, only one set of township officers were again elected for the two voting precincts.

At the general election held Nov. 6, 1860, a full set of township officers were elected for the year 1861, and as follows. Michael Collins, county supervisor; Patrick McCabe, Charles Kelley and Michael Walsh, trustees; Michael Collins, clerk; John Quinlan, assessor, and Philip Russell, justice of the peace.

In 1862 the trustees were John Calligan, Charles Kelley and Patrick Collins. In 1863 they were Patrick McLarney, James Donahoe and Patrick Collins. In 1869 they were A. H. Van Valkenburg, Henry Steckelburg and Joseph Breitenbach. In 1872 they were D. W. Brown, John W. Wallace and Daniel Messinger. The succession of the trustees since that date has been as follows:

D. W. Brown, 1872-76; J. W. Wallace, '72-75; Daniel Messinger, '72-73; B. B. Moore, Fred Kelsow, '75-77; David W. Wallace, '76-84; J. H. Cars-

tens, E. M. Calligan, '78, '89-90; Renkin J. Weber, M. T. Collins, '72-84; M. Wiese, Ben Rost, '80-84; Daniel Lane, '85-90; P. Forey, P. M. Donahoe, Michael Morrisey, Walter Ford, '86-88; John M. Brown, '87-99; James C. Carey, '91-94; John Carstens, '92-99; M. M. O'Connor, '95-99; P. M. Donahoe, 1900-02; T. F. Collins, 1900-02, James P. Russell, 1900-02.

**JUSTICES**—Philip Russell, 1861-68; Charles Kelley, '63-64; John H. Johnson, '67-74; James J. Bruce, '68; A. H. VanValkenburg, '69-79, '75-79; Wm. W. Westlake, '71-74; Patrick Forey, '75-82; E. M. Calligan, '82, '87-91; Walter Ford, '83-93; Michael Morrisey, '83-86; T. J. Calligan, '92-93; G. B. Carstens, '94-99.

**CLERKS**—Michael Collins, 1861; Patrick McLarney, Patrick McCabe, Philip Russell, '64-66, '68-71, '73-80; J. H. Johnson, '67; John W. Wallace, '72; Henry Kelley, '81-82; E. M. Calligan, '83-86; J. C. Carey, '87-89; John M. Russell, '90-94, '97; Michael J. Russell, '95-96; Walter P. Ford, '98-1900; E. H. Christoffer.

**ASSESSORS**—John Quinlan, '61-63, '65; Roger Collins, '64; Philip Russell, David Miller, '67, '69; George Spragg, Wm. W. Stenson, A. H. VanValkenburg, M. T. Collins, '70, '74; Walter Ford, '73, '81-82; James C. Carey, '75, '78-79, '84-86; G. B. Carstens, Carl Steinbrink, Michael Crahan, Christopher Nolan, Philip Walsh, '93-96; Dick Hoefing, '97-1900; Christopher Nolan.

The first jurors from this township were Patrick Forey, James Donahoe, Roger Collins and Patrick Collins, who served in November, 1860.

#### HIGHWAYS.

The first and for many years the only road across Lizard township was the emigrant wagon trail that meandered across the county from Fort Dodge to the Little Sioux river and thence to Sioux City. This route at first crossed the northeast part of the

township and an inn was established at the home of Caspar H. Brockshink on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, Lake township, that was continued by Patrick Forey, his successor. On one occasion some emigrants lost a team and barely escaped with their own lives while trying to ford the Lizard west of that place. This event led the emigrants to ford that stream further south, on the farm of Michael Morrisey, and passing the home of Michael Walsh the new route meandered northwest to Camp Grove and the homes of Nicholas Nolan and Garret Schoonmaker on Sec. 4, where the latter established and maintained an inn for a number of years. This trail, passing thence westward near Sunk Grove was for many years the main thoroughfare in the south part of the county. Trains of emigrant wagons, followed by droves of horses, cattle and sheep, passed westward on it nearly every day, when it was in good condition, and scores of them also passed eastward.

The first improved highway was the Lizard and (old) Rolfe road which was located in 1862 and extended due north from the west line of Sec. 36 to the northwest corner of Sec. 36, Des Moines township. Michael Collins and Oscar Slosson took the lead in securing this road and it was located by Patrick Forey, commissioner. The first road running east and west was located by Daniel Johnson, commissioner, in the spring of 1866 south of the north row of sections, and it was called the East and West road.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

**TREASURER AND RECORDER**—Michael Collins, 1862-64.

**TREASURERS**—Michael Collins, 1865; J. J. Bruce, '70-73.

**CLERKS OF THE COURT**—Philip Russell, 1862-65; J. W. Wallace, '75-86.

**SUPERINTENDENTS**—Michael Collins 1863; J. J. Bruce, '68-69; David Miller, '70-78.

SHERIFF—Joseph Breitenbach, 1874-77.

RECORDER—Michael Crahan, 1881-82.

CORONERS—John H. Johnson, 1868-69, '76-77; John M. Brown, '80-81.

COUNTY SUPERVISORS—Michael Collins, 1861; Patrick McCabe, '62-65; Philip Russell, '66-67; J. J. Bruce, '68-69; David Miller, M. A. Moore, Walter Ford, '72-74; Wm. Stenson, '75-77; Carl Steinbrink, '78-83; T. J. Calligan, '84-86; M. T. Collins, '87-92.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school in the Lizard settlement was established in 1858 at the home of James T. White, who lived on the east side of the county line road on Sec. 30, Jackson township, and Hannah Stiles taught it several terms.

The first meeting of the settlers in the south part of this county to consider school matters was held at the home of Charles Kelley in March, 1861. There were present at this meeting Charles Kelley, John Calligan, Patrick Forey, John Quinlan, Dennis Connors, Roger Collins, Michael Walsh, James Donahoe and Patrick McCabe. At this meeting Charles Kelley, John Calligan and Patrick Collins were elected directors and they organized as a board by electing Charles Kelley, president; Patrick McLarney, secretary, and Roger Collins, treasurer. That fall Ellen Condon, who received her certificate from W. H. Hait, taught the first school in a vacant log cabin built by Patrick Collins near the SE corner of the SW $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 13. The pupils that attended this school were Peter Donahoe, who later became the husband of the teacher, and his brother, Thomas Donahoe, Edward, Thomas, Mary and Ellen Calligan, Catherine and Mary, daughters of Roger Collins, M. T., John and Mary Collins, Mary Quinlan, Annie and Catherine McCabe. This log cabin called the "Pioneer School House" was used for school purposes until the summer of

1866, and the other teachers that taught in it were William Patterson, Maria Mitchell, James T. White, James White, Jr, Hannah Stiles and Jefferson Snodgrass.

In the fall of 1866 a frame school house was built in this district then called Walsh No. 2, on the NE corner of Sec. 23, by Michael Collins, contractor. The oak lumber for the frame of it was obtained at Todd's mill, 11 miles SE of Fort Dodge, and the other materials used in its construction were hauled from Boonesboro, a distance that required four days to make the trip. This building, having received a new floor, was still in good condition for use in 1900. It was the third school building erected in this county, and the first teachers in it were David Miller and James J. Bruce, both of whom later became county superintendents. The second county teachers' institute was held in this building in December, 1871, by David Miller, superintendent.

In 1863, when the board consisted of John Calligan, Patrick Collins and John Quinlan, the township was divided by the establishment of sub-district No. 1—Calligan—in the NE corner of the township, another school was started in the vacant cabin of Dennis Connors on the SW $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 1, and the teachers that taught in this building were Philip Russell, Fannie Haire (Collins p. 156), and Mattie Lumpkin, who taught the fall term of 1865 in the log cabin and the winter term of 1866 in the new school house built in this district in 1865 by James P., son of D. C. Russell of Jackson township, on the hill on Sec. 2, and later moved to the NW corner of Sec. 12. The next teachers in it were James J. Bruce, who secured his certificate from Superintendent W. D. McEwen August 20, 1866, and taught here the ensuing fall and winter terms and George B. Knapp.

In 1867 school house No. 3 (Sec. 26)

was built in the Wiese district by J. J. Bruce, and the next year No. 4 (Sec. 34) was built in the Boyd district by J. J. Bruce and Michael O'Shea. No. 5 (Sec. 29) in the Vetter or Lincoln district, was built in 1869, and No. 6 (Sec. 8) in the Wallace district in 1870. No. 7 (Sec. 10) in the Johnson district was built in 1871 and No. 8 (Sec. 19) in the Humboldt district in 1873.

Each of these sub-districts with the exception of Humboldt and Lincoln, was named after the man who was serving as director for it at the time the school house was built in it. The territory for the 9th district, which is in the center of the township, is still included in those adjoining it on the north, east and south, namely, Johnson (No. 7), Walsh (No. 2) and Boyd (No. 4).

Other early teachers that taught in the township were Henry Kelley, Lizzie McCann, Lizzie Calligan, Walter and Alfred Clark, J. J. Graham, M. H. Comstock, Kate and Annie B. Condon, Mary Walsh, Mary Condon, Mary Mulholland, Annie Kelley, Kate O'Boyle, Michael Crahan, Oscar I. Strong, Ella Westlake, E. M. Calligan, Nellie Tyler, Maggie Griffin, Walter P. Ford, Michael, John and Maggie Russell, Lilly Collins, Tessa O'Neil and Mary J. Calligan. This township has always had an over supply of good teachers and its schools have been quite progressive.

In 1899 there was erected in the Humboldt district one of the most convenient and modern of the rural school buildings in the county. All the windows are on one side of the building so that the light coming only from the rear of the pupil falls on his book and not on his eyes. The stove located in one corner of the room is encased in a steel jacket. Pure air is constantly admitted through a register underneath the stove, and it is heated before it reaches the pupils. Near the floor in one part of the large

double chimney is another register for the egress of the foul air. It has also a commodious hall in front and a substantial coal room at the rear.

Patrick McLarney, the first secretary of the school board, was succeeded by Patrick McCabe 1863-70, Walter Ford, David Brown and M. E. Owens, '74-75. Roger Collins, the first treasurer, served until 1866, when he was succeeded by G. B. Carstens, J. J. Bruce, Wm. Stenson, Henry Shields, Joseph Breitenbach and by G. B. Carstens again in 1874-75.

#### INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS.

About the year 1875, after the eight sub-districts had been established and a school house had been built in each, some of the citizens in the western districts, led by Henry Shields, a director, and Joseph Breitenbach, treasurer in 1873, complained that the older districts on the east side of the township absorbed an unequal share of the school funds. The school board at this time according to the number of the sub-districts consisted of Charles Kelley (president), Patrick McCabe, John Wiese, Wm. Boyd, John Vetter, Henry Shields (secretary), Daniel Johnson and Wm. Tobin; and G. B. Carstens was treasurer. In the interests of peace and good will, an arrangement was concluded whereby each of the sub-districts as then constituted became an independent district in the management of its school affairs. Each district since that date has elected its own board of three directors, each of whom is elected for a term of three years. and they elect their own president, secretary and treasurer. So general has been the satisfaction under this arrangement that no desire to change it has ever been expressed. It is, however, the only township in the county in which the schools are managed in this way.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE.

Many of the young people of both sexes, after completing the course of



studies provided by the public schools, have gone to various higher institutions of learning where they have pursued collegiate and professional courses of instruction. Among those that have already entered professions with good promise of success may be named Michael Murray, physician, Chicago; Charles J. Kelley, physician, Burlington, Iowa; Wm. J. Collins, attorney, Clare; M. J. Russell, attorney, Manson; Joseph McCarville, priest, Armah; Martin Murray, priest, Clarion.

Literary societies or lyceums have been maintained through the winter seasons of most of the years since 1868. These evening gatherings have received the patronage of old and young, and proved genuine nurseries of learning as well as sources of social pleasure.

#### LIZARD POSTOFFICE.

The "Lizard" postoffice, the first one in the township, was established at the home of Wm. Stenson, postmaster, on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, in December, 1868. After four years of faithful service, for which he received the magnificent salary of \$12 a year, he resigned and closed the office. M. E. Owens soon afterwards re-established the office at his home on Sec. 10 under the name of "Buda," and it was continued until Jan. 1, 1875, when he left the county. Later it was again established as "Lizard" postoffice by Garret Schoonmaker at his store and inn on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, and he maintained it until 1884, when he moved to Calhoun county. In 1891 Carl B. Elsen re-established the store and postoffice at this place. In 1900 he was succeeded as postmaster by Martin Siebels and on Feb. 1, 1902, the office was discontinued, free rural delivery having been established from Gilmore City.

#### THE PUBLIC CEMETERY.

Lizard township has three cemeteries, the Catholic on Sec. 24, the German Lutheran on Sec. 9 and the public cemetery on the northwest corner of

Sec. 26. In 1871 Arndt Ross and three of his daughters were buried in this plot of ground, and in 1871 it was donated to the trustees of the township by Jacob Carstens for cemetery purposes. It was platted by Oscar I. Strong, who was then teaching school in the home of Adolph Felterbaum, and Mrs. Catherine (Dietrick) Hoefing was buried in it that year.

#### LIZARD CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Nearly all the pioneers of the Lizard settlement had been brought up under the Roman Catholic faith and for more than twenty years their spiritual needs were supplied by the priest at Fort Dodge. The first religious services in the Lizard settlement were held at the home of Sylvester Griffin on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, Jackson township, August 15, 1855, by Rev. Father Amonds of Iowa City. Rev. John Vahy, the first priest located at Fort Dodge, held his first services in the Lizard settlement at the home of James T. White on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, same township, in May, 1856. He conducted the first religious services in Lizard township at the home of Michael Collins on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, during the summer of 1857. Rev. John Vahy continued to serve them most of 1858, when he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph McCulloch. After a few months of service by Rev. Mr. Elward he was succeeded by Rev. J. J. Marsh who continued about four years, or until his decease in March, 1865. His parish extended from Fort Dodge to Emmetsburg and it was his custom to stop over night on the way at the hotel kept by David Slosson at old Rolfe. He visited Lizard once a month and Emmetsburg once in three months. Other homes in the Lizard settlement in which he held services were those of Michael Donovan, Sylvester Griffin and James Fenton, all of whom lived in Jackson township.

Rev. Patrick Delaney and Rev. Jos. Butler then served the Lizard people

until 1870, when Rev. Thomas M. Lenihan became their successor and established new preaching stations at Fonda, Pocahontas, Pomeroy, and Manson. In 1871 he secured the erection of the Lizard Catholic church, 32x72, with 14 feet studs and costing with its furniture \$2,600, on the county line road east of Sec. 24, on which the cemetery is located. After the completion of this building for which the corner stone was laid July 6, 1871, the services were held every other Sabbath and this congregation was as strong as the one at Fort Dodge. Soon afterwards he secured the erection of churches at Emmetsburg, Dover township, Fonda, Pocahontas (a Bohemian parish), Pomeroy, Manson and Fort Dodge, and in 1881 the parsonage costing \$1,700 at the Lizard church. He was that year succeeded by Rev. Stephen Norton, the first resident pastor, who enlarged the church at a cost of \$700, built a barn and other outbuildings. He served Lizard until his death in 1887, when he was succeeded by Rev. Matthew Darcy. After a residence of two years at the Lizard church he moved to Clare but continued to serve Lizard until 1895, when it became a part of the Gilmore City parish, under Rev. F. D. Sullivan, who in 1901 was succeeded by Rev. Stephen Butler.

Many of the founders of this church now lie buried in the Catholic cemetery near it on Sec. 24, among whom may be named Charles Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Mulholland, Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Connors, Mrs. John Calligan, Mrs. M. T. Collins, Philip Russell, James Condon, Patrick Forey and Michael Walsh.

Four soldiers are buried here, John Russell, John Thornton and Hugh O'Neil, who served in the civil war, and Sylvester Griffin, who served in the Mexican war. Decoration Day services were held here first in 1886.

#### THE ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The St. John's congregation of the German Lutheran church has secured a good church building, parsonage and cemetery, all located near each other on the west side of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9. The church, 32x60 feet and costing \$2,000, was built in 1885 on a site of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres that was donated by Otto Siebels for church and cemetery purposes. In 1890 a parsonage and other outbuildings, costing \$900, were built on 40 acres adjoining, purchased at that time, and in 1894 the church was supplied with a good bell by Jacob Carstens. In 1902 a new parsonage was built at a cost of \$2,000.

This church was organized in 1885 by a number of families living in Lizard, Lake and Lincoln townships. While some of these people, John and Gerd Carstens, Dietrick Hoefing, Diederick and Rudolf Beneke and others had located here as early as 1867, or very soon thereafter, yet none of them had ever belonged as communicant members to any organized congregations of this or adjacent countries. Most of them, coming from Ostfriesland, Germany, were not accustomed to the church rites generally observed by the Lutheran Synods in this country, or even by those who had come from other German provinces. Whilst all Lutherans adhere to the same doctrines, as set forth in the Augsburg Confession, it is a noteworthy fact that the rites observed in the services of the churches vary as much in the liturgical element as do those of the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches. The Ostfriesland people are very conservative, object to everything like high-church-ism and insist on the simple rites of their fathers. On this account the Lutherans of this congregation refrained from becoming members of neighboring churches, and also from organizing under their first pastors.

The first one to hold German serv-

ices in the south part of this county was Rev. J. F. Doescher, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, Fort Dodge, 1867-74. He came occasionally in 1871-73. In 1874 his successor at Fort Dodge, Rev. Theodore Mertens, held occasional services, first in the home of Diederick Beneke and later in the Saylor school house in Lincoln township. In 1875 the services were established at the O'Boyle school house, Sec. 19, by Rev. Theo. Mattfield of Manson, who continued until 1879. He and his two predecessors belonged to the Missouri Synod.

Their successors, Rev. M. During of Pomeroy, 1880-82; Rev. W. Schultzke and Rev. Geo. Merschroth, 1882-84, all belonged to the Wartburg Synod.

Commencing with the year 1885, when the St. John's church was organized and the church built, this congregation has been served by ministers of the Iowa Synod, namely, Rev. Otto Steahling, the first resident pastor, 1885-94; Rev. William Weltner, 1894 to date.

The pastor of the church is superintendent of the Sunday school and maintains a parochial school six months of the year. The first persons buried in the cemetery were Deborah and Herman, children of Otto Siebels.

In 1891 Rev. Otto Steahling effected the organization of the St. Peter's Lutheran church, that meets for worship in the Center school house, Lincoln township. This congregation now consists of twelve families representing 30 communicant members.

#### OXEN AND HORSES.

The use of horses was introduced in Lizard township in 1861, but their use did not become general until after 1870. Before the sloughs were bridged oxen were indispensable, since they could draw loads through sloughs that were impassable with horses. At the funerals in the Lizard settlement during the 60's, usually more than 40 of the 50 conveyances forming the pro-

cession were drawn by ox teams. During the period of bad roads in those early days the farmers, in going for coal and other heavy commodities, often formed neighborhood trains or processions, so they might assist each other in crossing the bad places. On the farm they followed the advice of the classic Roman poet, Virgil:

"In the early dawning of the year,  
Produce the plow and yoke the sturdy  
steer;  
Goad him till he groans beneath his  
toil,  
Till the bright share is buried in the  
soil."

The winter of 1856 and 57 was extremely cold. On Dec. 5-8 there occurred the severest snow storm of the 41 years preceding. The drifts ranged from 3 to 12 feet, and where the prairies had not been burned the previous fall travel was impossible during the remainder of the winter. This was true of the deep ravines on the route to Fort Dodge near the Collins and Griffin groves. There was scarcely any sunshine in March, 1857, and a large amount of snow remained till the first of April.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Breitenbach** Joseph, was sheriff of Pocahontas county from Jan. 1, 1874, to Sept. 13, 1878. After nearly five years of public service in this capacity he met with an accident while getting a load of hay on the prairie near Pocahontas that resulted in his death that day. The court at its next session, Hon. Ed R. Duffie, presiding judge, on the recommendation of the bar, had the following resolution spread on the public records: "That in our business relations with the deceased during many years, we have found him a fearless, active and efficient officer; that we sincerely mourn his death and tender our sympathy to his bereaved family."

He came in 1867 from Wisconsin and located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22. He left a wife and three children. His wife

later married August Miller, lives in Lizard township and still owns the old homestead.

**Brown** John, David, Archibald, Henry and Joseph, five brothers and their father, coming from Canada in 1866, secured homesteads on sections 36 and 26. John died on his farm in 1870. In 1873 the others left the county, their father returning to Canada, Archibald, Henry and Joseph going to the state of Washington.

**Brown** Edwin V., who in 1868 located on Sec. 12, a brother-in-law of John M. Brown, is now living at Fort Dodge.

**Brown** John M. (b. 1836), owner and occupant of 400 acres, principally on Sec. 18, has been a resident of the township since 1876. He is a native of New York state, where he married in 1856 and located on a farm. Dec. 30, 1862, he enlisted as a member of the 2d New York heavy artillery, and continued in the service until the close of the war. He participated in the battles at Spotsylvania, North Anna River, Talapotany Creek, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Ream Station, Hatchers Run, Five Forks, South Side R. R., Amelia Springs and Round Fort. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates April 7, 1865 while making a charge on Round Fort, Virginia, in which 575 men were lost in a few minutes, but was recaptured two days later when Lee surrendered. After keeping a hotel couple of years in Shenango county, N. Y., he again located on a farm where he remained until 1876, when he came to his present location on Sec. 18, where he commenced with 80 acres which he was the first to occupy and improve. He has "grown up with the country" by becoming a good leader in the work of improvement. As the years have passed he has added 320 acres to the original purchase and the buildings erected are rated as the largest and finest in the township.

His large dwelling house was built in 1891, soon after the erection of the barn. The buildings are protected by an ample grove and he is now enjoying the fruit from a good orchard and a plot planted in small fruits. He is an aggressive and successful farmer and his value as a citizen has been recognized. He has served more years as a trustee than any other citizen of the township, and was coroner of the county in 1880-81.

Six of his family of nine children are living.

Orville V. (b. N. Y. 1859), in 1881 married Elizabeth Dawson of Calhoun county, lives on Sec. 18, and has eight children, Edna, Sidney, Sarah E., Robert, George, Floyd, Ernest and Ivan.

Clayton (b. N. Y. 1868), in 1891 married Mary A. Smith, lives in Lizard township, and has two children, Clarence and Lilly.

George G. (b. N. Y. 1870), in 1893 married Emma L. Anderson and lives at Manson.

Lillian, a very successful teacher, in 1896 married Edward P. Trenary and lives in Grant township.

Rose A., a teacher, in 1901, married Ernest Barger, lives at Cedar Falls.

**Calligan** John (b. 1822, p. 157), who was the first settler to effect the location of his family in Pocahontas county, on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, Lizard township, is a native of Galway county, Ireland. In 1847 at 25 he came to St. John's, New Brunswick, and the next year to Maine, where in 1849 at Ellsworth he married Bridget, sister of Michael Broderick. He remained there until the spring of 1856, when he brought his family to Fort Dodge, where he arrived May 13th. This trip was one he never forgot. He came on the cars as far as Dubuque, which was the terminus of the railroad. He paid the driver of a stage coach \$45 to take his wife and four children to Fort Dodge, and then he set out on foot and walked the entire distance of 200 miles.

The only bridge west of Dubuque was at Cedar Falls over the Cedar river. Usually he had to wade or swim the streams. Arriving at Fort Dodge he pushed on 20 miles further west where his brother-in-law, Michael Broderick, was awaiting his arrival, and by his help he was enabled to locate his family on the frontier in the Lizard settlement before those who had taken claims before him. These facts suggest the courage and indomitable perseverance of the man. He did not shrink from a task because it was difficult. If the wilderness was wild before him he knew why he had traveled all the way from Maine to the Lizard and without any indecision or hesitancy began to lay the foundation for his future home and fortune. In this effort he encountered many discouragements, but rising above them, achieved good success. He possessed the faculty of utilizing to good advantage the resources of nature that for many years were free around him. As the years passed he enlarged and beautified his home, increased his original farm to several hundred acres and occupied it until 1894 when he moved to Gilmore City, where his estimable wife, also a native of Ireland, died at 80 in 1901.

His house was used for the elections and meetings of the township officers during the year 1865. He served as a trustee of the township in 1862, was a member of the first school board, and the first school district was named in his honor.

His family consisted of five children:

Edward M. (b. Maine, 1850), who taught the first school in Fonda, in 1878 married Mary Lane and located on a farm. He served several years each as clerk, trustee and justice. A few years ago he moved to Dakota City where his wife died in 1898 leaving a family of eleven children.

Mary A. in 1872 married M. J. Hen-

neberry, lives in Humboldt county and has six children.

Thomas J. (b. Maine, 1853), in 1878 married Mary J. Crilly and their only child died in infancy. He has a splendid farm in Lizard township which he occupied until a few years ago, when he moved to Gilmore City where he has since been engaged in the real estate business. He was a member of the board of county supervisors 1884-86.

Ellen F. in 1880 married P. R. Powers, lives at Lohrville and has a family of nine children.

Maggie (b. Aug. 11, 1857), the second child born in Pocahontas county, in 1884 married Morris O'Connor, who died the next year leaving one child. In 1889 she married James Whelan, lives at Emmetsburg and their family consists of eleven children.

**Carey** James C., who in 1870 located on Sec. 26, was quite successful and became the owner of 240 acres. He raised a family of several children, two of whom are married, and served four years as a trustee. In 1899 he moved to Fort Dodge where he died in the fall of 1901.

**Carstens** Jacob (b. 1819), resident of Lizard township since May, 1865, is a native of Germany. In 1847 he came to Wisconsin and after engaging in railroad construction three years he returned to Germany. In 1854 he came to Clayton county, Iowa, and after engaging in the land business six years he again returned to the father land. In 1861 he returned to Clayton county and in 1865 secured a homestead of 80 acres on Sec. 22, Lizard township. Soon afterward he bought 320 acres more on the same section at \$3 00 per acre. Accompanied by his nephew, Diederick Hoefing, he began life on this homestead in a sod shanty that lasted three years, and he devoted his time and attention to dealing in land rather than farming.

The following incident related by his longtime neighbor and fellow countryman, Carl Steinbrink, gives one a good introduction to Mr. Carstens. In 1866 when Carl Steinbrink and Fred Kelsow arrived at Fort Dodge and were informed that a homesteader by name of Carstens owning 400 acres in the locality to which they wanted to go, was then in that town, they felt very sure they would be able to complete their journey to Lizard township in his wagon. So when they were introduced to each other, Steinbrink very confidently said, "You are in town with a team, ain't you?" "No," said Carstens, "I don't have a team, all I've got is a cat." That surprised Steinbrink and he quickly exclaimed, "Why man, what kind of farming are you doing out there? I want to go out and see it." "Well," said Carstens, "I am not a farmer, I am buying land and selling it." After a little further explanation, the three men, Carstens, Steinbrink and Kelsow, started with their luggage and walked to Sec. 22, a distance of 20 miles.

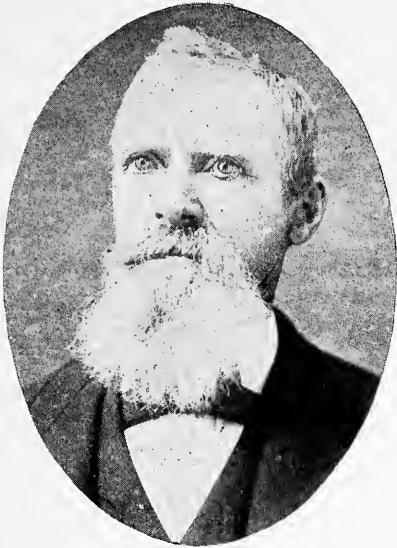
As a dealer in lands he has become quite successful and is now the happy owner of more than 2,000 acres in Lizard and adjoining townships. His grove of walnuts and maples, containing fifteen acres, is one of the largest in the township. He has been very contented and happy living alone and utilizes his spare moments by reading good books and caring for a few cattle and fowls. He is now over 80 years of age and is quite hale and hearty for a man of his years. He has not taken much interest in politics. A few years ago he presented the Lizard Lutheran church with a good bell and organ. He is an honest, upright citizen and is very highly respected by all who know him.

**Carstens** John H., cousin of Jacob, married Lena Carstens. In 1867 he came with his family to Lizard town-

ship and located on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22. He improved and enlarged this farm to 320 acres, and at the time of his decease at 65 in 1899, left a family of eleven children, four of whom are married. He was a good farmer and served six years as a trustee. He was one of the founders of the German Lutheran church.

**Carstens** Gerhard B., in 1867 came with his brother, John H., to Lizard township and located on Sec. 30. He has been very successful as a farmer and is now the owner of 320 acres which he has improved with good buildings and groves. He married Elizabeth, sister of Diederick Hoefing and has raised a large family.

**Collins** Michael, (b. 1821; d. 1898, see p. 156), member of the first board of county supervisors in 1861, became the wealthiest and in some respects the most prominent of the Lizard pioneers. His axe was one of the first to ring in the woods along the Lizard and his stalwart form was among the first to startle the Indian in Pocahontas county. He was a generous, honorable man whom to know was to become his friend. He participated in the organization of Lizard township, and also of Pocahontas county. He served as the first clerk of Lizard township, took an intelligent and active part in the management of its affairs and made a good success of his own business. He served three years 1862-64, as county treasurer and recorder and the next year as county treasurer. Walter Ford, his friend and neighbor more than forty years, said of him: "In those early days people in search of homes were directed to Collins' grove where they found Michael Collins always willing to assist them and welcome them under his roof. He took them over the prairies in his wagon and showed them the choicest homesteads. He was often called from his work several times a day, when Lizard creek was high, to



**WALTER FORD, CLARE.**  
COUNTY SUPERVISOR, 1872-74



**C. B. ELSER.**  
POSTMASTER, LIZARD, 1881-90.



**RESIDENCE OF JACOB CARSTENS, LIZARD TOWNSHIP.**



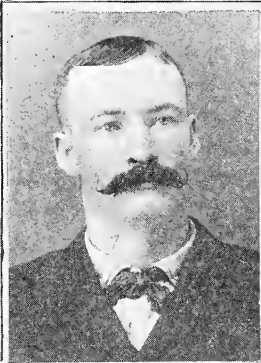
ROSE ANN DONAHOE CRILLY  
FIRST CHILD.



MAGGIE CALLIGAN WHELAN  
SECOND CHILD.



ELLEN CONDON  
FIRST TEACHER.



THOMAS F. ENRIGHT  
BELLVILLE.



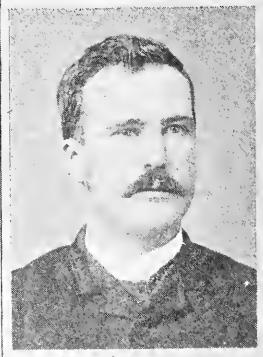
MRS. MARY QUINN ENRIGHT.



M. J. RUSSELL



W. J. COLLINS ESQ.



DR. C. J. KELLY.

LIZARD TOWNSHIP AND VICINITY.



ferry travelers across it in his dugout which was hewn from a basswood tree. His services were always gratuitous."

When he left Pittsburg, Pa., for Iowa in 1855 he was accompanied by his younger brother, Hugh (single), and James Hickey. Soon afterward he was followed by his elder brother, Patrick and their cousin, Roger Collins. Michael lived on the farm until 1877. He then moved to Manson and in 1891 to Clare, where he died in 1898.

His family consisted of three sons, Patrick and James, who died young in Ireland, Bridget, who cared for him after his retirement from the farm and Michael T.

**Collins**, Michael Thomas, (b. Dunbeg, Ireland, 1744), at 12, in 1855, became a resident of Pocahontas county. In 1865, he married Fannie Haire, a teacher, and after two years' residence in Fort Dodge bought a farm of 200 acres on sec. 12, which he has improved with good buildings and still occupies. He has served as trustee and assessor in the township, and, as a county supervisor in 1887-92, was the last representative of Lizard township on that board. His wife in January to May, 1865, taught the second term of school in the Calligan district in the log cabin of Dennis Connor. She was a refined, cultured christian woman whose life, as a wife and mother, was a gracious benediction in the home and family circle. She endured patiently the trials incident to pioneer life, the rearing of a large family, and in 1900, passed to her reward.

His family consists of nine children one having died in infancy.

Michael Joseph (b. 1866), in 1894 married Annie Cain, and lives at Clare, where he is engaged in land, insurance and auctioneer business. He has one son, Harold David, and one daughter, Fannie.

William John (b. 1868), graduate of the law department of the Iowa State

University in 1895, began the practice of law at Clare that year. Sept. 20, 1897, he established the Clare Examiner and continued as its editor until 1900. He is now devoting himself to the practice of his profession and has a promising future before him.

Fannie in 1900, married M. J. McMahon.

Thomas (b. 1869), Elizabeth M., David J., Maggie, Bridget C. and John Herbert are at home.

Maggie and Bridget have been attending the Convent schools at Fort Dodge and Clare; and seven of them—Michael J., William J., Elizabeth, Fannie, Maggie, Robert and John have met with good success as teachers.

Catherine Kinnerk, daughter of the wife of Michael Collins, Sr., came with her to the Lizard settlement in 1855. She married Thomas J. Calligan of Webster county and raised a family of two sons and four daughters. She now lives on her farm south of Clare, her husband having died in 1882.

**Collins**, Patrick (b. 1819, d. 1897), elder brother of Michael, after his marriage to Nora Green in Ireland in 1853, came to Pennsylvania and remained four years. In the fall of 1857, with wife and three children he located on the se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec 12, Lizard township, and the next year secured the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24. After a residence of five years in this county he sold his farms to his brothers, Michael and Hugh Collins, and moved to Webster County, where he died at 78 in 1897.

**Collins**, Hugh (b. Ireland 1833; d. 1889; p.156) younger brother of Michael came to America in his youth and located at Pittsburg, Pa. In 1854 he came to Iowa and to the Lizard settlement the next year in company with James Hickey. They were the first two settlers in the Lizard settlement, Hickey locating on the se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 13, Lizard township and Collins on the

sw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 18, opposite In Jackson township. In 1871 he bought the farm of his cousin, Roger Collins, containing the Collins grove of natural timber on sec. 24, and it is now owned by his son, Michael J. Collins, of Clare.

**Collins**, Roger, cousin of Michael Sr., coming to America at 32, lived in New York and Ohio till 1856, when he located on a preemption on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 23, 160 acres, Lizard township. Later he also secured the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  nw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 24. In 1871, after a residence of 14 years he moved to a farm near Fort Dodge and later to that town where he died at 78 in 1900. His family consisted of one son, who died about 1888, and six daughters, all of whom are married, namely, Mrs. M. English, Mrs. Matthias Hanrahan of Clare, Mrs. Frank Hogan, Mrs. Frank McNamara of Fort Dodge, Mrs. Robert McNamara of Belmont and Mrs. Thomas F. McCartan of Pocahontas.

**Connors**, Michael, who bought the claim of Dennis Connor, whose vacant cabin built in 1856, was used for school purposes in the Calligan district 1863 to 1866, came to Lizard township in the summer of 1857 with wife and one child and located on the sw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 1. After two years he moved to Independence where he died in 1862. His wife held the farm until her death in 1890, and it is now owned and occupied by her daughter Alice. Their family consisted of four children, Michael and Mary, who have died, Margaret and Alice.

**Crahan**, Patrick (b. 1832; d. 1898), founder of the Crahan Place on sw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 8, Lizard township, was a native of Clare county, Ireland, and was left an orphan at nine. Going to the Lowlands of Scotland at fifteen he found employment as a ditcher, and during the next six years earned his passage money to America. At 21 he came to Elmira, N. Y. and engaged in railroad construction. In 1854 he married Margaret McMahon, and soon after-

ward located at Winona, Wis., and then in Iowa along the Illinois Central R. R., successively at Julian, Manchester, Elk Run, Iowa Falls and in the spring of 1869 in Lizard township. Here he secured the homestead right of J. J. Bruce and began to farm. He returned to the railroad, however, when he suffered the loss of crops by the grasshoppers or other causes. Although he worked on the railroad more than twenty-five years he proved an aggressive and very successful farmer. As the years passed he added 460 acres to the homestead, making 620 acres in the Crahan Place, which he made a beautiful home.

His wife in whose honor the Rolfe Catholic church was named "St. Margaret," died in 1895. He died at 66 in 1898. His family consisted of eleven children of whom seven are living.

**Michael**, Crahan, (see page 513).

Mary in 1894, married Michael Fitzgerald, located on sec. 1, and died in 1895.

Thomas is owner of a farm of 120 acres on sec. 18. In 1891 he married Maggie Bradigan.

John in 1897, married Sadie Tierney and occupies a farm of 120 acres on secs. 6 and 18.

Nellie, in 1897, married Patrick Connors, and lives on a farm near Bar-num.

Katie, in 1896, married Wm. Tierney, and lives at Rolfe.

Bridget and William are at home. Patrick died at 20 in 1896, and Maggie at 17, in 1899.

**Boyd**, James, after whom the Boyd school district, No. 4, was named, was a native of Ireland, where he married and raised two sons, Arthur and William. On coming to this country he lived several years in the Province of Ontario, Can., and in 1866, located in Lizard township, where he and Arthur secured homesteads on sec. 34, and William on sec. 36. All of them left the county about the year 1874.

**Donahoe**, James, (b. 1814), one of the early pioneers of Lizard township, (p. 163), had a family of nine children, of whom the five eldest came with him to Pocahontas county in 1856. Two of these Charles and Mary died during the seven years of his residence in this county.

Thomas is cashier of the State Bank at Clare.

Peter M., owner and occupant of 320 acres on secs. 36 and 25, Lizard township, is the only member of the family now living in this county. He married Ellen Condon, the first teacher in Lizard township, and she died in 1879, leaving two children, Joseph, who lives on the farm with his father, and James, a clerk at Clare. Later he married Annie Carey, and their family consists of Thomas, Mary, Richard, Elizabeth and Annie.

Rose Ann, (see p. 163). Mary Jane is at home. Charles, the youngest, is a member of the firm of Donahoe & Wood, general merchants, Clare. He married Agnes Calligan and has one child.

**Donahoe**, John, who, in 1865, located on sec. 14, after a few years removed to Lake township, where he died. His wife is dead also. Their family consisted of four sons, Michael, an invalid, John and William, who are residents of Lake township, and Wallace, who lives at Lincoln, Neb.

**Ford**, Walter, (b. 1833; p. 159), one of the most prominent and successful pioneers of Lizard township, and honored by a seat on the Board of County Supervisors 1874 to 1876, was a native of Ireland. At the age of 17 he came to America with his elder sister, Ellen—Mrs. Patrick McLarney—and niece, and located at Ellsworth, Maine, where he found employment in the pinneries and remained four years. In April, 1856, he came to Pocahontas county and located a claim on the ne sec. 13, Lizard township. In 1859 he went to Louisiana, and the next year

to Philadelphia, where in May, 1860, he married Mary, daughter of John Garvey. In 1861, returning to Fort Dodge and finding employment, first as a teamster and later as a contractor, he remained there until the spring of 1870, when he again located on his claim in Lizard township which, in the meantime, had been occupied by Michael O'Shea and William Price. He improved this farm with good buildings and occupied it for 24 years. His wife died in 1882, and in 1884 he moved to Clare where he still resides.

In making his first trip to the frontier in 1856, he paid the Stage Company at Dubuque \$14.00 for his passage to Fort Dodge. When he arrived at Iowa Falls the Iowa river, which had no bridge or ferry, was overflowing its banks, and the stage driver informed the passengers they would have to wait there until the river could be forded before they could be carried to Fort Dodge. Three of them Messrs. Ford, Haney and A. T. Blackshire demanded the return of a part of their fares, but were refused with a repetition of the previous announcement. These three men, crossing the river in a skiff, walked the remaining 60 miles, carrying their valises, and received their trunks three months later.

On his return to the farm in 1870 he again began to take a prominent part in the management of the public affairs in the township and county. He received a good education, was a neat penman and no one enjoyed more fully than he, the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. He served as County Supervisor three years, as Assessor three years and as a Justice eleven years. He has been a member of the Catholic church from his infancy, was a liberal supporter of the Lizard church and furnished the outline of its history that appears in this volume.

His family consisted of nine children:

Walter P., in 1894, married Elizabeth, daughter of John O'Neil, and occupies the old home farm on sec. 13. He has taught several terms of school and engaged two years in general merchandise at Pioneer.

Thomas Edward, married Catherine Malie, of Clare, and died at 27 in 1890, leaving one child, Edward.

Celia Agnes, married James Cody, a painter, lives at Clare and has two children, Josie and John.

Lillian E., in 1892, married John F. Dalton, editor and proprietor of the *Manson Democrat*, and has four children, John, Mary, Lillian and Alice.

Mary, at the home of her father in Clare, died at 34 in 1900.

John F., in 1893, married Nellie Howard, lives in Fort Dodge where he has served six years as Deputy Auditor and is now serving his second term as Auditor of Webster county. He has two children, Howard and Mary.

Joseph, a resident of Gowrie, is owner of a farm of 160 acres in Jackson township, Webster county.

Catherine, married Maurine O'Hearne, a blacksmith, lives at Clare and has one child, Walter.

Lottie, married Wm. J. Wood, a general merchant, lives at Clare and has two children, Hubert and Eulalia.

**Gorman**, James, who preempted 120 acres on sec. 12, sold his interest to Thomas Cotter before he made any improvements, and the latter sold it to Michael Collins for his son, M. T. Collins, its present owner and occupant.

**Helmick**, Henry, who in 1869, secured a homestead on sec. 28, died about 1874, leaving a family who still occupy the old home.

**Henricks**, John, who in 1865, secured a homestead on sec. 4, still owns it and lives in Manson.

**Hoefing**, Dietrick, owner and oc-

cupant of 720 acres on secs. 22 and 23, is a native of Germany and a nephew of Jacob Carstens. In the fall of 1866, he came and joined his uncle, who had preceded him in Lizard township one year, and they lived together during the next three years in a sod shanty that was built on the line between their homesteads on sec. 22. In 1869, the sod house was replaced by a frame building 12x18 feet that still forms the main part of the home of his uncle. In the fall of 1870 he returned to Germany and in February, 1871, he married Catherine Peters. Accompanied by his wife he returned to his homestead and erected thereon a good house, 16x24 feet. His progress and development since has kept pace with the growth of the country. Commencing life in humble circumstances he is now the happy possessor of a large estate. During the years of 1873-8 the grasshoppers took from him all the capital he brought with him. These losses were very discouraging, but instead of yielding thereto, he put forth a noble endeavor to retrieve them in the best possible manner, and the success achieved became another practical illustration of the truth of the old adage, that, "Patience and perseverance will perform great wonders." He learned how to practice economy in the school of necessity. He has succeeded well in raising cattle and hogs, and by investing his surplus annual income in Pocahontas county land, he has found the latter a very profitable investment. Four hundred of the 720 acres now possessed were bought during the period 1890-94. He has provided for his family the facilities for a good education and has been an efficient member of the St. John's Lutheran church since its organization.

His first wife died in 1872, leaving one child, Catherine, who is still at home. In 1873, he married Nettie Webber and their family consisted of

eight children, Dietrick; Annie, who in 1894, married Wm. Shroeder and lives on sec. 13, Bellville township; Henry, Mary, Frederic, Frank and Nettie.

**Klingbeil**, Gustave, came from Wisconsin in 1867, with Julius Sell and located on sec. 6. He is now the owner of 160 acres that are well improved and he has raised a large family.

**Johnson**, John H., who in 1866, located on sec. 10, and served as Justice from 1867 to 1874, had a good team and did a great deal of breaking for the other settlers in Lizard and some of the neighboring townships. He is now living at Fort Dodge.

**Johnson**, Daniel and Isaac W., who in 1866, located on sec. 10, were brothers. Isaac died some years ago and Daniel is now the owner and occupant of a fine farm of 160 acres on sec. 16.

**Kelley** Charles, (b. 1817, d. 1890,—p. 157) one of the most persevering and successful of the early pioneers of Lizard township, was a native of Ireland. Locating on sec. 12 in 1856, he improved his claim and occupied it until his decease in 1890—a period of 34 years. He was a man of noble impulses and possessed considerable native shrewdness. He added acre to acre in the early days when land was cheap and ranked second among the early pioneers in the number of acres possessed. He was a devout member of the Catholic church, an enthusiastic leader among the democrats and very nearly secured the erection of the first court house on his own farm. He raised a large and intelligent family of sons and daughters, to all of whom he afforded the opportunity of receiving a good education. His wife (b. 1834), who is still in the enjoyment of good health, and several of the younger members of the family still occupy the substantial log house built in 1856 in a beautiful grove of native

timber along the North branch of Lizard creek.

His family consisted of nine children:

Henry (b. 1856), in 1889 married Agnes McKee and is now engaged in the drug business at Anselmo, Neb.

Charles Joseph (b. May 6, 1858), the first boy born in Pocahontas county, after graduating from college at Keokuk, and in 1892 from the Rush Medical Institute, Chicago, has since been engaged in the practice of medicine at Burlington.

Annie married Maurice Shine, lives on sec. 18, Lake township, and has three children.

Michael is owner of a farm of 120 acres near the old home.

Mary married John Karnes, lives at the old home and has three children, Charles, Mary and Rhoda.

Susanna married Daniel O'Hearn, occupies a farm of 120 acres at Clare, and has three children, Martha, Joseph and Homer.

Rhoda married Michael Keenan, a blacksmith, lives at Fort Dodge and has two children, Veronica and Robert.

Martha, a dressmaker, lives at Fort Dodge, and John, the youngest, manages the home farm.

Anna, Mary, Susanna, Martha and Henry spent more or less time teaching school. Edward, the fifth, died in childhood, and James E. died at 17, in 1885.

**Kenning** Charles, a resident of sec. 29, from 1870 to 1877, was a native of Germany, where he married Mary Shroeder. Coming to America he located first in Wisconsin and remained there until 1870. He was very successful in raising stock and his farm of 160 acres was very soon increased to 240 acres. He is now a resident of Manson.

His family consisted of five children: Augusta married Rudolph Kelsow

a native of Germany. They occupy a farm of 200 acres on sections 19 and 30, and have four children, Martha, Otto, John and William. Martha married Frederic Weigert, owner and occupant of 160 acres in Bellville township.

John, who is engaged in the hardware business at Manson, married Elizabeth Herbert and has a family of seven children.

William is at home.

Frederic J. has been engaged in the hardware business at Fonda since 1893 in partnership with A. L. Roberts. In 1896 he married Lulu Ellis and has two children, Grace and Mabel.

Rudolph is engaged in the real estate business in Texas.

**McCabe** Patrick, an early pioneer that in 1856 located on sec. 24, was a native of Ireland. He improved and enlarged his pre-emption to 160 acres. He occupied it until his death, and it is still in the possession of his wife (Dempsey) and family. He was an honest and upright man, and enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-citizens. He was one of the first trustees of the township, and in 1862, becoming a member of the second board, served four years as a county supervisor.

His family consisted of seven children:

Annie married John Condon, a farmer, who owns a large farm in Webster county, and has raised a large family.

Kate is in a Sisters' school at Du-buque.

Alice married Thomas Fitz, and lives on a farm in Jackson township.

Peter, owner of 160 acres, lives with his mother at the old home.

Margaret married Michael Fitz and located on a farm in Humboldt county, where she died about 1890.

James J. married a daughter of Thomas Brennan, owns a farm of 80 acres on sec. 24 and has three children.

Elizabeth married John Condon and lives in Wisconsin.

**Miller** David, superintendent 1870-71, in 1865 secured a homestead of 80 acres on sec. 14, which he occupied until 1889, when he moved to Washington township and soon afterward to Oregon. He was a good teacher, served as superintendent and also as a member of the board of county supervisors. He married a sister of George Spragg during his residence in Buchanan county and she died there. Josephine Russell, his second wife died before he left the homestead, and he afterward married Mrs. Willey, who had two children by her first husband.

**McDermott** Bernard, who in 1868 came to sec. 14, about 1876, moved to Lake township and in 1885 to Nebraska.

**Nolan** Christopher, still lives on sec. 3, where he located in 1869.

**Nolan** Nicholas, who in 1869 came with his brother Christopher, and located on section 4, is still the owner and occupant of the old homestead which he has enlarged by the purchase of 80 additional acres. His wife died a few years ago. Their family consisted of four children, three sons and one daughter, Mary, who married James Mulholland and lives at Gilmore City. John lives at Manson.

**O'Neil** John, (b. 1819) owner of a farm of 160 acres on sec. 7, was a native of Ireland. Coming to America at thirteen, he located in Canada where he married Constance Godfrey and remained until 1871. Then with a family of eight children he located on the homestead in Lizard township, which he improved with good buildings. He died at 81 in 1900. His wife and nine children, Mary, Alice, Kate, Thomas, Annie, James, Elizabeth, Lucy, Theresa and Joseph are living. Alice died at Fort Dodge in 1899. Annie married J. H. Caswell, a merchant and lives at

Grand Junction. Lizzie married Walter P. Ford and lives in Lizard township. Lizzie married and lives in Chicago. The others are at the old home.

**O'Boyle** Michael, (b. 1826; d. 1897), resident of section 20, Lizard township, from 1876 to 1890, was a native of Ireland, the son of John and Mary O'Boyle. He came to America in 1851, and in 1856 at Pottsville, Pa., married Mary Thompson. Later he located at Shenandoah, Pa., and in 1876 in Pocahontas county. He was a successful farmer and transformed the wild prairie on which he located, into a beautiful home. In 1890 he moved to Clare, where he died in 1897. He was an ardent democrat and a member of the Catholic church.

His family consisted of four children:

Thomas married Alice Dalton and has been for many years the postmaster at Clare.

Kate married John Conlee, a merchant, and lives at Manson.

Mary married John Collins, a merchant, and lives at Gilmore City.

Patrick died in 1881.

**O'Shea** Michael (b. 1822), who occupied the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, from 1864 to 1895, is now a resident of Manson. He is a native of Ireland, came to America in 1850 and located in Clermont county, Ohio, where he found employment boating between that place and New Orleans on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In 1855 he married Catherine Carroll, (b. Ireland 1824) and engaged in farming and railroading until he settled in this county. He experienced some disappointments on the farm, but with the help of his son John increased the original 80 to 400 acres before he left it in 1895. By raising oxen and feeding stock-cattle he usually fed more grain than he raised. He believes success on the farm can be achieved by any intelligent person, who practices economy

in expenditures, abstains from the use of tobacco and intoxicants, works late and early and combines stock-raising and feeding with cropping. In Manson he has built a large residence and one of the finest double brick business blocks in the city. He is a member of the Catholic church and has been a republican since 1860.

His family consisted of seven children, two of whom died in Ohio and three others in the short space of sixteen months after coming to Iowa, namely: Michael at 24, in 1889; Kate at 20, in 1890, and Maria at 28 in 1891. Maria in 1886 married Henry Gorman of Chicago, and left one son, Harry.

John, a teamster, is at home.

Bridget in 1882 married Joseph Price, a stock-dealer, and he died at Manson in 1895, leaving six children, Mary, Kittie, Nellie, Joseph, Rose and Maggie.

**Julius** John, who in 1868, located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, is a native of Germany, where he married Minnie Seeman. Coming to America he lived several years in Wisconsin and about fifteen in Clayton county, Iowa. His orchard of two acres planted about 1880 is now in fine bearing condition and one of the best in the township.

His family consisted of three sons and three daughters:

Matilda married Joseph Breitenbach (p. 661) who died in 1878, leaving three children, David, Hannah and Adam. Later she married August Miller, and their family consists of seven sons, Edward, John, Otto, August, Henry, William and Erick.

Minnie married August Barthold and located in Calhoun county, where he died. Later she married August Haese and their family consists of two children.

John B. married Bertha Miller, lives at Gilmore city and has a family of three children, Lydia, William and Matie.

Edward B. is engaged in the drug business in South Dakota, and Henry is at Gilmore City.

**Redman** Carl, in 1868 located on section 6. In 1889 he met with a serious accident while returning from Manson, that resulted in his death a few hours later. He left one son, Carl, who is still owner of the old homestead, and one daughter, Louisa, who became the wife of Gerd Elsen (p. 628). His wife died at the home of her daughter in Lake township, in 1892.

**Renken** Michael, owner of 360 acres on section 20, is a native of Germany, where he married Antrim Weber. He came in 1868, has been quite successful as a farmer and has improved his farm with neat and attractive buildings.

His family consisted of five children: Anna, after her marriage located in California; Maria married John Jansen, a harness-maker, and lives at Manson; Henry married Hannah Saathaf, lives on his father's farm and has two children; John and Frank are at home.

**Rost** Arndt E., Mary Ann his wife, and four children, Benjamin, Maria, Anna and Ancke, in June, 1868, located on section 8, Arndt and Benjamin taking adjoining homesteads. Arndt died suddenly at 70, in the spring of 1869, while in the field for the cows. During that same year his three daughters became ill and died; Maria and Anna on the same day. His house was located on the line between the two homesteads and his wife, while living with her son, secured his homestead. She died in 1882.

Benjamin married Mary Weber and is now the owner and occupant of both homesteads. He served as a trustee five years. A sister of his became the wife of John C. Everwine, who in 1869 located and still lives on section 20. Her family consists of two sons and one daughter.

**Price**, George, who in 1865 located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC. 24, was a native of England where he married. He spent about forty years in America, locating first in Nova Scotia, then in Dane county, Wisconsin, in Lizard township, 1865 to 1875, then in Young county, Texas, where he died.

**Price**, William Perry, (b. 1819), youngest son of George, came with his father to America in his childhood, and in 1849, married Mary A. Wade, of Hamilton, Can. In 1855 he moved to a farm in Dane Co., Wis., where in 1861 he enlisted as a member of Co. G, 11th Wis. Inf. and spent three years in the army during the Civil war. In 1865 he located on a homestead of 80 acres, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC. 24, Lizard township, which he improved and occupied until 1875, when he went to Texas, but soon afterward located in Dent Co., Mo. In 1880 he returned to Lizard township, where in 1882, his wife and daughter, Charlotte, died during a scourge of malarial fever. Accompanied by Joseph, his youngest son, he returned to Missouri, where he married again. His second wife died a few years ago and he is now at the home at his daughter, Mrs. J. J. Bruce, of Rolfe. It was just after the battle of Bull Run when the nation needed men, that he said, "take me." He has had the courage to express his convictions and his worth as a citizen has been recognized wherever he has resided.

His family consisted of four sons and eight daughters, of whom Caroline, the eldest, died at 11 in 1861, and Henrietta, the youngest, in infancy.

John W., a farmer, married Mary Holmes, lives near Rolfe and has two children. James H., a butcher, married Nancy Hale, lives at Rolfe and has two children. Robert G. married Winnifred Inman, daughter of an early settler of Des Moines township, and lives in the state of Washington.



Joseph the youngest, settled on a farm in Camden Co., Mo. .

Mary J. married James J. Bruce, (p. 509), Alice married Wm. E. Struthers (p. 529), Maria married Harry Ham, a farmer, and lives in Des Moines township, Elizabeth C. married Niels Lilligaard, a farmer and lives in Clinton township. Annie married Wm. Overmier (now deceased) and lives at Valley Junction.

**Russell**, Phillip, (b. 1823, d. 1893, p. 160) was one of the most intelligent and highly honored of the early pioneers of Lizard township and filled the office of justice for eight years, township clerk, sixteen, county supervisor, two, and clerk of the district court four, 1861-65. He discharged his public duties with fidelity and was a devout member of the Catholic church. He died at 70 in 1893, leaving a good heritage for his children.

His family consisted of eight children, all of whom are living, except Thomas who died at 21, in 1895.

John M. (b. 1861), owner of 160 acres on Sec. 3 and Clerk 1890-94, after teaching and farming a few years turned his attention to philosophical investigation and authorship. He furnished the author of this work most of the facts for the historical sketch of Lizard township. In 1899 he went to Colorado City and two years later to San Francisco, where he is now carrying through the press a corrected edition of a volume first printed by the Ft. Dodge Post in 1898, entitled, "The Seven Ages."\*

\*The Seven Ages, or a new system of science and theology, towit: "That the sun is the heaven of the solar system, the throne of omnipotence; that it is a stupendous cosmic shell of gold whose interior is the empyrean, and its exterior the hell of the solar system; that the earth had five moons, now all fallen but one, that the fall of the fourth sunk the ocean beds and upheaved the continents and mount-

Margaret Ellen is a teacher of many years experience.

William P. (b. 1465) is manager of the home farm. In his earlier years he engaged in teaching, but now devotes his spare time to the insurance business.

Phillip F. (b. 1867) Mary Alice, a teacher and Lillian B. the youngest are at home.

Michael J, Russell, (b. 1871) after teaching several years, graduated at the Iowa college of law, Des Moines, and in 1901, located in Manson, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law.

James P. (b. 1876) in 1895 married Minnie O'Connell, and occupies the farm of his brother, John M., on Section 3.

**Schoonmaker**, Garrett, in 1865 located on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC. 4, where he established an inn, a store and a postoffice. His house was on the government route from Ft. Dodge to Sioux Rapids, and at the time it was built, there was no other one between it and the latter place. His two sons, Alonzo and Luther located on farms on Sec. 5. About 1884 all moved to the vicinity of Manson and later to Sac county, where Garrett died about 1896.

**Schroeder**, William, died about 1880 and his family still own and occupy the old home on Sec. 29.

**Streckleberg**, Henry, and his son Henry Streckleberg, Jr., in August, 1868 secured the homestead claims of Wm. B. and Chas. W. Lattin, on Sec. 14. A few years later Henry purchas-

ains, and that the fall of the fifth at the end of time shall cause the end of the world; that the invisible atomic element of infinite space is the ashes of fallen angels, which became the source of all creation; that as Lucifer became the "old serpent," so sin transforms angels and men to serpents and the the undying serpent, emblem of the punishment of the wicked, is the end of all degradation."

ed Sec. 25, Bellville township, and commenced to raise wheat on a large scale. Owing to the excess of moisture and the ravages of the grasshoppers this proved an unprofitable venture. Henry Jr., still owns the farm on Sec. 14, now increased to 360 acres and lives at Manson.

**Steinbrink**, Carl, (b. 1838) one of the most prominent of the Lizard settlers that came after the Civil war, is a native of Germany, the son of John and Sabine (Bartold) Steinbrink. His mother died when he was three years of age and his father when he was eleven. April 29, 1866, during the Austria-Prussian war, he married Maria Kalsow (b. 1840). He was then a soldier in the Prussian army and when in September that year, at the close of the war, he was mustered out he had completed three years of military service in the Prussian or German army. Crossing the Atlantic he arrived at New York, October 28th, on his way to northwestern Iowa. Leaving his wife at Iowa Falls, the terminus of the railroad, he and Rudolph Kalsow, his brother-in-law, walked to the E½ SW¼ SEC. 22, Lizard township, (p. 664), a distance of 75 miles. In making this trip they saw only one farm house between Alden and Webster City. During the years that have passed since that date he has witnessed a wonderful transformation in this section of the country. He, too, has been an ideal settler, selecting his homestead, occupying, enlarging and improving it as the years have passed. The sod shanty, 12x14 feet, occupied the first four years was then replaced by a story and a half log house, 16x20 feet, and twenty two years later or in 1893, it was replaced by the large frame mansion he and his family have since enjoyed. In 1888 he built a large barn to take the place of the first improvements for the care of his stock. Other new buildings have since been erected

and all of them are nicely protected by a beautiful grove. His orchard is one of the best in the township. The homestead of 80 acres has been increased to 440 acres and in 1896 he added thereto some property in Manson that cost about \$2000.

He has served as a member and secretary of the Boyd school board ever since it became an independent district, in 1875. He served as a member of the board of supervisors six years, 1878-83. He has been a leading member of the Lizard Lutheran church since its organization. He has thus been prominently identified with the development of the material, political, educational and religious interests of that highly favored section of the land of his adoption.

He is one of nature's noblemen and enjoys the reputation of being the largest man in the township, standing six feet, two inches in height and weighing 225 pounds. The high esteem in which he is held, however, is due to the excellent qualities of character he has developed, the good record he has made and the success he has achieved. His family consists of three sons and three daughters.

Matilda M. (b. 1867), in 1887 married William Onken, a native of Germany, who owns and occupies 160 acres on Sec. 25, and has a family of four children, Henry, Maria, Elizabeth and Martha.

John F. (b. 1869), Carl F. (b. 1872), Rudolph Otto, (born 1874), Augusta and Emma E. are at home.

**Stenson**, William W. (b. 1828), who in 1865 located on the W½ SE¼ Sec. 14, is a native of Otsego Co., N. Y., where in 1851 he married Sarah M. Coller and located on a farm. In 1856 he moved to Adams Co., Wis., and in 1865 to Pocahontas county. He improved and occupied the homestead 28 years, and in 1893 moved to Manson. The first postoffice in Lizard township (p. 659) was established at his home in

1868. He served three years, 1875-77, as a county supervisor of this county.

His wife died at 48 in 1876. His family consisted of three children two of whom died in childhood. Ida, the second, in 1877 married Seymour Ferrand, and, after a few years' residence in Calhoun county, in 1889 located on a farm on Sec. 9, Lizard township. They have one son, William, who graduated from the Manson High School in 1898.

**Van Valkenburg, A. H.** who in 1867 secured a homestead on Sec 36 is still the owner and occupant of it. His sister who used to keep house for him died a few years ago. He has filled the offices of trustee, assessor and justice.

**Wagner, Peter,** who secured a homestead on Sec. 34, died about 1877 and his wife, who was a sister of David Miller, afterwards married A. M. Carpenter.

**Wallace, David** (1805; d. 1885) ancestor of the Wallace families of Lizard and Center townships was a native of Ireland, where he married Mary Bagdad. Both he and wife were of Scotch parentage and received their early training in the Established Church. In 1837, after the birth of their first two children, they came to America and located on a farm in Canada.

In March 1866 his oldest son, John W. Wallace, Henry Shields, his brother-in-law, James Shields and James Connors came together to Lizard township and secured homesteads of 80 acres each on Sec. 8. They came by rail to Ackley and walked the remaining distance. Each of the first three men named built a sod house and began the work of improving their homesteads. Two months later David Wallace, a younger brother of John W., arrived, secured a homestead on the same section and built another sod house. In October 1866 David Wallace and family, which then in-

cluded three of his grand children, Mary J., Josiah W. and Francis H. Osborne, arrived, began to occupy Connor's homestead and built another sod house on the same section. These settlers on Sec. 8, were among the number of those who had to take the lead in this county in erecting sod houses and planting artificial groves. They experienced no difficulty in getting sod for their houses, which were used about one year, but as there were no tree peddlers in those days, they had to go many miles to obtain the little trees or cuttings for the groves.

David Wallace in 1869 served as superintendent of the first Sunday school in Lizard township. It met in the Johnson school house on Sec. 4. His wife died at 66 in 1871 and was buried in the cemetery in Jackson township, south of Clare. In 1876 he accompanied Henry Shields and family to the State of Washington where he died at 80 in 1885. He was a tall, large and strong man. His family consisted of eight children:

Ellen in Canada married Frank Osborne, who died in 1852, leaving three children; Mary J., Josiah W. and Frank H. She died in 1855. Their children found a home with their grand parents and in 1866 came with them to Lizard township. Mary became the wife of George Spragg and in 1869 located in Cedar township and twelve years later in Nebraska. Josiah married Ida, a sister of L. W. Moody and located at Pomeroy. Frank went to Washington.

Thomas H, in Canada married Charlotte Carlisle and later located in Ft. Dodge, where she died in 1881 leaving three children.

Eliza J. in Canada married Henry Shields who, in March 1866, secured a homestead on Sec. 8, Lizard township. He improved and occupied this homestead until 1876 when, accom-

panied by David Wallace, he moved to Washington.

John W., Clerk of the Court, 1875-86. See page 479.

David (b. 1847; d. 1894) in 1870 married Rosa Dempsey, a native of Canada, and continued to live on the homestead in Lizard township until 1884, when he moved to Washington where he died in 1894 leaving four children; William, Ella, Maude and Dot.

Samuel (b. 1851), coming with his parents to Pocahontas county, in 1879 located with his brother John at Pocahontas. In 1881 he married Mary McLarney and a few years later located at Gilmore City. His family consists of six children.

**Walsh, Michael** (b. 1830; d. 1900—p. 164), one of the early pioneers after whom the Walsh (No. 2) school district was named, was a native of Cork Co., Ireland. In 1852 he came to New York and the next year to Butler Co., O., where in June 1856, he married Margaret Lully, a native of Dublin, and located in Rock Island Co. Ill. He was not satisfied with his prospects there, and leaving his wife with friends he started afoot for the prairies of western Iowa and arrived in Lizard township in October following. Here he put a pre-emption claim on 160 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14 and erected a log cabin. The land was put on the market sooner than he expected and he was then able to buy only 40 acres of the amount claimed. When it was opened for homestead entry he secured 40 acres more and as the years passed he made other purchases so that at the time of his decease in 1900, he owned 400 acres. His log cabin 16x18 feet is said to have been the first one covered with shingles west of Ft. Dodge. Ten years later it was replaced by a large frame house the shelter and comforts of which were shared with many a wayfaring traveler passing eastward or westward on the emigrant route. He was a good

farmer and succeeded well in his efforts to transform the wilderness into a cultivated and fruitful field. He was a member of the Catholic church, and a man "universally loved and respected."

His family consisted of seven children all of whom have grown up: Mary, a teacher, Rose, Ann, Philip, Margaret, William and Thomas.

Mrs. Daniel Lane, sister of Michael Walsh, and one of the old settlers in Lizard township, died at 72 in 1899 at Pomeroy where her husband still lives.

**Wiese, John** (b. 1819), who in 1865 secured a homestead on Sec. 26, was a native of Germany where he married. In May 1865, with wife and three children, he located in Lizard township. He was a good farmer and became quite prominent as a citizen. His wife died in 1887 and he died in 1893. Their family consisted of four children: Henrietta after her marriage moved to Kansas; Minnie married Henry Rawdell and in 1893 located in Minnesota; Emma married A. F. Habenicht and lives in Webster county; Gustave married Sophia Rawdell and lives in Washington.

**Wiese, Michael** (b. 1821; d. 1898), owner and occupant of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3 since May 1866, was a native of Germany where in 1844 he married Caroline Hinz and remained until 1851, when he located in Wisconsin. Fifteen years later he located on a homestead in Lizard township, which he improved and enlarged as the years passed to 520 acres. He was prosperous as a farmer and very highly respected for his many excellent qualities of character.

For many years he drove a bay horse to Manson whose instinct seemed almost equal to man's intelligence. When commanded to stand still by Mr. Wiese, no matter what the circumstances were, he would not move until told to do so. The man and his

faithful horse grew old together and when the latter died his master said, He would not long survive him. This prediction proved true, for he died soon afterward at 77 in 1898. His wife died at 79 in 1901. Both were members of the Lizard Lutheran church.

His family consisted of ten children five of whom are still living.

William G., who owns a fine farm on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27, in 1881 married Caroline Siefert and has a family of five children; William, Etta, Caroline, George and August.

Michael married Ellen Siefert and occupies the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33.

John E., occupies the old homestead and has a family of five children.

Frederic owns and occupies 80 acres on Sec. 28.

Etta married Adam Wassen, lives in Webster county and has a large family.

**Westlake**, William W., who secured a homestead on Sec. 28, and served as a justice, 1871-74, died a few years ago and also his son Wallace. His daughter, Ella, a teacher, married William Merchant; her mother also married and both have left the county. His farm is now owned and occupied by F. Vanderhoof.

**Zanter**, Ferdinand, who in 1865 located on Sec. 22, is still a resident of the township. In August 1862 he enlisted as a member of Co. D, 27th Ia., and spent three years as a soldier in the civil war. His marriage to Caroline Fieldhaber in September, 1866, is said to have been the first one in the township.

#### **The Irish in Lizard Township.**

Nearly all the pioneers and many of the later settlers of Lizard township were natives of Ireland, and their first rivalry was with the citizens of Des Moines township over the location of the first public buildings and county seat. It has been a source of profound pleasure to record their "footprints in the sands of time"—a story of

voluntary and heroic struggle in the face of untold privations, hardships and dangers. Some facts that have been mentioned have so deeply impressed the author, by way of comparison and contrast, that he has deemed it not unwise to refer to them again, and he indulges the hope that every reader will recognize and appreciate the broad and generous spirit that prompts the following comparisons.

The people of this country have not been accustomed to look to Ireland for the best types of model and successful farmers, and during their first years the pioneers of Lizard township were not rated very high for their proficiency in farming by the dwellers in the other parts of the county. Many changes have been wrought during the last forty years, and the foregoing historic review of that township discovers the fact, that if the farmers, representing other lands across the ocean, have done well, many of those that came from Ireland have also done well. Several of them accumulated as many acres, and others improved their homes with as fine buildings as the leading representatives of other distant countries, who reside in the township or county. During recent years some of the Germans, their nearest and most formidable rivals, and some of the Swedes also, may have surpassed them a little in raising fine stock, but in one respect worthy of special commendation,—they have excelled, namely, in the education of their sons and daughters. This is all the more remarkable because the entire township still remains a rural district, a circumstance that compelled them to send their youth away from home in order to secure the facilities of a thorough and complete education, even in the common branches.

As early as 1881 the fact was noted in the press of this county, that Lizard township had had, for several

years, a surplus of good teachers. This has been true of this township every year since. Then, the list of six young men furnished by this township (p. 659), two to each of the three learned professions—the ministry, medicine and law—is at this date and to the best of our knowledge, without a parallel in the county. There is not another township in the county that can claim so large a representation of young people in these three professions.

On considering this matter a little more closely, it will be found that every one of these young men, in the list from Lizard township, represents a family whose parental heads came from the Emerald Isle. Here is a fact that is as significant as it is remarkable. That their most formidable rivals in farming and stock raising have been represented in the teaching force of the township by only a small proportion, and have as yet no representative in the circle of professional men raised in it, affords matter for profitable investigation and possibly of instruction.

Results are the effects of causes. The contrast to which attention has been called is due to definite causes that may and ought to be perceived. We are not ready to believe that this contrast is due to a less interest in the education of their children and youth on the part of other nationalities represented in the township, for they have made liberal provision for the special instruction of their child-

ren and youth and expended money freely for the erection of special buildings.

If, however, a comparison be made of the courses of instruction, a slight contrast will be perceived. While the Irish, in the education of their youth, have been content to have them master the English language, the children and youth of their rivals, in the special schools provided for them, have been required to spend a great part of their time learning a "mother tongue," for use when they may visit the "Father Land".

While many from other nationalities beyond the sea, in coming to

This land of the free  
And home of the brave,

retain a lingering hope of a future return and discover a tendency to reproduce, as long as possible, the customs with which they were familiar in the Fatherland, the Son of Erin, when he leaves the "Auld Counthry" he usually does so "for good," and before he reaches the middle of the Atlantic has fully decided to "grow up with the country" in the land of his adoption. It is easy to see that these two ideas of life and education are quite different and the difference may be sufficient to produce very different results in the education and development of children and youth. The Irish people in Lizard township are to be congratulated for their manifest interest in, and the success that has attended their efforts to educate their children.

## XXIII.

### MARSHALL TOWNSHIP.

"There are countless heroes who live and die,  
Of whom the world has never heard;  
And one of the bravest and best of all,  
Of whom the list can boast,  
Is the man who falls on duty's call,  
The man who dies at his post."



MARSHALL township (92-34) is the third from the south in the west tier of the county. The territory included in it was attached to Des Moines twp. until Dec. 1, 1862, when the south half was attached to Clinton. June 7, 1871 the whole of it was attached to Dover and during the next eleven years it was known as North Dover. June 5, 1882, in response to a petition presented by A. L. Thornton, it was established under the name of "Laurens," in honor of Henry and John Laurens,

patriots of the Revolution. Sept. 2, 1884, at the request of the citizens a number of whom had come from Marshall county, the name was changed to Marshall. The organization of this township completed the list in this county.

This township is crossed in a southerly direction by both branches of Cedar creek. In the early days a slough existed along the Big Cedar in the northeast part that was a very popular resort for trappers. John Buckner and two Halleck brothers, trappers who lived near Lizard Lake during the 70's, built on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14 a sod stable for their team and a

small shanty for their own comfort and occupied them several seasons during the trapping period.

Clear Lake, in the southwest corner of the township, is about a half mile wide and one and a half miles long. It was not known to be dry until the drouth period of 1894-5, but during the next few years the neighboring farmers cultivated and raised crops on the lake bed. It extends over portions of sections 5 and 6, Dover township. In August 1872 a town site was surveyed and platted on its northeastern shore, on lots 1 and 2 and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, Marshall township, by Fred Hess. This land was then owned by James and Mary Lombard, of Charlestown, Mass., who named the place, Lombard, and confidently expected a railroad would soon pass through it. The latter, however, never came and the town was not built.

Rufus Greene, who Sept. 25, 1871, entered the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, 160 acres, was the only homesteader in this township. W. F. Atkinson, while serving as county recorder, secured a tree claim of 40 acres on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4.

#### THORNTON, GREENE & CO. FARM.

The first ten years of the history of this township clusters almost wholly around the company farm of Thornton, Greene & Co. on Sec. 18. About the year 1868 Albert M. Thornton, Alonzo L. Thornton, his son, and Rufus Greene, his brother-in-law, residents of Chatauqua Co., N. Y. formed a partnership under the name of Thornton, Greene & Co., and bought three sections of land, of which 1280 acres were on Secs. 18, 20 and 8 in Marshall township and 640 more were on Sec. 24 adjoining in Buena Vista county. This land was bought from Jasper county under the Swamp Land Act for \$1 an acre and it was intended to be utilized for the promotion of three objects, agriculture, horticulture and forest tree culture.

In 1870 Alonzo L. Thornton and family consisting of wife and three children, Lucius, Mary and Alonzo, located on Sec. 18, and during that season expended about \$5,000 in buildings and improvements, hauling the lumber from Pomeroy. The early part of the summer was wet, there were no bridges over the sloughs and 400 feet of lumber made a heavy load for four horses. The house built was a two story frame, 32x32 feet. Two stables and a large granary were also built that year. This was the first settlement in the township. During the previous year John W. Wallace and Isaac Parrish, residents of Lizard township, had broken for this company about 15 acres on Secs. 18 and 24, adjoining. In 1870 this breaking was planted with forest trees, principally maples and elms.

In the autumn of 1871, A. L. Thornton, who had taken a regular course in civil engineering and was a skillful surveyor and maker of maps, moved to Des Moines in order that he might devote his attention to map work. Rufus Greene accompanied by his wife and two children, Rufus and Mary, then moved upon the farm and began to superintend the operations. The stock then consisted of 5 horses, 3 yoke of oxen, 20 cows, 50 head of stock cattle and 40 head of hogs. In 1870 no crop had been raised except a little sod corn and in 1871 the crop raised on 15 acres was but very little better. Fonda, the nearest postoffice and market, was 14 miles distant. The situation was intensely lonesome and the outlook anything but encouraging. During the next year the situation did not change very materially and in the spring of 1873 he located on a homestead on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30 and Albert M. Thornton, who had become a resident of Webster county, moved upon the company farm. He remained on it until 1876 when he returned to Webster county.

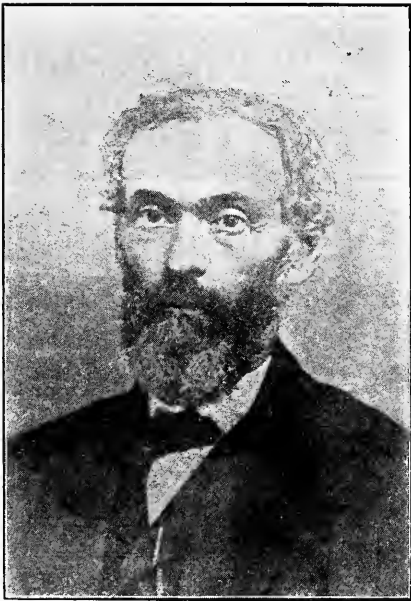




RUFUS GREENE



MRS. KATE GOULD GREENE



ALBERT M. THORNTON



MRS. MARY S. GREENE THORNTON

Marshall Township.



MR. AND MRS. W. F. ATKINSON  
County Recorder, 1887-90



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. HAWLEY  
Marshall Township.

The original plans in regard to the establishment of a nursery, etc., were soon abandoned and the partnership in the stock ended with its sale in the spring of 1874. Isaac Parrish the tenant in 1876, after seeing the grasshoppers clean out everything, became discouraged and left. He was succeeded the next three years by John Blomberg and in 1880 by Marion Williams. In 1881 Alonza L. Thornton returned to the farm and remained a citizen of the township until his decease at Pocahontas, when he was serving his second term as recorder, in 1885. In 1879 when the land was divided he received, among others, section 18, on which the company buildings were located, and Rufus Greene the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 8, 80 acres on Sec. 30 Swan Lake township, and 240 acres on Sec. 24 in Buena Vista county.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

1870-79. Previous to the year 1877, the only residents of the township were those who occupied the company farm on Sec. 18, namely, Alonzo L. Thornton 1870-71; Rufus Greene 1871,-73, and then to 1892 on his own farm on Sec. 8; Albert M. Thornton, 1873-76 and Isaac Parrish. In 1877 John and Andrew G. Blomberg located on 18, and Peter Johnson and his son, Charles A. Peterson, on 8. In 1878 there arrived Charles J. Blomberg and Louisa Jonson, and in 1879 Marion Williams.

1880. George A. Hawley on 14, Charles J. Bjorklund and J. W. Furness.

1881. Alonzo L. Thornton returned to 18.

1882. In 1882 a large number of new families arrived among whom were those of E. M. Doty (b. Mich. 1849) and H. M. Doty (b. Mich. 1852) both on 14; O. P. Phillips (b. N. Y. 1815) on 1; W. F. Atkinson on 11; Lucian Scott on 20, and C. H. Hutchins.

1883. Anton Jonson, on 4; Alex

McLain (b. Ill. 1839) on 14, and A. F. Craig on 15.

1884. P. F. Carlson (b. Sw. 1844) on 5; John Boyanovsky (b. Boh. 1824) and J. J. Lindhall (b. Sw. 1849) both on 7; R. M. McCombs (b. Ohio 1854) on 23; Richard Kibble on 29, and Alvis, Anton and Chris Thoma on 31.

1885. August Gustafson (b. 1857) on 5, Julius Grund, A. A. and A. L. Bunch on 10; D. W. Bently on 15; W. L. Mitchell on 22; Elhanan W. Reniff on 23, W. F. Bovee on 26 and John Chamberlain (b. Mich. 1832) on 29.

1886. George Thomas on 22, and Edgar C. Scott on 27.

#### ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

The first general election was held in the school house on the N. W. Cor. Sec. 19, Nov. 7, 1882, Rufus Greene, C. T. Williams and W. F. Atkinson serving as judges, and C. H. Hutchins and O. P. Phillips as clerks, all of whom qualified before Justice Jeremiah Bronder. At this election fifteen ballots were cast and by the following persons: A. L. Thornton, Rufus Greene, Emery M. Doty, J. W. Furness, O. P. Phillips, C. E. Herrick, Eri D. Anderson, George Hawley, L. C. Thornton, W. F. Atkinson, Henry M. Doty, L. S. Scott, C. H. Hutchins, Charles Higgins, C. T. Williams. Every vote was cast for J. W. Wallace, candidate for clerk of the court, and the following township officers were elected: Rufus Greene, Henry M. Doty and George Hawley, trustees; L. S. Scott and C. H. Hutchins, justices; L. C. Thornton, clerk and O. P. Phillips, assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES: Rufus Greene 1882-92, Henry M. Doty, 82-84, 96-1901; George Hawley, 82-85; Samuel Tibbetts, W. L. Mitchell, 85-96; J. K. Crum, 86-88, Axel Blomgren, 89-97; J. M. Spain, 93-95; Chris Larson, 97-1902; C. A. Hawley, 98-99; P. K. Ryan, O. A. Forsburg, T. C. Smith.

CLERKS: L. C. Thornton, 82-83; W. F. Atkinson, 84-86; C. J. Bovee, 87-92; W. E. Craig, 93-94; L. J. Reed, 95-96, 1901-02; A. G. Blomberg, 97; A. F. Craig, J. F. McLain, 99-1900.

JUSTICES: L. S. Scott, 82-94; C. H. Hutchins, 82-84; A. F. Craig, 85-86, 91, 95-97; O. P. Phillips, 87-89; W. D. Bently, 91-94; Henry Buett, G. W. Smith, A. L. Bunch, W. R. R. Merwin.

ASSESSORS: O. P. Phillips, 82-84; R. N. McCombs, 85-86; E. C. Scott, 87-88, A. G. Blomberg, 89-91; A. H. Ritchie 92, 95-98; A. L. Bunch, 93-94, C. N. Carlson, 99-1901; H. R. Pulley.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

Fannie B. Thornton taught the first school in the township, in the Thornton and Greene home during the winter of 1872-73. She was also the first teacher in the temporary school building built in that vicinity (Sec. 19) in 1873, but not used until the summer of 1874. The township was then known as North Dover and this temporary school building was the fifth one built by the Dover school board. The second school building was built on Sec. 14, in the Hawley District in 1880, and the first teacher in it was Ida (Herrick, wife of Eri P.) Anderson. This was also a temporary building. In 1883 it was replaced by a good one and afterwards it was moved from place to place in the township as it was needed in some new district until 1894 when it was sold. The last district settled was supplied with a good building in 1897 and all have now good buildings, several of the older ones having been recently replaced by new ones.

Rufus Greene served as a member of the Dover school board for that district in 1873, A. M. Thornton in 1874 and F. G. Thornton in 1875. Rufus Greene then represented the district until the township was regularly organized. The succession of school officers since 1885 has been as follows:

PRESIDENTS: C. H. Hutchins '85; A. F. Craig '86-87; O. P. Phillips; C. J. Bovee; D. W. Bentley '90-92; Geo. Thomas '93-96; E. F. Lynch; F. K. Hawley '98-99; T. C. Smith; L. J. Reed; Thomas Eberle 1902.

SECRETARIES: L. Clingman '85-86; W. F. Bovee '87-88; R. M. McCombs '89-92; Chas. A. Hawley '93-98; A. F. Craig '99-1902.

TREASURERS: E. M. Doty '85-88; A. F. Craig '89-93; W. L. Mitchell '94-96; D. W. Cook, J. H. Pulley, John F. Anderson '99-1902.

The first teachers were Fannie B. Thornton, Emily R. Tinkcom, Mrs. Maria Sanders and her daughters, Lucia (Wilson), Carrie (Wells), and May, all of whom are now in Colorado, Mrs. Ida Anderson, A. F. Craig, A. G. Blomberg, Mrs. Ruth Herrick, Mary E. Thornton, Eliza Gilson, Belle Tucker and G. M. Brown. Among recent teachers have been Venia Hawley, Albert L. Marshall, Maud McLain, Mrs. Fred (Boekenooogen) Hawley, Mabel Atherton and Cora P. Eaton.

#### GROVES, ROADS, ETC.

The first grove was planted by Alonzo L. Thornton on 18 in 1871, the second one by Rufus Greene on 30 in 1873 and the third one by Chas. J. Peterson on 8 in 1876. The other groves planted in 1882 and previous thereto were on the farms owned and occupied by J. W. Furness, Eri D. Anderson and George Hawley.

The road districts at first were arranged to correspond with the school districts, and when these were completed in 1894 there were nine of them. In 1895 a large grader was purchased and the next year the township was consolidated and divided into two districts. Since that date the work on the roads has been let to the lowest bidders.

This township has never had a postoffice or store and the early settlers of it had a long distance to travel

to enjoy these conveniences. On Feb. 1, 1902 a rural free delivery route was established from Laurens to the south line of the township and Jared Hughes was appointed carrier.

In 1886 five acres on the sw corner of sec. 20 were selected for a public cemetery. It was platted by H. W. Bissell and the first person buried in it was Mrs. Fred Delph in 1892.

In 1871 a drove of elks were seen by L. C. Thornton and others passing leisurely in a southwesterly direction across sec. 19. The last deer was seen in 1882 and it was shot by Geo. Hughes.

During the year 1881 J. W. Furness kept seven cows and received for butter sold at Fonda \$178.00, an average of \$25.43 a cow. Seven calves were also raised.

As late as 1883, A. L. Thornton was the only resident who owned a vehicle.

The first child born was Frank Williams on the company farm July 4, 1880.

The first marriage was in April 1878 when Chas. J. Blomberg and Louisa Jonson were married on the company farm.

The first death occurred in 1879 when Peter Jonson died.

Religious services have been held for a number of years in schoolhouse No. 2 by William Byers, of Marathon, and later by Peter Sutter, of Laurens, ministers of the Dunkard or German Brethren church.

Marshall township has furnished the following county officers:

**RECORDERS:** Alonzo L. Thornton '83-85; Mary E. Thornton '85-86; W. F. Atkinson '87-90.

**SHERIFF:** W. L. Mitchell 1900-02.

**SUPERVISOR:** A. H. Richey '97-02.

**LEADING CITIZENS.**

**Bentley** Joseph (b. Iowa 1840), owner and occupant of 320 acres on sec. 15 from 1883 to 1900, is a son of one of the early pioneers of Marshall county and, in coming to this county, was accompanied by his brother Da-

vid W. Bentley with whom he lived. David had a family of six children and in 1894 returned to Marshall county. Joseph then began to live with his sister, Mrs. Nicholas Moore, on sec. 23. In 1900 receiving the appointment of deputy sheriff he located at Pocahontas. He left home early in life and spent several years traveling and prospecting in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.

**Bjorklund** Charles J., owner and occupant of the company farm on sec. 18 since 1890, is a native of Sweden, came to America in 1889, located one year in Bellville and the next in Marshall township. His family consists of six children; Charles, Adolph, Eric, Elias, David and Annie.

**Blomberg** John (b. 1825; d. 1897), the pioneer owner and occupant of the sec. 30, was a native of Sweden, came to America in 1877, and occupied the company farm on sec. 18 during the next three years. In 1880 he moved to Bellville township but in 1883, located on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30, improved and occupied it until his death at 72 in 1897. He was a leading member in the Swedish Lutheran church, Fairfield township. His wife remains on the farm which she assisted greatly to improve. Their family consisted of five children.

Charles J. (b. Sweden 1853) in 1876 came to Pomeroy with his brother, August, and found employment as a blacksmith. In April 1878 he married Louisa Jonson, the marriage taking place on the company farm in Marshall township. After the death of his brother, August, in 1883 he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30 which he improved and has since occupied. He now owns 200 acres. His family consists of seven children; Gothard E., Carl W., Elsa L., Edith V., Alma S. and Alphild.

August Wilhelm (b. 1855; d. 1883), a blacksmith, came to Pomeroy in 1876. In 1881 he married Augusta, daughter

of Peter Jonson and died at 28 in 1883, leaving one son, David. Augusta later married Solomon Johnson, a merchant, and lives at Pomeroy.

Johanna S. in 1881 married Chas. A. Peterson, son of Peter Jonson. (See Jonson).

Andrew G. (b. 1862; d. 1898) in 1877 came to Marshall township and in 1887 located on 80 acres, sec. 19 which he improved, increased to 120 acres and occupied till his decease at 36 in 1898. In the spring of 1893 he moved to Pomeroy and the cyclone completely demolished his home and furniture. Some of the members of his family were carried two blocks distant. His wife and three children were three weeks in the hospital at Sioux City, and he never recovered from the lung trouble that resulted from the exposure at that time. He taught school seven years in this county, served as assessor of Marshall township four years and was clerk when he died. He left a wife and four children; Evelyn, Dina, Mabel and Walter.

Ellen W. in 1890 married Axel Shold (b. Sweden 1857), who owns and occupies a farm of 80 acres in Swan Lake township and has two children; Edward and Melinda.

The family of John Blomberg was one of the first to locate in Marshall township and it may be noted that two brothers and one sister in it married two sisters and one brother in the family of Peter Jonson, who located in the township the same year. The descendants of these two families in connection with others that came later, now form a colony of very industrious and successful Swedish farmers, who have improved their homes with cozy buildings and surrounded them with pretty groves.

**Brockett** William, owner and occupant of 80 acres on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 15 from 1892 to 1900, is now a resident of Carroll county. His family consisted of six children. His eldest daughter

married Mr. Inkenbach, lives in Marshall township and has a large family. Ceena married Wm. Hoffman and lived in Marshall township until 1900, when they moved to North Dakota. Tama married Thomas Jerome and lives at Laurens. William married Emma Fearheller and in 1899 moved to North Dakota. Benjamin died at 22 in 1900. Amy, an adopted daughter, is at home. The pretty evergreens at the Brockett home consisting of white pine, Scotch pine and several other varieties were planted by Wilbur Craig in 1891.

**Craig** Almaren F. (b. 1834), owner and occupant of a large and finely improved farm on the n $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 15, is a native of Farmington, Maine. His ancestors on his father's side were of Scotch descent, and of English on his mother's side. He was the son of Joseph S. and Dorcas D. (Wheeler) Craig. In 1854, at the age of 20, he came to Muscatine county, Iowa, and taught school along the banks of the Mississippi before any railroad had been laid in Iowa. In November 1855 he married Marietta L. Butler, of Maine, and returned to Muscatine on a railroad that had been completed during his absence. During the next two years he occupied a farm near Muscatine and then lived fourteen in Cedar county. In 1868 he moved to Benton county and in 1883 to his present farm, which he was the first to occupy and improve. His improvements rank among the first in the township. He taught school two years and served many years as a justice in Marshall township.

His family consists of five children:

Celia H. in 1883 married Chas. King, lives in Minnesota and has a family of six children; Etta, George, Mabel E., Linn, Louisa and John.

Wilbur E. in 1891 married Elizabeth Ryon, occupies a farm of 160 acres in Washington township, and has two children; Hattie and Alice.

Louis B., a graduate of the Iowa State Agricultural College in 1894, spent the next two years in the Moody Institute, Chicago.

Mary E., a teacher, in 1901 married Albert A. Bunch who lives on his own farm in Marshall township.

Marietta E. is at home.

**Greene** Rufus (b. 1830), the second settler in Marshall township and now a resident of Marathon, is a native of Chataqua county, N. Y. the son of Rufus and Mary Sheldon (Boltwood) Greene. In 1857 he married Kate Lois Gould (b. 1830) of Erie county, N. Y. and engaged in farming. In 1871 he came to Pocahontas county and located on the Thornton, Greene & Co. farm of 1920 acres with its buildings on section 18 Marshall township, then called North Dover. As the outlook on this farm was quite discouraging, he selected that fall a homestead of 160 acres on sec. 30, which was beyond the railroad limits, and located on it in the spring of 1873. He improved and occupied this homestead until 1892 when he moved to Marathon. When the company farm was divided in 1879 he was the owner of 960 acres in Pocahontas and Buena Vista counties.

He received a good education in his youth and during the greater part of the period of his residence in Marshall township was its most prominent citizen. During most of the period that territory was attached to Dover he served as a school director for that district and was the first one elected to serve as a justice, but did not qualify. He took a leading part in the organization of the township and served as one of its trustees from that date to the time of his removal to Marathon. By his intelligence and integrity he won the respect and confidence of all who had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. His estimable wife presides over his home with a queenly dignity, and both of them

have identified themselves with the noblest and best interests in the various communities in which they have lived.

His family consisted of two children, one of whom, Mary H., died at his home at 31 in 1898.

Rufus Erwin (b. N. Y. 1865) in 1887 married Frances Jane Kibble, a native of England, and, engaging in farming and teaching, continued to reside in Marshall township until 1895 when he moved to Sioux Rapids where he has since been engaged in market gardening. He has one child, Francis Harold.

**Grund**, Julius (b. 1852) the pioneer settler of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, is a native of Germany, where in 1879 he married and located on a farm. In 1885 he came to America and located on his present farm, which he has finely improved. He is an industrious worker, a good neighbor and has a family of three children.

**Hawley**, George (b. 1843; d. 1889), one of the first settlers in Marshall township, was a native of Canada. In 1859 he moved to St. Lawrence county, N. Y., where in 1865 he married Mary Furness and located on a farm. In 1880 he came to Marshall township and began to occupy the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, moving into a hunter's shanty and a sod stable that had been built on it by some trappers. At this particular date the only other American family in the township was that of Rufus Greene. Mr. Hawley improved this farm with a fine dwelling house and other buildings that are well adapted for handling a large amount of stock. A few rods south of the house, there is a flowing well that is a source of great convenience. In 1888, leaving the farm in charge of his son, Charles, he moved to Rolfe and engaged in the livery business until his decease at 47 in 1889. His wife returned to the farm, but a few years later located at Laurens and in 1900 became the wife

of James M. Mick. Mr. Hawley assisted in the organization of Marshall township and served several years as one of its first trustees.

His family consisted of ten children.

Salome Agnes in 1890 married Alexander Taylor, lives in Swan Lake township and has one child, Lawrence.

Charles A. (b. 1869) in 1896 married Molly Weaver. He occupied the old home farm until 1900 when he moved to Des Moines. He was secretary of the school board six years. He is now at the head of the commercial department in Central University at Pella. He has two children, Gretchen and Sheldon A.

Frederick (b. 1870) in 1893 married Hettie Boekenooen and, locating on his own farm on Sec. 11, occupied it until 1900 when he moved to the old home farm. He is meeting with good success in raising thoroughbred hogs and Short Horn cattle. He has one child, Charles F.

Esther in 1890 married George Tuttle, a poultry dealer at Laurens, and has three children, Gordon, Leon and Warren.

Venia, a teacher, in 1899 married Horace Cowan a telegraph operator and lives at Sioux Rapids, Albert, Hattie, May, Phronia and Seymour live with their mother.

**Jonson**, Peter, the pioneer occupant of 80 acres on Sec. 8, was a native of Sweden where he married and lived until 1877, when with a family of wife, two sons and two daughters, he located in Marshall township. He died in 1879 and his wife lives with her son-in-law, Charles J. Blomberg. His family consisted of six children.

John in 1873 located in Pennsylvania and three years later in Calhoun county, Iowa. He is now section foreman at Barnum.

Charles A. Peterson (second son of Peter Jonson) owns and occupies a farm on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8. In 1881 he

married Johanna S. Blomberg and has a family of seven children: Carl, Alma, Ida, Frantz, David, Elsa and Arthur.

Louisa married Charles J. Blomberg and Augusta married August W. Blomberg. (See Blomberg.)

Gustafva, in 1882 married Eric Aspholm and located on a farm in Swan Lake township, where she died in 1895, leaving a family of six children: Emma, Minnie, Anna, Theodore, Carrie and Albert.

Andrew G. Peterson located in the west.

**Kibble**, Richard, who occupied the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29 from 1885 to 1895, was a native of Gloucestershire, England.

In the fall of 1884 he visited his two sons, Richard D. and Percival, in Plymouth county, and his friend, J. C. Pegler, on Sec. 30, Marshall township. He was so favorably impressed with the fertility and cheapness of the lands in this section that he purchased 240 acres on section 29, Marshall township. George F., a son who accompanied him, remained with his brothers near LeMars, when he returned to England. The next spring, accompanied by his wife, Susanna Miles, and eight other children, Reginald, Algernon A., Septimus, Frank, Frances J., Ada J., Susanna and Mary A., he came to this county and located in Marshall township. He improved and occupied the farm on section 29, until 1895 when he moved to Sioux Rapids. Ernest J. another son who soon followed him to this country, is also a resident of Iowa.

**Kintzley**, William P., (b. 1859), owner and occupant of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36 since 1890, is a native of Story county, the son of Adolphus and Polly A. Kintzley. In 1882 he married Ella Hays and located at Ames, where, during the next seven years, he worked in the horticultural department of the State Agricultural College. In 1890 he located on 80 acres on section



36, Marshall township, that he had bought four years previous. He has increased this farm to 240 acres and the improvements on it are very conveniently arranged and fine in every respect.

AN HORTICULTURIST.

W. P. Kintzley has here developed, in an admirable manner, the advantages he enjoyed at the Agricultural College and has one of the finest fruit farms in Pocahontas county. About 20 acres have been set apart for fruit and forest trees. He began with a small nursery that furnished a supply both for himself and a number of his neighbors. The encouraging success that has attended his efforts to raise fruit is in a great measure due to the fact he had previously gained a thorough and practical knowledge of the hardy, productive varieties that were suited to this climate, planted only these and then took an intelligent care of them. All the rows run north and south and to the visitor in autumn, the sight of so many trees of the same variety, loaded with rosy cheeked apples, and of others covered with red, white and blue plums, affords a pleasure that is second only to that of being able to say, these are mine.

That others may enjoy the benefit of his matured and successful experience in raising fruit in this county, we note some of the things he regards as essential and name some of the varieties he commends as hardy and profitable in this locality.

Three things are essential in a good variety, namely, that the tree be hardy, a good bearer and its fruit be valuable for use. The varieties of apples commended are the Duchess, Wealthy, Longfield, Silken Leaf and Romna. The last three are new Russian varieties and he expresses the belief that the Longfield will likely be the most profitable variety for this county. The trees are hardy

and prolific bearers; the fruit is good for cooking and keeping; its size is above medium, and its color, a yellow tinge with pink blush on the side next the sun. The Silken Leaf resembles the Duchess, but flatter, and is also good for cooking. The Florence and Whitney No. 20 are crabs that have not suffered from blight. The Concord, Worden and Moore's Early, the latter a shy bearer, take precedence among fifteen varieties of grapes that have been planted.

Native plums are best for this northern part of the state, the Wolfe, Wyant, De Soto and Rolling Stone yielding the best results, and the Chickasaws proving a disappointment. The Minor plum is large and excellent but, owing to its imperfect blossom, is not sure to bear unless planted alternately with other varieties.

Some of the essentials to successful fruit culture in this section are the maintenance of a good fence, planting only those varieties that have done well in it, the cultivation of the soil, but so as not to injure their roots, when the trees are young, and an occasional application of manure to it when the tree begins to bear. A low growth insures freedom from sun scald and lessens the exposure to the wind.

Mr. Kintzley has also a large number of varieties of ornamental trees that include many kinds of evergreens such as Fir, White Spruce, Scotch, Austrian and Mountain Dwarf Pines, the Laurel Willow, Wild Olive, etc.

His family consists of six children, Agnes, William, Mary, Eugene, Hattie and Hazel.

**Lofquist** Julius in 1886 located on 160 acres on sec. 20. He was the first to occupy and improve this land. He died at 48 in 1892 leaving a wife and five children,—Julius, Josephine, Augustus, Victor E, and Elmer.

**McLain** Alexander, owner and occupant of a finely improved farm of

280 acres on sec. 14, has been a resident of the township since 1886. In 1886, during his residence in Illinois, he married Eliza Ann, sister of A. J. Stover, and three years later located in Marshall township. He was the first to occupy and improve his present farm and he has it now in a fine state of cultivation and provided with good and substantial buildings.

His family consisted of eight children.

Eva married G. Wallie Bellinger, who owns and occupies a farm on sec. 6, Sherman township, which he was the first to improve.

Charles married Catherine Moore and located on a farm on section 16, Marshall township.

Frank, Maud and Nellie, teachers; Oliver, Earl and Joseph.

**Mitchell**, William L. (b. 1847) sheriff of Pocahontas county since 1900 and owner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22, Marshall township since 1885, is a native of Ohio. He spent a part of his youth in Indiana and then came to Marshall county, Iowa, where in 1878 he married Emma Williams. In 1885 he began to occupy and improve his farm in Marshall township and since that date has become prominently associated with the history of the township and county. He served several years as a township trustee and is now serving his second term as sheriff.

His first house was struck by lightning in 1892 and again in 1893 when it was burned. It was replaced by a fine residence. He was quite successful on the farm and has made a good record as a public officer. He moved to Pocahontas in 1900.

**Moore**, Nicholas (b. 1846) owner and occupant of 160 acres on Sec. 23, is a native of Mahaska county. In 1858 he moved with his parents to Wright county, three years later to Marshall county and in 1892 to his present farm which he has finely improved.

In 1867 he married Mary J. Bentley and seven of their nine children are living.

Fred W. (b. 1868) in 1892 married Minnie Marshall of Marshall county and occupies the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25.

Arthur C. (b. 1871) married Nellie McLain, and Katie in 1894 married Charles McLain. Both live in Clark county, S. D.

William, Grace, Ernest and Edward are at home.

**Phillips**, Oliver Perry (b. 1815) the first assessor of Marshall township, is a native of Chenango Co. N. Y. In his youth he located in Will Co., Ill., where in 1840 he married Elizabeth Dutton (b. 1823), a native of Cayuga Co., N. Y. He has been a resident of Pocahontas county since 1882 when he located on Sec. 1, Marshall township. He participated in the organization of the township, serving as one of the clerks on that occasion. He served three years as its first assessor, and later three years as a justice. He is now living in Swan Lake township. His family consisted of nine children, three of whom are living. Orson D. is in southern Kansas. Ellen became the wife of W. F. Atkinson and lives at Laurens. Edith E. married N. Morrison, who kept a hotel at Pocahontas a number of years and now lives in Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were pioneers in the early settlement of Illinois, and were married in a log cabin, when even log cabins were not very numerous on the frontier. Their 50th wedding anniversary was duly celebrated at the home of their daughter at the Morrison House, Pocahontas, November 19, 1890.

**Richey**, Alfred Hammond, (b. 1860) the first county supervisor from Marshall township, is a native of Marshall county, the son of John and Nancy Richey. In July 1886 he located in Marshall township. In 1890 he married Ada E., daughter of Wm. F.

Atkinson, whose farm he now occupies. He has proven himself a man worthy of public recognition. He served for four years as assessor of the township and, in January 1897 receiving an appointment to serve as a county supervisor in place of Louie Lange who resigned, he has since been twice elected to that office.

His family consists of two children, Mildred and Dorothea.

**Scott**, Lucian S. (b. 1854), who in 1882 located on Sec. 20, was a native of Iowa. In 1878 he married Sarah J. Wells and located in Jasper county. He remained there until the date of his settlement in Pocahontas county. He met with good success as a farmer, assisted in the organization of Marshall township and as one of its first justices served thirteen years, 1882 to 1894. His family consisted of three children, Edith, Arwell and Lucian. He is now a resident of Sioux Rapids.

**Scott**, Edgar C., owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, since 1886, is a native of Jasper county. He has improved this farm with good buildings and made it an attractive home. In 1892 he moved to Laurens, but after spending two years in a meat market and one sinking wells, he returned to the farm. In 1888 he married Anna Wells and has a family of four children, Eunice, Frank, Glenn and Nellie.

**Thoma**, Anton (b. 1864) and his two brothers, Alvis A. and Christ, coming from Germany in 1884 bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 31 and divided it into three farms, one for each of them. These brothers were the first to occupy and improve these farms. They have erected handsome buildings and secured a beautiful growth of trees around them. Katie Thoma (b. 1831) their mother, came with them in 1884 and lives with Anton, who occupies the south farm. In 1890 he married Emma Bitner and has a family of four children.

**Thoma**, Alvis A. (b. 1862) who occupies the middle farm, in 1889 married Rosa Nace and has a family of three children.

**Thoma**, Christ (b. 1866) who occupies the north farm, in 1890 married Alfreda Fix and has a family of three children.

**Thornton** Albert Mortimer (b. 1810; d. 1884), senior member of Thornton, Greene & Co., was a native of Vermont. In 1832 he married Mary Sheldon Greene (b. Amherst, Mass., 1816) and located in Chatauqua County, N. Y., and in 1868 in Webster County, Iowa. After living a year in Fort Dodge he located on Greenside farm near Otho and the next year returned to Fort Dodge. During the three years, 1873 to 1876, he lived on the company farm in Marshall Township, and then returned to Greenside Farm, where he spent the remainder of his days,

His golden wedding was celebrated at this place under very delightful circumstances, August 12, 1882. On this occasion it was found the family represented 45 persons, which included 8 children, 22 grand children, and 3 great grand children. From his excellent words of counsel on this occasion, we quote the following: "Remember that the individual is an integral part of the government and it is his duty as well as privilege to exercise the high function of the ballot in all matters wherein the weal or woe of the community is depending. Let the sons of America, Man's last hope of universal freedom, be true to their inheritance and hand down to posterity the inestimable blessings of life, liberty, and an untrammelled pursuit of happiness."

He did not vote for Butler, the first presidential candidate of the green-back party, but joining that party the next year and using both his voice and pen, he became one of its strongest advocates in this state. He received

a good education and, being a man of strong convictions, like John Brown, he disregarded popular sentiment and even personal safety in advocating them. He wrote many articles for the public press in support of his money theory and they were remarkable for their number, scope, and persuasiveness. July 4, 1879, he delivered the oration at the patriotic celebration in Otho. Two months later he addressed the greenback county convention at Fort Dodge, on the right of a government to tax its citizens for its own support. He effected the organization of the Otho Farmers' Alliance during the early part of that year and, at each quarterly meeting, addressed that body on some agricultural or political topic, such as the soil, the horse, labor, money, the credit system and the prohibitory amendment.

He died on the farm, at 74, in 1884, and his wife died at 74, in 1890 at the home of her daughter Maria L. Sanders at Marathon.

His family consisted of nine children, one of whom died in childhood.

1. Alonzo Lucius, see page 477.

2. Mary Rebecca, married Lucius Sanders, editor of the Boonesboro News, who died leaving three children, Carrie, May, and Lucia. She is now living at Grand Junction, Colo.

4. Emily, in New York married W. Frank Tinkcom, a blacksmith, and later located at Red Lodge, Montana, where he owns a large stock ranch and has served as a county commissioner.

Her family consists of three children, Minnie, Dallas, and Estella.

5. Irene married Capt. L. D. Button. In 1865 they located at Fort Dodge, where he became principal of the public schools and she, a teacher also. She died there in 1869 leaving two children, Louis T. and Gertrude. Louis taught school three years in Pocahontas county and married Edith Cornick, of Powhatan township. Lat-

er he married Mabel Swaim, of Humboldt, where he is now engaged as a solicitor of insurance. Gertrude married Charles E. Herrick, a real estate agent, lives at Marathon and has seven children, Irene, Robert, Naomi, Louis, Glendolyn and Catherine.

6. Flora married Silas W. Swift, a lumber dealer, who died in 1900 at Yankton, S. D., leaving a family of five children; Eleanor, a teacher, is a graduate of Yankton and Oberlin Colleges; Ruth, a graduate of the Han-neman Medical College, Chicago, practiced medicine two years and then married Dr. Everett Marvin, Sioux City; Irene married Granville Standish and lives in New York City; Eunice married Miles Standish and lives in Brooklyn; Gordon lives with his mother in Grand Junction, Colo.

7. Fannie married Frank Rees, formerly a resident of Marshall township, now of Grand Junction, where she died in 1897 leaving two children, Lucia and May.

8. Frank Greene Thornton (b. 1854) was auditor of Pocahontas county from 1893 to 1896. He is a native of Chatauqua county, N. Y., and at 14, in 1868 came with his parents to Fort Dodge, where he completed his education. In 1870 he became a resident of Marshall township and two years later married Naomi R. Herrick, an early Fonda teacher. During the grasshopper period, 1873 to 1874, he moved to Fort Dodge and was conductor on the Illinois Central R. R. In 1882 he established a store in the new town of Kalo, south of Fort Dodge and the next year established a hardware and grocery store at the new town of Laurens. Two years later he was appointed and served three years as postmaster at that place. In 1887 he moved to Rolfe and engaged in the hardware business, moving to Pocahontas when elected to the office of county auditor. After his term of service as county auditor

he resumed the mercantile business at Fonda until Sept. 1, 1900, when he moved to a fruit ranch near Grand Junction, Colo.

His first wife died in 1885 leaving two children, Albert H. and Fannie B. Albert, after graduating from the State University in 1897, located at West Bend, where in 1898 he married Catherine L. Seymour. In 1900 he located at Pocahontas. Fannie in 1894 married Frank L. Dinsmore, an attorney at Pocahontas, and of this union has one daughter, Lois. In 1900 she married James Calvin and lives at Miles City, Montana.

In 1886 F. G. Thornton married Mary L. Steward, of Marshalltown, and of this union has one child, Arthur M.

**Weittenhiller**, Philip S. (b. 1859), owner and occupant of a farm on Sec. 1, Marshall township, from 1893 to 1899, is a native of Platteville, Wis., where his parents were early pioneers. At 20, in 1879 he went to California, and in 1882 was among the first to go to the mining excitement at Silverbow Basin, Alaska, where he engaged in trading and mining until 1885, when he received the appointment of

deputy U. S. Marshall. In 1888 he resigned and accepted the position of inspector of customs at Juneau. In 1893 he located on his farm in Marshall township, which he improved and occupied until 1899, when he moved to Laurens, where he has since been engaged in the real estate business.

In 1888, during his residence at Juneau, he returned to Platteville, Wis., and married Nellie Jones. His family consists of two children, Clara May, born at Juneau in 1889, and Clyde Philip, born at Platteville, Wis., in 1893.

O. K. Jones, father of Mrs. Weittenhiller, in 1882, bought sec. 1, Marshall township, and four years later divided it among his three children. He gave to Mary Lottie, wife of David Merry, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , 183 acres. They were married in 1883, began to occupy and improve this farm, in 1884 and have a family of five children, Bessie, Frank, Nellie, Jennie, and Ernest. To his son, D. F. Jones, of Odebolt, he gave the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , 180 acres; and to his daughter Nellie E., wife of P. S. Weittenhiller, the south half, 320 acres.



## XXIV.

### POWHATAN TOWNSHIP.

"The Indian must away;  
Not in this land another morn could he prolong his stay."

My country, I love thee, thy prairies and hills;  
Thy broad, flowing streams and murmuring rills:  
Thy greatness be sung to the true poet's lyre,  
In strains that such freedom alone can inspire.

—L. BROWN.



POWHATAN' township (93-32), the second from the east in the north row of the county, was the fourth one organized in Pocahontas county. It was included in Des Moines township until September 3, 1866, when the territory included in it and the two townships west of it, was set off as "Nunda" township. It was called "Nunda" after a town by that name in western New York from which some of the settlers had emigrated. The majority of the settlers, however were neither pleased with the name nor the

method by which it was adopted, and as a result of a meeting held at the home of Henry Thomas, March 27, 1867, it was changed April 20th, following to, "Powhatan", in honor of the Indian chief who was father of Pocahontas, and lived in Virginia from 1550 to 1618.

His Indian name was "Wa hun-san", a cock, but the English erroneously called him "Powhatan", after the name of his residence. The latter consisted of twelve wigwams in which he maintained a body guard of fifty warriors and it was located near the site of Richmond. He raised himself from the rank of tribal chief to the

command of a confederacy that consisted of thirty three tribes, that numbered 10,000 persons who belonged to the Florida or Southern branch of the Algonkin family and occupied Maryland and Virginia. He had conquered most of the tribes over which he ruled and was about 60 years of age when the English first made his acquaintance. The beautiful form of his daughter, Pocahontas, as it has been perpetuated in sculpture by Capellans may be seen over one of the doors at the capitol at Washington. The plans of Powhatan for the deception and destruction of the colonists having been frustrated by Capt. John Smith and Newport, his comrade, he concluded to live at peace with them. A few years later when Newport brought him from England a crown, he was so delighted that he gave Newport his robe and old shoes.

In 1871 Swan Lake township was detached, and in June 1874, the name of the township was changed to Jackson, at the instance of Andrew Jackson, a prominent citizen of the township, who was then a member of the board of county supervisors.

Sept. 5, 1876, Washington township was detached, and on Jan. 8, 1878, the name of the township was again changed to "Powhatan," Andrew Jackson, who had been treasurer of the school fund for several years, having suddenly left the county two months previous for parts unknown with about \$1,000 of the public funds.

The surface of this township is a gently rolling prairie that originally had a great many marshes. As the years have passed these have been drained to their natural outlets, Beaver and Pilot creeks, and the soil is splendid for corn and other cereals.

The early settlers appreciated the value of trees around the home and on the farm; and beautiful groves soon appeared that now look like bodies

of native timber. In some of the older groves may be found some of the largest trees in the county.

He who plants a tree beautifies to that extent his home and benefits every member of his family. A country home is never beautiful without trees. They serve as a protection, increase its comforts, and the love and sympathy that unite the family find in them one of their happiest forms of expression. Whilst bleak, cheerless homes and fields are the natural concomitants of extreme poverty or sorrow, wooded hills and shady slopes are the nurseries in which love of home and country germinates and grows strong, for they are the natural inspirers of reverence for Him who made the groves his first temples. "The groves of Eden, though vanished long, live yet in prose and look green in song."

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The early settlers of this township were of Scotch and American birth and these nationalities continue to be the most numerous.

1864-65. The first homestead entry in this township was made by Barney Hancher, April 9, 1864, for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24. In September following his mother, Nancy A. Hancher, entered the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and Henry Thomas, his father-in-law, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of this same section; and in April 1866 Ira Strong, entered the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of it, thus making it one of the first sections entirely taken by homesteaders. Henry Thomas, wife and sons, Daniel and Joel, had located in Des Moines township in the fall of 1863. In September 1864 Daniel and Joel selected claims on Sec. 23 and Jeremiah Young, their brother-in-law, on Sec. 25.

Barney Hancher, who turned the first furrow in May 1864, also built that spring the first shanty, using native basswood sawed by W. H. Hait. In the fall of that year he moved this shanty to the timber near old Rolfe, where he and his family

spent the next winter. In the spring of 1865 he moved this shanty back to his homestead. Others that erected shanties that year were Jeremiah Young on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 25, Henry Thomas on 24, Joel and Daniel Thomas on 23. The one built by Joel Thomas was a sod house and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Booth became its occupants.

1866. In 1866 a number of families located in the township, among whom were those of J. B. Jolliffe and Samuel Umbarger on Sec. 2, James Henderson on 8, J. W. Brown on 10, Mrs. Fannie N. Strong on 12, Wm. Orcutt, Henry Tilley, Oscar J. and Geo. W. Strong on 14, Robert, Edward and John Anderson and S. N. Strong on 15, C. L. Strong on 16, A. H. Hancher and James Drown on 24, George Henderson on 26, Robert Lowrey on 28, Thomas L. MacVey and John Fraser on 36, William Stone on 25; and Robert Lothian on Sec. 30, Des Moines township.

1869. In 1869 George Stevens and Marcus Lind located on 16.

1870-74. During the early 70's there arrived Alexander Geddes on 29, Geo. and W. E. Goodchild on 20, John and Geo. W. Barnes on 12, Daniel P. Frost on 16, S. E. Heathman on 9, Geo. W. and Norman L. Rowley on 12, S. N. Pettit, J. D. Hilton, C. F. Barlow, E. H. Heathman, Thomas Fulcomer, Andrew Jackson and M. J. Young.

1875-79. During the later 70's there arrived Alex McEwen, P. W. and Joel Smith, E. C. Fuller and Nels H. Shaver.

1880-86. Others that arrived during the early 80's were A. L. Whitney on 15, E. Northrop, Wm. Halsted, P. J. and Josiah Shaw, Ed. R. Trites, Frank Salasek, W. H. Baker, B. F. Bogue, F. C. DeWolf, A. W. Ireland, D. D. Cornick, Henry Sternberg, J. H. Bellinger, E. H. Pringle; and at Plover J. T. Calloun, Louis Brodsky, W. A. Hubel, J. H. Blanchard, A. Eggs-quebler.

In 1866 Henry Thomas built the first log house on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 24 and planted around it the first grove. The cottonwoods he then planted are still growing and they are believed to be the largest in the county at this time. A cut of his log house which is still standing within the grove and in use, may be seen in the frontispiece, where it is erroneously credited to Ira Strong due to the fact it has been owned for some years by his grand daughter, Dora Strong. The log house built by Ira Strong in 1866 was replaced by a new one a few years ago by his son, Philander Strong.

The first frame house was built by Thomas L. MacVey on Sec. 36 in 1867, and the lumber for it was hauled from Boone.

A few sod houses were built in this township owing to the scarcity and high price of lumber. They were quickly constructed and ordinarily were used only one season.

The log houses rendered good service for many years and some of them were quite comfortable. Wood was principally used for fuel and it was obtained from the groves of native timber along the Des Moines river, frequently from the "cabbage lot" on section 37.

A. H. Hancher helped to haul the lumber for five of the first frame houses from Boone, a distance of 80 miles. The houses though plain were expensive, for the lumber cost \$70.00 per thousand feet and its transportation with ox teams was exceedingly laborious.

#### INTERESTING EVENTS.

The first social was held at the home of Mrs. Nancy A. Hancher on Christmas day 1866.

The first marriage was that of Heary Tilley and Belle, sister of A. H. Hancher, March 29, 1866.

The first children born were twins in the home of Daniel Thomas



in March 1866, one of them sleeps in the Powhatan cemetery and the other became the wife of Harley Unbarger.

The first death, save that of the man whose body was found on the prairie by John Anderson in the spring of 1866, was that of a child in the family of Samuel Booth. Its coffin was made in the pioneer school house and the place of its burial, near the school house on sec. 24, afterward became the Powhatan cemetery.

The first crop of wheat was one of five acres by Thomas L. Mac Vey in 1868.

The winter of 1866-67 was a very severe one. Although very little snow fell until the holidays, after that period blizzards were frequent and unwelcome visitors, often overtaking the settler at a distance from his home.

The first bridge was built in 1870 over Beaver creek and it had an interesting history. In the fall of the year, it was taken down and placed beyond reach of high water; and then after the spring freshets had subsided, it was replaced in its former position. The lack of bridges was the occasion of a vast amount of inconvenience and of many ludicrous episodes.

All of sec 25 was entered by four men on the same day, Sept 28, 1864. The men were Wm. Stone, Jeremiah Young, Samuel Booth and George Booth. Twenty-six of the early settlers of this township secured homesteads and nearly all of them included 160 acres. Homesteads were also secured in this township on the odd numbered sections, as 15, 23 and 25, on which the following persons secured homesteads: Robert and Edward Anderson and S. N. Strong on 15, Joel B. and Daniel Thomas on 23, and Wm. Stone, Jeremiah Young, Samuel Booth and George Booth on 25. These lands were claimed by the McGregor & Sioux City R. R. Co., but inasmuch

as this company did not fulfill its part of the contract within the appointed time they reverted to the government and then to the settlers who had complied with the homestead law.

The first public cemetery is located on the nw corner of the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24, near the Strong schoolhouse. Henry Thomas, the first owner of this land, promised to donate it for a public cemetery and three persons were buried in it during his lifetime, namely, Ira Strong and Mrs. George Henderson, both in 1871, and a child of Samuel Booth previous to that date. He neglected to make the transfer and the donation was made by Alexander McEwen, who also had it plotted in 1876.

In June 1876 the Sunday schools at old Rolfe and the Strong schoolhouse held a picnic in the grove of A. H. Hancher; and after addresses by Rev. Wm. McCready, George Metcalf and J. J. Jolliffe they sat down around a table fifty feet long loaded with the substantial of life prepared for this notable occasion.

January 25, 1879, "Mayview" post office was established at the home of D. P. Frost on sec. 16 and he was appointed postmaster; but owing to the fact he lived about two miles from the mail route between Pocahontas and Sioux Rapids and no provision had been made for the extra distance on the part of the mail carrier, no mail was received or distributed at this, the first post office in the township.

The early settlers of this township, appreciating the future value of the history of its early settlement, held a special meeting in the schoolhouse at Plover, Feb. 19, 1887, at which John Fraser served as chairman and Sam'l Smith as secretary. At this meeting historical addresses were delivered by John Fraser, A. H. Hancher and others, and papers were read that had been prepared by P. J. Shaw and T.

L. MacVey. Full reports of these addresses and papers were afterwards printed in the Pocahontas Record and they have proven of great value to the author in the general part of this volume as well as in the history of this township.

The call for this meeting was issued Jan. 31, 1887 by P. J. Shaw, a leading citizen of the township, who therein stated very appropriately the importance and scope of the meeting. We quote from it as follows:

"The object of this meeting is to bring to light the early history of Powhatan township, that it may be embodied in the future history of the county. The questions to be discussed, are: (1) When, where and by whom were the first settlements made? (2) The state of the country, facilities for market, grasshoppers, muskrats and blizzards. (3) General discussion, historical incidents and reminiscences

"Let us preserve the past that we may profit by its teaching. Let us keep in remembrance the brave deeds of our fathers, the noble pioneers who settled on the treeless prairies in the early days when the blizzard howled, or they traveled with no shelter save the prairie schooner, and no guide save the compass or the stars of heaven. The world has no nobler heroes. They came from the stock that has lighted the watch fires of civilization and progress on this continent. Some of them have already passed the boundary line of human existence and are citizens of that country which no human being has ever explored, whose wonders no tongue can tell. While some of them live to recite the details of their early struggles, let us record and preserve them for future generations. This is better than to depend on the memory of their children, for the minor incidents are soon forgotten and the more thrilling ones become so changed, that were the actors to rise out of their silent graves and hear them related, they would not own that they were the principals."

This meeting was very devoutly opened by Mr. Fraser, who read the first chapter of Genesis and followed it with a prayer of gratitude to that

favoring providence that had guided their foot-steps and guarded so auspiciously their destinies.

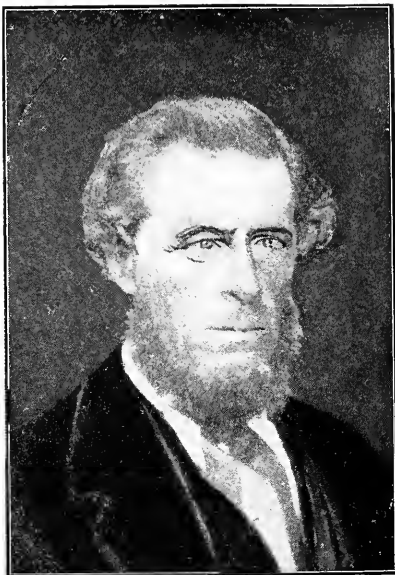
#### DIFFICULTIES AND TRIALS.

The early settlers of this township, owing to their great distance from all sources of supplies and the lack of bridges over the streams, experienced with great severity, many of the trials and privations incident to pioneer life. Their mail facilities were limited to one mail a week between Fort Dodge and Spirit Lake, and many of the trips to the postoffice at old Rolfe had to be made on foot. Fort Dodge was the nearest source of supplies for the table and home, while lumber had to be hauled from Boone or Iowa Falls, both 80 miles distant. They knew what it was to be beset with mosquitoes without any protection (p. 225); to be shut in for weeks at a time; to grind corn on their coffee mills for bread (p. 226), and the difficulty of finding one's home on the prairies in the absence of roads and trees for land marks. In the spring of 1866 John Anderson found on the homestead of his brother the bones of one who had thus perished there two years before, and J. B. Jolliffe the next winter came near sharing the same fate (p. 229).

They were also called upon to endure several visitations of the dreaded grasshoppers (p. 255) that swept through that section, darkening the face of the sun as well as that of the farmer, and stripping the fields of their growing crops, the early settler's only hope of subsistence. They experienced three visitations that included the depredations of six years, 1867 and 68, 1870 and 71, and in diminished numbers in 1875 and 76. They came from a distance the first year and hatched out in the vicinity the second year of each period. When they came on the wing everything was covered. They covered the roofs of the houses, clung to the outside



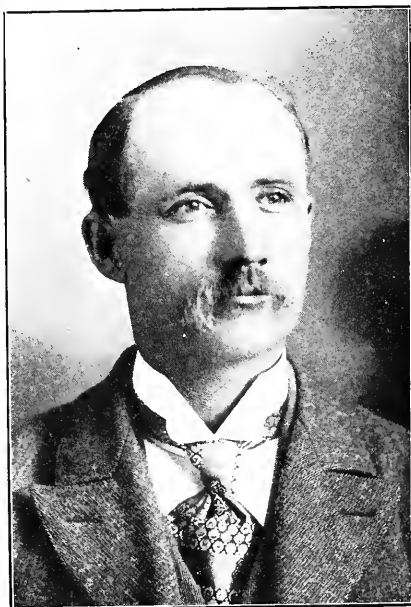
PRENTICE J. SHAW.



FRED. A. METCALF.

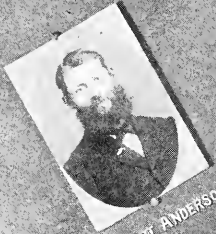


FRANK L. MACVEY.



WM. LEE MACVEY.

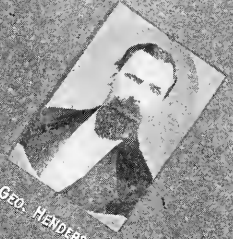
**POWHATAN TOWNSHIP.**



ROBERT ANDERSON.



MRS. JOHN FRASER.



GEO. HENDERSON.



MRS. BARNEY HANGER.



ALEX. MCEWEN.



MRS. A. W. MCEWEN.



JOHN B. JOLIFFE.



MISS DORA STRONG.



GEO. N. LONGHEAD.

POWHATAN TOWNSHIP.

of the walls and if the door was left ajar they took possession and refused to vacate "under thirty days after written notice." Under these circumstances the early settlers had an opportunity of displaying their true grit. Although inferior in numbers and comparatively helpless before those who devoured their hope of subsistence they achieved success by their superior power of endurance.

This settlement prospered in the face of all these difficulties and trials. The hand of affliction sometimes visited them, but there were more occasions for the expression of joy than of sorrow. The rider of the pale horse seldom took more than one familiar face from the family circle while the angel of life very frequently brought two little strangers; so that on the whole they had more occasions for smiles than tears, more christenings than burials.

The muskrats and mink, that abounded in the numerous ponds and streams, served an important part in the commerce of that trying period. The early settler with his traps obtained his medium of exchange in the settlement. The hide of the muskrat was a legal tender for all debts and his hindquarters were often found to be quite tender when properly prepared for the table.

#### ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

The first election was held in the little schoolhouse on sec. 24, Oct. 9, 1866, and 19 votes were cast. At this election Barney Hancher, Ira Strong and Oscar I. Strong served as judges and T. S. MacVey and Jeremiah Young as clerks. The officers elected were as follows: Ira Strong, Oscar I. Strong and Geo. W. Strong, trustees; Jerry Young, clerk, O. I. Strong and A. H. Hancher, justices; and Thos. L. MacVey, assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES:** Ira Strong, 1867; O. I.

Strong, '67; G. W. Strong '67; Jeremiah Young, '68; D. Thomas, '68-71; Robert Lowrey, Henry Tilley, Geo. VanNatta, S. Booth, Henry Thomas, '69-71; James Vosburg, Henry Fulcomer, '70, 72-74; Edward Anderson, J. F. Clark, J. W. Brown, Barney Hancher, '73, 75-76; S. E. Heathman, '73, 75-76, 88-93; Geo. Stevens, '74, 77, 93-95; C. F. Barlow, '74-75, 78-79; M. Waite '77-78; J. D. Hilton, '76-77; Jas. Henderson, '78-86; A. H. Hancher, '79-81; G. W. Rowley, '80-82; P. W. Smith, '81-87, 1900-02; J. B. Jolliffe, '83-88; E. C. Fuller, '87-89; E. H. Heathman, '89-91, 97-1900; D. P. Roberts, '90-92; Louis Brodsky, '92-93; S. J. Loughead, '94-96; H. Fitzgerald, H. Truelson, '96-98; Rollo Postin, '99-01; F. C. DeWolf, 1901-02; Geo. Fuller.

**CLERKS:** Jeremiah Young, '67-68; G. W. Strong, John Fraser, '70-71; Ed. Anderson, N. D. Herrington, '73-74; Alex. McEwen, '75-83, 96-98, 1901-02; J. T. Calhoun, '84-85; P. J. Shaw, '86-93; W. S. McEwen, '94-95; Albert J. Shaw, '99-1900.

**ASSESSORS:** Thos. L. MacVey, A. H. Hancher, A. Jackson, S. Booth, J. B. Thomas, D. P. Frost, Geo. W. Rowley, '73-75, 78-79; S. E. Heathman, '76, 80-85; P. Waite, Edward Gibbons, '86-93, 96-98; J. O. Overholt, '94-95; F. L. MacVey, '99-1900; S. J. Loughead.

**JUSTICES:** O. I. Strong, A. H. Hancher, G. W. Strong, Geo. Henderson, J. F. Clark, A. H. Hancher, John Fraser, '71-73, 83; J. W. Brown, '71-77; S. Pettit, Alex. McEwen, James Henderson, P. R. Smith, G. W. Strong, '80-82; H. Heathman, F. M. Coffin, J. S. Smith, '83-85, 90-93; F. C. DeWolf, '84-89, 93-1900; P. G. Hess, P. W. Smith, '96 1901; Ed. R. Trites, A. J. Marshall, Alex. McEwen, P. R. Henderson, F. J. Brodsky, 1902.

#### SCHOOLS AND OFFICERS.

This township, including Washington and Swan Lake, was organized as the Nunda township school district

in the spring of 1867, and the first board of directors consisted of Henry Thomas, Ira Strong and O. I. Strong. Geo. W. Strong was secretary and Henry Thomas, treasurer.

The first school in the township was taught during the previous year by Sallie Thomas in a sod shanty located on sec. 23.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1866. It was a temporary structure 10x16 feet, seven feet high and set on runners so that it might be moved from place to place. It was often called a shanty because of its flat roof resembling that of a freight car. Its furniture consisted of a wide desk board fastened to each side and one end of it, and three heavy oak benches of corresponding length. It was built by J. C. VanNatta and Ira Strong of native lumber sawed on Hait's sawmill. It was located first on the farm of Ira Strong on sec. 24 near the site later chosen for the Powhatan cemetery, and Caroline Strong taught the first school in it. The first election was held in it that fall. It was moved into several of the other districts as its place was supplied by permanent buildings. Mrs. Thos. L. MacVey taught several terms in it while it stood on the knoll north of Pilot Creek on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, previous to 1873, when it was moved again.

The earliest school records now available for reference are those for the year 1882. A plat found at the court house, however, shows that the first sub-division of the township for school purposes occurred Feb. 21, 1874. At this date Washington was still attached and the two townships were divided into three school districts of 24 sections each, so that No. 1 and No. 2 extended east and west over the entire width of both townships, the former including the two north rows of sections and the latter the next two rows and all the southwest part of Washington.

No schoolhouse had yet been erected in sub-district No. 1, but arrangements had been made for the erection of one that year on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11; and no families were living in this district further west than the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5. In sub-district No. 2 three school houses had been built, namely, on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 23 and on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 15 in Powhatan, and on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 31, Washington township. Sub-district No. 3 shows one schoolhouse at the center of sec. 28.

The succession of officers, so far as we have been able to obtain them, has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS:** Henry Thomas, '67; O. I. Strong, '74; Henry Fulcomer, '75-76; A. H. Hancher, '82-83; John Fraser, S. E. Heathman, '85-89; Louie Brodsky, '90-92; Alex. McEwen, '93-02.

**SECRETARIES:** Geo. W. Strong, '67; C. R. Waterman, '74-75; O. I. Strong, '76-80; S. N. Strong, '81-83; C. F. Barlow, J. T. Calhoun, '85-87; P. J. Shaw, '88-1902.

**TREASURERS:** Henry Thomas, '67-69; Joel Thomas, '70-71; A. Jackson, '72-77; Geo. Henderson, '78-84; J. B. Jolliffe, '85-86; John Fraser, '92-98; A. J. Eggspuehler, '99-1902.

Among the early teachers in this township were Sallie Thomas, Caroline Strong, Mrs. T. L. MacVey, Oscar I. Strong, Mrs. Abigail (Ira) Strong, Edwin J. Strong, L. M. Strong, Hattie Barnes, Peter R. Henderson and W. N. Gillis.

Among recent teachers have been Dora Strong, Lucy Beam, Jennie Geddes, Effie Mercer, Maud Heathman, Eva L. Hancher, E. L. Wallace, Marjory McEwen, Susan McEwen, E. D. Leonard, Ina Jolliffe, Irene Strong.

#### PLOVER.

Plover, the railroad and business center of Powhatan township, is an enterprising village of 250 inhabitants. It is located near the center of the township, on the high ground midway between Beaver and Pilot

creeks, and on the ne½ sec. 16, which was the farm of Andrew Jackson from 1869 to 1877. The track of the Ruthven branch of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge, now the C., R. I. & P. R. R. was laid through this locality in June 1882, and the town was named by the president of the railroad company in memory of one of the common varieties of native birds. The depot was built in the fall of 1882, but the station was not opened until May 1883, when James S. Smith became its occupant and the trains began to stop. In December 1883, the Northwestern Land Co. filed a plat of the town containing six blocks and four outlots, which had been prepared by Oscar I. Strong, surveyor. On Feb. 29, 1896, P. G. Hess filed the plat of the first addition consisting of six outlots on the northwest part of the town on the se½ sec. 9.

In the fall of 1883, J. D. Smith built the first residence, P. G. Hess a store, Blanchard & Son a blacksmith shop and J. T. Calhoun opened a coal and lumber yard. In 1885, McEwen & Garlock built the corner store, Louis Brodsky became its occupant, and residences were built by J. T. Calhoun, W. A. Hubel and M. B. Haskins. In 1886 residences were built by John Campbell, Nils Lilligood, W. M. Halstad, L. Elkins and L. Brodsky; and the hotel by Chas. L. Strong. In 1887 the new families were Henry Fitzgerald, A. K. Cleveland, Peter Toner, Samuel Smith, Ed. R. Trites, Warfield Campbell and Bert Blanchard. In 1888 there arrived among others John Blanchard, Alex. Campbell, and Lew Jennings; and in 1889, S. E. Heathman, S. D. Clifford, A. L. Whitney and Geo. H. Loughead.

The election was first held in Plover in the fall of 1884.

#### PLOVER IN 1902.

AGENTS C. R. I. & P. Ry: A. G. Spillman, F. E. Patton, E. E. Rector, B. B. Brown, successor in 1901 of Henry

Fitzgerald '88-1901, and J. S. Smith '83-88.

BANK: Plover Savings Bank, established in 1891, brick building built in 1900, W. S. McEwen, cashier; Joseph McEwen, assistant cashier.

BARBER: W. S. Chinn.

BLACKSMITHS: Blanchard Bros., Albert and John, in 1890 successors of John Blanchard, Sr., '83-90.

CREAMERY: F. J. Brodsky successor to L. Brodsky.

CARPENTERS AND CONTRACTORS: Charles Northrop and A. R. Campbell.

CHURCHES: Methodist, built in 1886, Rev. E. E. Rorick, pastor; Presbyterian, built in 1888, Rev. Z. W. Steele, pastor; Free Methodist, built in 1898, Miss Winnie Miler, pastor.

DOCTOR: J. D. Wallace, M. D.

DRUGGIST: Geo. W. Day, in 1896 successor of C. H. Beam.

ELEVATORS: Councilman & Co, built in 1891, G. N. Loughead, manager till 1900; Des Moines Elevator Co., new building in 1901, L. Brodsky, manager to 1901, Alex. McEwen, present manager.

GENERAL MERCHANTS: Eggspuehler & Mueller, in 1887 successors of L. Brodsky; F. D. Hadden, since 1895; F. D. Northrop, T. E. Meredith.

HARDWARE: W. A. Neelan in 1902 successor of Neelan & Roberts (1901); F. W. Shellman (1900), Samuel W. Powell (1897), Cox & Powell, L. E. Thompson and P. G. Hess, the pioneer merchant, who started the first store in his home on the farm and moved it to Plover when the town was started.

HARNESS: Geo. Jeffries successor of H. P. Cobbs, F. C. Wanek, L. M. Parralee and P. G. Hess.

HOTEL: Bert McKear, since 1901 successor of C. H. Nebel, Wm. Harder, Mrs. Robinson, Alex. Geddes and Chas. L. Strong.

IMPLEMENTS: C. D. Hobbs, in 1900 successor of Geo. N. Loughead, Alex.

McEwen, C. A. Charlton and Jas. T. Calhoun '83-90.

**LIVERY:** J. T. Mishler, in 1902 successor of J. S. Pirie and Ed. R. Trites '90-93.

**LUMBER AND COAL:** H. L. Jenkins, in 1893 successor of Brodsky Lumber Co.; F. D. Calkins, since 1893; Brodsky Lumber Co., since 1899, H. Fitzge.ald, manager.

**MEAT MARKET:** W. A. Mitchell, in 1901 successor of Chauncey Cox ('96), Samuel Miller ('94), S. E. Heathman, L. E. Jennings, A. K. Cleveland and John Campbell '85-92.

**POSTMASTER:** Geo. N. Loughead, since Feb. 1, 1899 successor of Henry Fitzgerald '93-99, Edward Gibbons '89-93, A. J. Eggspuehler '85-89, and P. G. Hess '83-85.

**NEWSPAPER:** The Plover Review, by G. H. Liddell, since November, 1900; successor of the Times Gazette, established by F. M. Linehan in January, 1896 and closed Sept. 22, 1898; and of the Plover Herald established by P. O. Coffin in the spring of 1895.

**REAL ESTATE:** J. S. Smith since 1889, and Geo. N. Loughead.

**RESTAURANT:** Bert McKean, in 1901 successor of C. E. Heathman 1900, Chinn & Watkins '98-99, Chauncey Cox 1897, A. A. Loats, Tony Fisher.

#### PLOVER HIGH SCHOOL.

The school in the Plover district was developed into a high school in 1893 and a good two story frame building costing \$4000 has been erected on a pretty elevation south of town. The first annual commencement was held in the Presbyterian church, June 16, 1899 when a class of six young ladies graduated, namely: Marjory McEwen, Sue McEwen, Bertha Blair, Estella Shaw, Estella Hancher and Edith Wallace. The next commencement was held in 1902 when Minnie Anderson, Guy Meredith, Elsie Connor, Luella Shaver, Mamie Loughead, Emma and Arthur Fuller, graduated. The succession of principals has been

Walter N. Gillis '92-94, E. L. Wallace '94-1901, E. D. Leonard.

#### CHURCHES.

**METHODIST:** During the 70's the Methodist ministers at Old Rolfe began to hold services in the Strong schoolhouse on sec. 24. In later years a class was organized at Plover consisting of Mr. and Mrs. William Alexander, Frank and Martha Beers, John, Betsey and Alice Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Strong and others. In September, 1885 the Plover and Havelock classes were transferred from Rolfe to form with other classes the Curlew charge. In September, 1890 Plover and Havelock were united to form one charge. A church building costing \$1500 was built in 1886 and the succession of pastors since 1888 has been as follows: F. L. Moore '88-91, L. F. Troutman '91-94, C. M. Phoenix '94-97, G. W. Shideler '97-99, A. R. Cuthbert, '99-1901, E. E. Rorick.

**PRESBYTERIAN:** The first services in the township were held in the Strong schoolhouse during the later 60's by Rev. David S. McComb, pastor of the Unity Presbyterian church, (p. 218), that worshipped in the court house at Old Rolfe.

The Presbyterian church at Plover was organized with 26 members on Oct. 11, 1888, after the labors of a few months on the part of Rev. George H. Duty, of Rolfe, by a committee of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge consisting of Rev. R. E. Flickinger, Rev. Geo. H. Duty, Rev. T. C. Bailey and Elder W. C. Kennedy, of Rolfe. The original members were James and Beatrice Henderson and their five children, Janet, James, Jay W., John and Charles Henderson, Robert and Mary Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. McEwen, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Loughead, A. L. and Mary E. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Geddes, Catherine Parradee, Elizabeth (Mrs. S. L.) Horsman, Robert Lothian, Alice L. (Mrs. Nelson) Shaver and son Glenn Shaver, Mr. and



Mrs. Marcus Lind and their two daughters Maggie and Marie, and Mrs. Peter R. Henderson. James Henderson, Robert Anderson and Robert Lothian were elected elders; and Alex. McEwen, A. L. Whitney, S. J. Loughead, N. H. Shaver and Squire E. Heathman, trustees. A church building 26x40, having a lecture room, vestibule and tower, and costing \$1800 was dedicated Dec. 8, 1889. A few years later a parsonage and other out-buildings were built at a cost of \$1000. The two lots on which these buildings were erected, were donated by Senator A. O. Garlock. This congregation has made a steady and substantial growth that for several years past has enabled it to support its own pastor. The succession of pastors has been as follows: Geo. H. Duty, A. A. Pratt, M. T. Rainier, W. N. Gillis a student, Wm. J. Fraser, J. W. Carlstrom and James Simpson, students, James Berry and Zadok W. Steele, who has served the church since 1900 and was installed June 10, 1902.

**FREE METHODIST:** The Free Methodists, July 10, 1898 dedicated a church building in Plover during the ministry of Rev. O. Peitsmyer, who was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. I. C. Grabil and Rev. F. E. Eaton each of whom served one year. Miss Winnie Miler, the present pastor, began in 1900. This parish embraces a wide section of country.

#### THE PLOVER POULTRY YARD.

W. A. Hubel (p 471) from 1892 to 1898 was the proprietor of the Plover poultry yards and by his large and fine exhibits at the Fonda and Ruthven fairs came to be recognized as the principal breeder of thoroughbred poultry in Pocahontas county. His exhibits included four varieties, namely: Cornish Indian Games, Dark and Light Brahmas, Black Langshans, Buff and Partridge Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, Golden and Silver Laced Wyandottes, Leghorns,

Red Caps, Hamburgs and Houdans. As a result of his experience he found that the Leghorns were the best layers, the Light Brahmas the best for the market, and the Plymouth Rocks the farmer's favorite, or the best for all purposes. No investment on the farm ordinarily brings so much clear profit as one prudently made for the purpose of raising poultry. The following reasons have been suggested, to indicate that many farmers might profitably engage more extensively in raising poultry.

They enable him to convert a great deal of otherwise waste material into eggs and chickens for the market and produce revenue all the year, except two months during the moulting season.

They yield a quick return for the capital invested and can be raised in all parts of the country, while fruit and cereals can be successfully grown only in certain sections.

The hen is a sweet tempered, hard working, productive creature that has become identified with our home life, and also our domestic and national prosperity. She lays \$290,000,000 worth of eggs in this country every year, which is more than four apiece for each inhabitant. After a life of constant activity, laying eggs, cackling and hatching little chicks, she gives up her life for the table of the farmer or boarding house keeper.

The Iowa hen crows the loudest and longest, because it was officially declared by the census of 1900, that her family in this state numbered 18,907,673, which was 2,300,000 more than Illinois, her closest rival. The peerless Hawkeye state excels all others in cackling hens, quacking ducks and in the number of eggs produced.

"Who has not read the lays that the poets sing of the rustling corn and the flowers of spring? But of all the lays of tongue or pen, there is none like the lay of the Iowa hen. The corn

must rustle and the flowers must spring, if they hold their own with the barnyard ring. Long before Maud rakes the hay, the Iowa hen has begun her lay; and ere the milkmaid has stirred a peg, the hen is up and laid an egg. If Maud is needing a new spring gown, she does not hustle the hay to town, but goes to the store and obtains her suit, with a basket full of fresh hen fruit; If the milkmaid's beau makes a Sunday call, she does not feed him on milk at all, but works up eggs in a custard pie and stuffs him full of chicken fry. All hail, to the Iowa hen, the greatest blessing to all men. Corn may be king, but it is plainly seen, that the Iowa hen is the Iowa queen."

#### PUBLIC OFFICERS.

The following county officials have been chosen from Powhatan township:

**SUPERVISORS:** Henry Thomas 1867-68, Ira Strong '69-70, Andrew Jackson '72-74, Alex. McEwen '86-94.

**RECORDERS:** Thomas L. MacVey '69-74, Andrew Jackson '75-76, Oscar I. Strong '77.

**SURVEYORS:** Geo. W. Strong '70, O. I. Strong '71.

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Oscar I. Strong '74, '80-81.

**TREASURER:** C. A. Charlton '94-99.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Anderson,** Robert R. (b. 1842), one of the sturdy and successful pioneers of Powhatan township, is a native of Somerville, N. J., a son of James and Helen (Russell) Anderson.

Oct. 26, 1865 he and his brother Edward entered claims for the E $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 15, 160 acres each, making the journey up the Des Moines river from Fort Dodge to McNight's Point, afoot. In the spring of 1866 he built a shanty and in the fall of that year replaced it with a house built of willow logs, obtained from the grove along the Des Moines river. He endeavored to achieve success on the frontier by working single handed, but the experiment was not

very encouraging. In September 1884 he married Mary McFadzen, a native of Ontario, Canada, and very soon the tide of success turned in his favor. At first he did a large amount of breaking for his neighbors, but better times were experienced when he was able to devote his attention to dairying and raising stock. When the grass hoppers came, during the period from 1867 to 1876, they paid him their respects by discovering their keen relish for his growing crops. He has succeeded well on the farm and is now the owner of 330 acres. In 1901 he erected a fine dwelling house on the farm adjoining Plover, to which he moved the previous year. He is a man of strict integrity, devout and reverential in spirit and has been an elder in the Presbyterian church since 1871, under the rotary system.

His family consists of three children, Minnie, a Plover graduate in 1902; James who works the farm near Plover, and Arthur, an adopted son.

Edward Anderson who came with his brother Robert in 1865, and located on 15, married Elizabeth Gillis, of Ontario, and died in 1872, before he had secured the title to his homestead. His death was the result of a lingering sore, caused by the kick of a horse. He served as a trustee in 1871 and was township clerk at the time of his death. His wife completed the title to the homestead and, occupied it until 1886, when she became the wife of George Henderson who died in 1892. She died in 1899 leaving two children, James and Henry, by her first husband. James lives in California; Henry, a farmer, married Joan Steele, and after her death, Maggie Ballentine. He lives in Washington and has a family of five children.

Mrs. Edward Anderson was one of earth's noblest women and still lives amid the scenes of her earthly career in the sweet influence and the fragrant memories of a noble life. She

came to the frontier at a time when the extremes of cold and heat involved much of personal discomfort and the battle for bread was a long and hard one. The period of her life spent in Powhatan was one of constant and loving service for others, for whom she drank deeply from the cup of sorrow. When she perceived she could no longer serve, on account of indications of her own approaching end, she hastened to her old home in Canada, as Moses ascended the mount to die, gathered about her the drapery of her couch and peacefully passed to the better land,

“A land of pure delight,  
Where saints immortal reign.”

John Anderson, another brother of Robert, who in the spring of 1866 found the bones of one who had got lost on the prairie and perished in a blizzard two years before, near the corner of Robert's homestead, married first Isabella McGilvery and after her death Kate Gaffeny. He lives in Washington and has five children.

**Barnes**, John (b. 1815), one of the pioneers of Powhatan, was a native of Pennsylvania. At the age of 22 he located in southern Illinois where he found employment as a carpenter. He spent two years logging at New Orleans and still has a tool chest made there of cypress wood seventy years ago. In 1841 he married Betsey N. DeWolf, a native of Pennsylvania and located at Sterling, Illinois.

In the spring of 1870 he and his son, William, came to Powhatan and began to occupy the homestead taken by Wm. and Eliza (De Wolf) Stone (NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC 25) four years previous. Later that year his wife and eight other children, John, Mary, Anna, Harriet, Fannie, George, Samuel, and Alice arrived. In 1872 he moved to Des Moines township and two years later to SEC. 14, Powhatan. About this time he bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SEC. 12 from Alex McEwen and, building a house,

moved upon it. He improved and occupied this farm until 1896, the year after the death of his wife, when he went to the home of his daughter, Mary E. Frost, then at Mt. Vernon. Since 1898 he has lived with Alice, his youngest daughter, and family on the old home farm. He was in the midst of adverse circumstances when he came to Pocahontas county, with a family of nine children, but after a few years the tide turned and noble persistent effort to provide for them was crowned with good success. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church and a zealous advocate of prohibition.

His family consisted of nine children.

Anna C., in 1874 married Rev. James S. Ziegler, a minister of the N. W. Iowa Conference. He is now a mail clerk on the C. & N. W. R'y., lives in Des Moines and has a family of four children, Lena, Lulu, Dora and Grace.

Mary E. in 1875 married Daniel P. Frost, a farmer, and located on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 16, Powhatan, where he died in 1882, leaving one son, Frederic. Mary then returned to the home of of her father where she remained until after the death of her mother, when she accompanied Frederic, pursuing his education, to Des Moines and Mt. Vernon, and in 1899 returned to Plover. Frederic, after graduating at Mt. Vernon in 1899, served one year as principal of the High School at Eddyville, and then located at Des Moines where he has since been engaged in the real estate business and reading law.

Harriet E., who taught the first school at Pocahontas, married Edward Snell, a farmer, and located in Crawford county, where she died in 1884, leaving two children, Bertha and Wayne.

William L. in 1891 married Clara B. Hampdon, and located on a farm on section 11, which he was the first

to occupy and improve. In 1902 he moved to Palisade, Colorado to engage in raising fruit. His family consisted of two children, Erroll and Leatha.

Fannie E., an early teacher, is now an agent for a Des Moines firm and lives at Tama City.

George W., in 1893 married Jem, daughter of Senator George Henderson, widow of George Bowen. He completed a course of theological study at Evanston, Ill., and is now a minister of the M. E. church. His family consists of two children, Ruth and Joyce.

Alice M., in 1893 married Joseph Dougherty, a baggage master on the C. & N. W. R'y. and located at Tama City. In 1898 they bought the old home farm and moved upon it. They have one child, Cora.

John M. rendered military service in the war on the Phillipine Islands, and then returned to Plover.

Samuel Howard, a Cuban soldier, died in 1902.

**Brodsky**, Louis (b. 1851) merchant, farmer and stock raiser at Plover, is a native of Dubuque county, Iowa, the son of Onifred and Mary Brodsky. His father was a native of Poland and, coming to this country located at Dubuque where he died when Louis was 15 months old. His mother afterwards became the wife of Vit Payer and in 1876 located at Pocahontas. Louis, that year engaging in store keeping, was the second merchant at Pocahontas. Nov. 20, 1876 he married Katy Sladek and the next spring located on a farm in Dover township. In 1884 he moved to Plover and, engaging in general merchandise, was the second merchant at that place. After a few years he relinquished his interest in the store that he might give his attention to other enterprises that had enlisted his interest, a farm, creamery, elevator and lumber yard.

He is now the owner of 320 acres of

land adjoining Plover known as the Ploverdale stock farm, that he has improved with a large dwelling house supplied with modern appliances for convenience and comfort, large horse and cattle barns, several hog houses, two silos that hold 200 tons of ensilage and a number of other necessary outbuildings. The silos were the first built in Pocahontas county. He has erected ample buildings for raising a large amount of stock and taking good care of it from year to year. He built also a large hay depot at the railroad station that he might handle that commodity, buying or selling it as circumstances might suggest.

He received a number of premiums on his exhibits of pure bred cattle at the Iowa State fairs of 1892 and 93; and in 1895 was accorded 21 first premiums at Ruthven, and swept everything at the Big Four fair at Fonda. His large and fine exhibits on these occasions attracted wide attention and his annual public sales have attracted buyers from neighboring states, including Kentucky, as well as from all parts of Iowa.

The following exhibit of some of his public sales shows what he has accomplished in the way of raising fine stock in this section and the substantial increase in the prices received during recent years.

## PUBLIC SALES.

Date.	Cattle.	Aver.	Total.	Amt. of Sale.
1894	45 head	\$53.60	\$2,400	\$3,520
1895	82 head	72.00	4,904	7,576
1898	40 head	167 00	5,680	6,680
1899	49 head	226 53	11,110	15,547
1901	47 head	206.00	9,705	9,705
1902	30 head	275.33	8,260	8,260

At the time of the sale, March 15, 1899, which was held in a large tent, a special brought a train load of people from Rolfe. Col. F. M. Woods, of Lincoln, Neb., served as auctioneer, two of the cattle brought \$410 each and two others \$500 and \$505, respectively. Sixteen Percheron horses were sold that day for \$4,315,

three of them bringing \$300 each and two others \$415 and \$455, respectively. A set of herd books and a share of stock sold for \$132, making the assets that day \$15,547.

At his first sale in 1894, 51 young hogs were sold for \$1,020, an average of \$20 each; and in 1895, 44 head were sold for \$1,675 an average of \$38 each.

At his last sale, Oct. 8, 1902, a cow, 7th Mysie of Pleasant View brought \$1090, and four others, \$525, \$560, \$570 and \$580, respectively. A special was run from Rolfe and the bids were received by Col. Woods, Al. P. Mason and Ralph Barklay. Meredith Bros. sold at the same time and place 26 head for \$2,970, an average of \$114 23; making the gross receipts of the sale \$11,230. At a combination sale at Rolfe on the previous day by Claus Johnson, N. A. Lind, Anton Williams, T. H. Fisher, M. P. Hancher, A. G. Hewlett and W. J. Price, 50 Shorthorns were sold for \$7,600 an average of \$152 a head.

He has shown a preference for the Percheron horses, Short-Horn cattle and Poland China hogs. Short-Horns of a very superior quality have been sold at his public sales, including Scotch Dorothis, Mysies, Marsh Violets, Lovelys, Scotch-topped Rose of Sharons, and other desirable families. His herd usually numbers about 100 head and three-fourths of them are thoroughbreds. He was the first in the northeast part of the county to embark in raising Short-Horns on a large scale, having commenced in 1889, and a large share of the credit of making Pocahontas county a well known center, where the best cattle in the land may be found, belongs to him; since most of the other breeders were encouraged by his example, profited by his counsel and obtained their first supplies of stock from him. He and other farmers in that vicinity have Short-Horns that are not surpassed any where in size, quality and pedigree.

He has endeavored to raise as fine stock as can be done with the best blood and feed, and to secure speedy maturity. He has realized the importance and value of thorough discipline in feeding and taking care of the stock, and never entrusts the care of the herd to a stranger nor exposes any of them for sale until they are in prime condition. Finding that public sales are somewhat expensive he has concluded to adopt the plan of both buying and selling, as far as possible, at private sale, in the hope, that he can make sales to his patrons with profit at a much lower rate.

He is a man of excellent business habits and is held in high esteem in the community. He is a good representative of that class of enterprising men, who build up a community and secure for it a good reputation abroad. He was president of the school board three years, 1890-92.

His family consists of five children, Josephine, Frank J., Louis, Frances and George. Frank and Louis attended the State Agricultural College at Ames, and the former is now proprietor of the Plover creamery. In 1900 his father re-opened this creamery, and it has been managed on the plan of each farmer having his own separator and bringing only the cream to the creamery; and about ninety separators are now in use in that vicinity.

#### ANGORA GOATS.

Mr. Brodsky is the owner of a farm of 500 acres, on the triangular strip of land in Lee county, that is at the confluence of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers. On this land he made an intelligent experiment, worthy of special notice. This land, like others in that vicinity, was covered with a natural growth of weeds, vines and shrubbery, that prevented agricultural operations and its removal with axe and brush-hook would have required a great deal of time

and money. Instead of pursuing this, the common method of clearing these lands, he enclosed it and put 400 Angora goats upon it. The result was a surprise to the old settlers in that section, one of whom remarked, "your goats in one year have cleared more land and done it better, than we have done in forty." Some of the people drove miles to see their work, and the board of supervisors appointed a committee to investigate and report the results of this novel and profitable experiment. The goats manifested a relish for every kind of young tree growth, except hickory, and their clip yielded ninety cents each. It must always be remembered, that this admirable trait of the goat for clearing wild lands, tends to make him a dangerous visitor to the garden, grove and orchard.

**Day, George W.** (b. 1875), druggist, is a native of Greene county, Wis., the son of D. D. and R. A. Day, who now reside at Rolfe. In 1884 he came with his parents to Iowa, and in 1892 was a member of the first graduating class of the Rolfe high school.

In September, 1896 he married Jennie M. Lindsay, of Montreal, Can., and in December following located at Plover where he has since been engaged in the drug business. In 1898 he was the democratic nominee for county auditor and lacked only 17 votes of being elected. In 1902 he was re-nominated. His family consists of two children, Grace and Norma.

He has three brothers, W. D., who lives at Lawton, Okla., B. G. at Harwarden and J. F. at Pocahontas; and three sisters, Mrs. A. T. White who lives at Pocahontas, Mrs. G. E. Boynton, Sioux Rapids, and Mrs. L. A. Haines, Albert Lea, Minn.

**Eggspuehler, Albert J.** (b. 1858), merchant, is a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1885 he located in Plover and engaged in the mercantile

business, first as a partner with Louis Brodsky and 18 months later with Jacob Mueller, his present partner. This is now the oldest business firm in Plover and its long continuance suggests the liberal patronage accorded to it by the community it has been serving so long. Mr. Eggspuehler is the owner of a good farm near Plover and several valuable properties in the town; and has been treasurer of the school funds since 1899.

In 1891 he married Cedora, a daughter of Wenzel Hubel, a pioneer of Center township, and has a family of two children, Florin and Gladys. Mary A. Hubel, his wife's mother, died at his home at 79, Feb. 10, 1902.

**Fessenden, Bradley M.**, owner and occupant of a farm on sec. 25 from 1872 to 1889, is a native of Montrose, Pa., the son of Isaac B. and Lydia Fessenden. The early part of his life was spent at Pittston, Pa. In 1865 he came to Carroll county, Ill., where in 1866 he married Betsey B. DeWolf. In 1867 he located in Cedar county, Iowa, and in 1872 in Powhatan township, where after a few years, he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25. He improved and occupied this farm until 1899, when he moved to Sherburne, Minn. He was a man of strict integrity, a member of the Methodist church and served one year as president of the county Sunday school association.

He raised a family of ten children, three of whom are married. Henry E. married Minnie Grove. Mary E., in 1890 married Samuel W. Lyman and lived on a farm near Plover until 1900, when they moved to McHenry, N. D. where she died at 31, in 1901, leaving five children. Clara E. married George L. Pirie. The others are Charles L., the oldest, Isaac B., Harvey D., George, Bessie and Lydia.

**Fraser, John** (b. 1827), owner and occupant of a homestead on sec. 36 since 1866, is a native of the city of

Glasgow, Scotland. At fifteen in 1842 he came to Beavertown, Ontario, Can., where in 1859 he married Mary Bow, also of Scotch descent. In 1866, with a family of two sons and two daughters, John, Jessie, William and Mary, he came to Pocahontas county and secured a homestead of 160 acres on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, Powhatan township. He is one of the first residents of the township and in the frontispiece may be seen a cut of the log house, built in 1868, that was the family residence for many years. He increased the farm to 250 acres and in later years improved it with good buildings and groves. It is located 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Rolfe and is connected with that town by telephone and a daily, free rural mail.

He has been secretary of the Pocahontas County Bible Society (p. 503) since its organization at Old Rolfe in 1867, and in October that year, carried from Fort Dodge the first lot of Bibles brought to this county. During the 35 years he has been secretary of this organization, there has been brought to this county through its instrumentality, Bibles and Testaments to the value of \$800, and in 1897 a canvass of the county was made to put a Bible in every home.

He is one of the men who took the lead in having the name of the township changed from "Nunda" and "Jackson" to "Powhatan," and served twelve years as treasurer of the school funds. The large number of votes that have frequently been cast for the candidates of the prohibition party in this township has been largely due to his leadership and influence. He is a total abstainer and has supported the prohibition party since 1881. He is a man of firm convictions, knows what he believes and finds encouragement in the following lines:  
 "For right is right, since God is God,  
 And right the day must win;  
 To doubt would be disloyalty,  
 To falter would be sin."

He is a man of sterling worth and has rendered efficient and constant service for many years as an official member of the M. E. church at Rolfe. He is a man of faith and piety and believes that, though He may seem to tarry a little, God will accomplish all he has promised in regard to the overthrow of iniquity and the ushering in of a reign of righteousness and peace.

His family consisted of five children, one of whom, Jessie, died at 23 in 1884.

John T., (b. Can. 1860) in 1883 married Ida M. Waite, occupies his own well improved farm on sec. 1, Center township, and has a family of seven children, Ethel, Mary, John, George, Frank, Lucile and Foster.

Jessie F. (b. Aug. 1861) in 1880 married John Taylor and in 1884 died at Odebolt, leaving two children, Mabel L., who in 1901 married Milton W. Maulsby, a barber, at Fonda; and Charles, who lives with his father at Rolfe.

William J. (b. Can. 1863) in 1888 married Laura, daughter of R. B. Fish and located at Rolfe where he continued to reside until 1900, when he went to LaConnor, and in 1902, to Mt. Vernon, Wash. His family consists of seven children, Bert R., Minnie, Winnie, Vernon, Clare, Earl B. and Jessie.

Mary E. in 1885 married John A. Vandecar and located on a farm near Livermore. In 1889 he moved to Rolfe and engaged in business, but a few years later purchased and now occupies a farm of 180 acres in West Bend township, Palo Alto county. Their family consists of eight children, William, Frank, Gladys, Mary, Cora, Belle, Howard and Irene.

Charles E. (b. Aug. 1, 1868), the only member of the family born in this county, was born in the log house and was one of the first children born in Powhatan. After attending the high school in Rolfe he graduated from the Iowa Business College at

Des Moines in 1889. During the summer of 1891 he taught school in Clinton township. Nov. 16, 1891 he entered the employ of the State Savings Bank at Rolfe as a bookkeeper, and on Jan. 1, 1899 became its assistant cashier. He has lived at Rolfe since the date of his birth and now owns considerable property in that town. In the fall of 1899 he effected the organization of the Rolfe Telephone Co. with a capital of \$10,000, and served one year as its manager. It has now 260 phones in operation, many of which are upon farms, and their number is constantly increasing. He is also one of the organizers of the Rolfe Gas Co. and owns a block of its capital stock. He was clerk of Clinton township five years, 1896-1900, and in 1902 was elected a member of the Rolfe town council.

In 1895 he married Hattie L., youngest daughter of Dr. W. O. Beam of Humboldt, who, after her graduation at Toledo in 1890, moved to Rolfe and taught twelve terms in the public schools of this county, including several at Rolfe. She has four brothers and two sisters, and four of them are or have been residents of this county, namely, Dr. W. W. Beam and Mrs. J. H. Charlton at Rolfe, and C. H. Beam at Pocahontas; Dr. W. O. Beam and H. A. Beam at Moline, Ill.; Mrs. A. Owen at Toledo, Iowa, and Jennie G. who taught school several years at Plover, in 1900 married Thomas Heather and in 1902 located at Bard, S. D. Mr. and Mrs. Fraser have one son, Charles Halford.

**Geddes**, Alexander (b. 1840), a pioneer of Bellville and a long time resident of Powhatan, is a native of Scotland, the son of James and Jane Stark Geddes. In 1861, he married Catherine Lannie and worked in the mines until the spring of 1866, when he brought his family to Braidwood, Ill. Three years later he came in a prairie schooner to Fort Dodge and in 1870

with wife and three children, James, Jane and Alexander, settled on a homestead of 80 acres on sec. 8, Bellville township. He improved and occupied this farm until 1881, when he located on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29, Powhatan township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. In 1887 he moved to Havelock and the next year to Plover, where he kept hotel; and his sons, James, Alexander and William engaged in making hay and working on the roads. In 1900 he moved to West Bend and the next year to Rolfe.

His family consisted of nine children: James, a native of Scotland, is a dealer in hay; Jane has been a teacher for many years; Alexander is at Mallard; Catherine married Harry A. Hilton; Maggie, in 1901, married E. H. Post and lives at Rolfe; the others are William, John, Robert and Martha.

**Goodchild**, George (b. 1818), the pioneer occupant of the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 20, is a native of England, where in 1846 he married Ursula Wilkinson. In 1849 he came to New York City, where he found employment as a shoe maker, and seven years later located on Long Island. In 1867 he came to Webster county, Iowa, and in 1869 located on a homestead of 160 acres in Powhatan township. He improved this farm with good buildings and occupied it until his death. His wife died in 1885. Both he and his wife were raised in the Episcopal church and became active workers in the M. E. church in Powhatan.

His family consisted of nine children, three of whom died young.

Henry in 1833 married Nettie Spencer, of Osceola county, located on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, Washington township, improved and occupied it until 1901, when he moved one mile west of Havelock. He has done considerable work as a carpenter and mason, having learned both of these trades in his youth. His family consists of six children, Mary, Anna, Kate, Sarah, Edward and Jesse.



William A. in 1885 married Eunice, daughter of Elijah Chase, and lives on the old Chase farm, four miles north of Havelock. His family consists of six children, Ella, Elizabeth, Ursula Millie, William and Lester.

Ursula in 1884 married Joseph O. Overholt, who owns and occupies a farm of 320 acres in Emmet county and raises thoroughbred stock. Her family consists of five children, Ira and Inez, twins, Siegel, William and Florence.

Herbert in 1889 married Margaret Ludington, a farmer, lives in Palo Alto county and has three children, Mabel, Leon and Wayne.

**Hancher, Mrs. Nancy A. (1807-82),** mother of Barney and Abel Hicks Hancher, was one of the early pioneers of Powhatan township. Accompanying her sons and daughters to the frontier in the early sixties, she shared with them the pleasures, privations and hardships of the early days, when young men founded humble homes,

“Far out upon the prairie.”

Her husband, John Hancher, (1798-1853), was a native of Jefferson county, Virginia, and a soldier in the war of 1812. After their marriage in 1827, they located in Harrison county, Ohio, and remained until about 1850, when they moved to Kentucky and the next year to Brown county, Ind., where he died at 57 in 1853, leaving a family of four sons and five daughters. After a residence of six years at this place Mrs. Hancher and family moved to Bureau county, Illinois, where in 1862, Barney, her oldest son, married Ellen, daughter of Henry Thomas. In the fall of 1863 he and wife and Jerry Young, wife and six children came to Pocahontas county, and located for that winter, Hancher in Mills' cabin at McKnight's Point, and Young in Oscar Slosson's "shack" on sec. 24, Des Moines township. April 9, 1864 Barney filed a claim for the set

sec. 24, Powhatan township and beginning to occupy it May 10, 1864, built a cabin and did some breaking that same month.

In October following (1864) his mother, Nancy, his brothers, Abel Hicks and Thomas, and sister, Belle, arrived from Bureau county, Illinois. Sept 29th, in anticipation of their arrival, Barney filed a claim in the name of his mother, for the net sec. 24, adjoining his own. No others had filed claims in this township before her, except Barney and those who filed on the previous day, Sept. 28, namely, Henry, Daniel and Joel Thomas, Jerry Young, William Stone, Samuel and George Booth, and she located on her claim before the last three.

Mrs. Hancher and family spent the first winter in the vicinity of Old Rolfe and, locating on her claim in the spring of 1865, improved and occupied it until her death at 75, Oct. 2, 1882. Her home was, for many years, a favorite place of meeting among the settlers. The first social and first Sunday school picnic were held here. She was a true mother and cared for the moral and spiritual, as well as temporal welfare of her children. She was a member of the Christian church and had the faculty of making her home a delightful place of meeting.

**Hancher, Barney (b. Harrison Co., Ohio, 1831),** the first resident of Powhatan township, in 1862 married Margaret Ellen, daughter of Henry Thomas during their residence in Bureau county, Illinois. In 1864 he built the first cabin and turned the first furrow in Powhatan. During the winter of 1864-65 he moved his cabin to the timber in W. H. Hait's pasture southeast of Old Rolfe, but returned to his claim the next spring. He improved and occupied it until 1879 when he sold it to James Drown and moved to Ness county, Kansas. In 1881, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas, he returned to this county and in 1883 located near Rolfe where he still lives. He served as one of the

judges at the first election in Powhatan and later three years as a trustee. He carried the mail between Fonda and Pocahontas two years.

His family consisted of five children one of whom died in childhood.

Susanna in 1885 married Albert G. Leland, a mason, and died in 1888.

John Henry, a mason, in 1887 married Allie Hoffman and located at Rolfe. In 1895 his wife, her mother, Mrs. Hoffman, and his three children, Erena, Pearl and Amy visited the Pacific coast and all of them were among the missing after the fire, that burned the hotel at Seattle that year. He is now engaged in farming at McHenry, N. D.

Alva G. married Sarah Van Horn and lives at Richards, Calhoun county, where he has charge of a lumber yard.

Frank W., a farmer, married Ida Archer and in 1902 located at McHenry, N. D.

**Hancher**, Abel Hicks (b. O., 1845), proprietor of the Spring Creek stock farm, sec. 24, Powhatan, is a native of Harrison county, Ohio, and in youth moved with his mother and her family to Bureau county, Illinois. In the fall of 1864 he came with his mother, brother Thomas and sister, Belle, to Pocahontas county, where in 1866 he built on sec. 24, one of the first cabins in Powhatan township. Oct. 6, 1868 he married Caroline, daughter of Beriah Cooper of Des Moines township. He occupied the old homestead of his mother many years, increased it to 355 acres and improved it with substantial and ample buildings for raising a large amount of stock. He made it a very beautiful home. Everything about it suggests order, thrift, convenience and comfort. He has devoted his attention to raising and feeding stock as well as farming, and, during the 37 years he occupied the farm, did not sell over \$300 worth of grain from it, but bought much from his neighbors. He served one

term as assessor and several as a trustee. In 1902, leaving the farm in care of his son, Adelbert, he moved to Rolfe.

His family consisted of seven children.

Adelbert E. lived several years with his uncle, Thomas Cooper, and bought a farm of 240 acres in Palo Alto county. In 1901 he took charge of his father's farm. He married Ollie Jinness and has one child, Luverne.

Melvin Park, a farmer and stock raiser, in 1896, married Priscilla Hanlon and located first in Clinton, and in 1901 in Des Moines township, where he owns a well improved farm of 160 acres adjoining Rolfe. His family consists of one child, Virgil.

Charles E., in 1897 married Jessie Shepherd, lives near Plover and has two children.

Thomas in 1900 married Eva Grove, lives in Powhatan and has one child, Leta M.

Stella in 1900 married Clarence D Hobbs, a stock dealer and manager of Counselman's elevator at Plover.

Eva L. a teacher, and Edith are at home.

**Hancher**, Thomas J. in October, 1864 with wife and two children, accompanied his mother from Bureau county, Illinois, to this county and located on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 14, Powhatan. The next year he moved to Jasper county and in 1884 to Des Moines.

Belle in 1866 married Henry Tilley, (p. 530).

**Heathman**, Squire Ephraim (b. 1846), a resident of Powhatan since 1873, is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, the son of David C. and Catherine Heathman. In 1847 he moved with his parents to Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. In the fall of 1862 he enlisted as a member of a heavy artillery company, but two months later was mustered out on account of being too small for that kind of service. In October, 1863, he

re-enlisted as a member of Co. I, 2d Wis. Cav. and remained in the service until Nov. 15, 1865, when he was mustered out at Austin, Texas. He was in the Western Department of the Army under Generals Osborne and Custer.

In 1868 he married Phoebe J., daughter of Joel Smith and located on a farm in Greene county, Wis. In 1872 accompanied by Joseph D. Hilton he came to Powhatan township and located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 9, and Hilton on 5. Squire improved and occupied his farm until 1892 when he moved to Plover.

He has taken a very prominent part in the management of the affairs in the township, having served 12 years as president of the school board, nine as assessor and eight as a trustee. He has also taken a laudable interest in the work of the churches. His wife, who was a native of Greene county, Wis., died at 49 in 1900.

His family consisted of 12 children, two of whom died young, Mark at 15 in 1887.

Willis D. married Ida Grove, lives at Plover and has three children, Lena, Squire and Myrtle.

Frank E. in 1895 graduated from the medical college at Keokuk and soon afterwards located at Havelock, where he is still engaged in the practice of medicine. He married Maggie Fitzgerald and has three children, Virgil, Lucile and Elmer.

Calvin in 1899 married Maud Stevens lives at Plover and has one child, Cleetis.

George in 1901 married Alice Pullan and lives at Plover.

Arthur in 1899, married Maggie Pirie, located on a farm near Plover and has two children, Clarence and Margaret.

Rosa in 1901 married Walter E. Chinn and lives at Plover.

Carrie, Maggie, Ida and Ina are at home.

**Heathman, Hiram** (b. 1821), an uncle of Squire Heathman, is a native of Ohio where he grew to manhood and married Priscilla Moody. In 1867 he located in Greene county, Wisconsin, and in 1872, coming with his nephew to Pocahontas county, located on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 9, Powhatan, which he improved and occupied until his death at 64, in 1885. His wife died at 70 in 1895. The farm still belongs to the family which consisted of ten children.

Rosella, married Dwight Wood, a mason, and lived in Wisconsin until 1898, when they moved to Rolfe. Their family consisted of six children. Edward, Nettie, Addie, Bert, Ida and Almeda. Edward in Wisconsin married Amelia Wallace, who died in 1890, leaving one daughter, Edna. In 1898 he married Minnie Thompson and their family consists of three children. Nettie Wood in 1895 married John Albee, a farmer, lives in Powhatan, and has one son, Elmer. Addie in 1888 married Edward Gibbons, a stockbuyer, lives at Rolfe, and has four children, Roy, William, Nettie and Dewey. Bert, a mason, in 1896 married May Spear and lives at Rolfe. Ida in 1893 married William Porter, a farmer, and lives near Rolfe.

Vilinda married Charles Waterman, who in 1873 located on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 8, Powhatan, and now lives near Paullina. Her family consisted of three children, Emma, Eva and Mabel. Emma married Calvin Wells and lives in Dakota; and Eva married John Hodgden, a farmer, and lives in O'Brien county.

Hiram married Viola Hilton, lives near Ruthven and has three children, Marion, Myrtle and Elmer.

Clara (b. Greene Co., Wis., 1845) in Wisconsin married Jacob W. Brown, who in 1866 filed a claim for a homestead on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 10, Powhatan. He died in 1880 leaving three children, Aria, Susan and Alice. Thomas

Beatty, a section foreman, lives at Perry and has two children. Susan married John Baird, a carpenter, lives at Rolfe and has three children. Alice married Edward Wasson, a brick moulder, lives at St. Joe, Mo., and has three children. In 1882 Clara married Wm. H. Drown, a barber, and in 1889 died at Rolfe leaving, as a result of this union, one son, Clarence.

Elmus H. is the owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres in Powhatan. He has served seven years as a township trustee. He married Lucy Beam and has a family of four children. Maud, a teacher, in 1900 married Wm. Postin; Claude, Earl and Floyd.

Samantha in 1868 married John Conley, a farmer, and located in Wisconsin. In 1875 they located in Colorado, where he died in 1901 leaving an estate valued at \$30,000. He left one daughter, Lilly, who in 1887 married Theron Northrop, a carpenter, and located at Plover. After her father's death in 1901 with a family of six children, Dart, Earl, Paul, Euphemia, William and Lyle, they moved to the late home of her father at Hermosa, Colorado.

Lydia married Jacob Strandberg, a shoe maker, and lived at Plover until they moved to Oklahoma. Her family consists of five children. Lizzie married Chas. Northrop, a carpenter, lives at Plover and has two children; Alvah, George, Cora and Paul.

George married Lillian Wells and located on a farm in Powhatan, which he improved, enlarged to 200 acres, and occupied until 1900 when he moved to a fruit farm in the state of Washington. His family consists of five children, George, Lewis, Gould, Verne and Esther.

Cora (b. 1860), in 1879 married Wm. Amos, a farmer, lives in Oklahoma and has a family of five children.

Martha (b. 1862), in 1882 married Thomas Meredith, a farmer, lives in

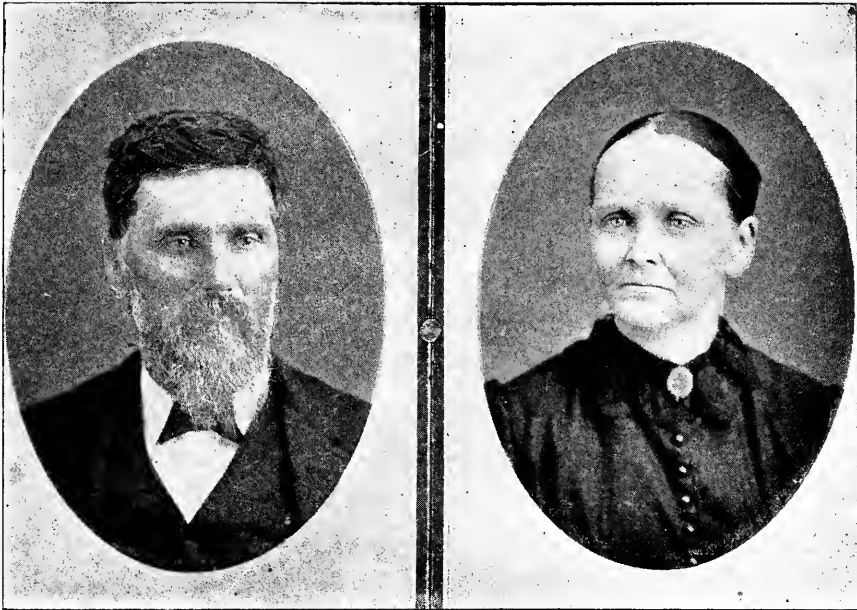
Powhatan and has two children, Guy and Cecil.

**Henderson**, James (b. 1836), owner of 460 acres, principally on sec. 8, is a native of Scotland, a son of George and Catherine Henderson. At 21 he came to Canada, where in 1863 he married Beatrice Penman and engaged in weaving cotton and woollen fabrics for the farmers.

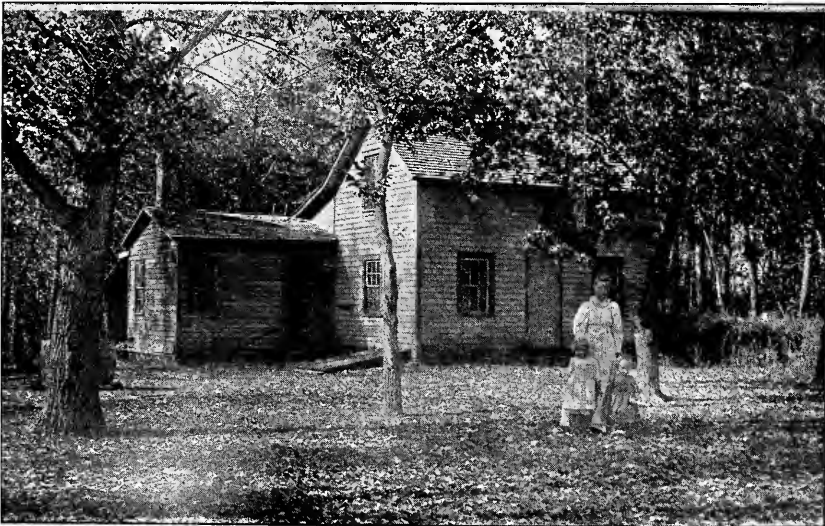
In the spring of 1866 he located in Powhatan township making the trip with his family by rail to Boone and thence by prairie schooner. He had then three children, Catherine, Margaret and George, and was accompanied by his brother George Henderson, his wife and four children, Janet, Catherine, Margaret and George; and a young man, James Ploven.

May 22, 1866 he, George, his brother and James Ploven filed claims for their respective homesteads and also their applications to become American citizens. They received their naturalization papers in 1871 and their patents in 1876.

He lived during the first three years on sec. 26 and in the spring of 1870 located on his homestead on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 8. He improved this farm with good buildings, fences, groves and orchard, remained on it when the times were hard and is now the owner of 462 acres in that vicinity. His success has not been a matter of chance, but has been due to his constant endeavor to give the land thorough cultivation, the crops careful protection and all the interests of the farm his first attention, so that he might be able to push the work rather than have it crowd him. He has become one of the substantial and influential men in the township. He has served thirteen years as a trustee of the township, and, taking a leading part in effecting the organization of the Plover Presbyterian church in 1888, he has served as an elder and clerk of the session in it since that date and



MR. AND MRS. PHILIP HAMBLE



**PIONEER HOME OF THOMAS L. MAC VEY**

The first frame house in Powhatan township, built in the spring of 1867 on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36.

Powhatan Township. In front are Mrs. Frank L. Mac Vey and her two children,



MR. AND MRS. JAMES ANDERSON

Powhatan and Cent-r.



MR. AND MRS. WM. A. HUBEL.

and five years as superintendent of its Sunday school. His noble wife has been a faithful and efficient helper in all his plans to promote the welfare of his family and church.

He has raised a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters.

Elizabeth in 1886 married Samuel L. Horsman, owner and occupant of a well improved farm on sec. 7, and has a family of seven children, James, John, Myrtle, Glenn, William, Edith and Martha Belle.

Catherine in 1886 married Louis Parradee, owner and occupant of a good farm on sec. 11. They have a family of six children, Mary, John, Rose, Ruth, Susan and May.

George in 1893 married Blanche Miller, lives on his own farm in Palo Alto county and has three children, Eleanor, Agnes and Ellis.

William works the home farm.

John in 1898 married Ella, daughter of A. B. Harmon, lives in Palo Alto county and has two children, Pearl and Roy.

James in 1901 married Eva May Harmon and lives on his own farm near Plover.

Janet in 1902 married Harry McFadden, a farmer, and lives near Plover.

Charles in 1898 married Myrtle Barrick, lives on sec. 5 and has one child, Hazel.

**Henderson**, George (b. 1834; d. 1892), an elder brother of James, was a native of Fifeshire, Scotland, where he grew to manhood and in 1858 married Cecilia Somers. Later that year he came to Canada and accepted employment as a weaver during the next eight years. In May 1866, he came to Powhatan township and secured a homestead of 160 acres on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 26. He improved and enlarged this farm to 240 acres and occupied it until his death in 1892. He

served seven years as treasurer of the school funds.

His wife died in 1871 leaving a family of six children. In 1886 he married Elizabeth Gillis, widow of Edward Anderson, and she died in 1899 at the old home in Canada. She left two children by her first husband and six step children.

Jennie Henderson married S. E. Hamilton, a carpenter and is located at Los Gatos, Cal.

Catherine and George still occupy the old homestead.

Maggie married J. A. Wonderlich, a painter, and lived at Havelock. In 1901 she died leaving a family of six children, David, Kate, Jennie, Nina, Bessie.

James lives in Palo Alto county.

William has been in the U. S. navy during the last five years, and served under Admiral Dewey at Manila.

**Hilton**, Joseph D., resident of Powhatan since 1873, is a native of Maine. In his youth he moved to Wisconsin, where he enlisted and rendered a period of military service, during the civil war. At its close he returned to Wisconsin and married Alice Perington. In 1873 with wife and two children, Harry and Bert, he located on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, Powhatan township. He improved this farm with good buildings, increased it to 240 acres and occupied it until 1900, when he moved to Burlington, Wash. A few years ago his first wife died leaving a family of five children. Harry A. married Catherine Geddes, lives on a farm near Plover; Nettie married Henry Shrouf and also lives on a farm near Plover; Bert, Ernest and Leslie.

Mr. Hilton, after the death of his first wife, married Cora Northrop, and their family consists of three children Maud, Alma and Lois.

**Jolliffe**, John Blake (b. 1845), owner and occupant of a homestead on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 2, since April 25, 1866, is a native of England, a son of James and Mary Ann Blake Jolliffe, who

came to this country when John B. was about ten, and located in the province of Ontario, Canada. He was brought up on a farm, and when he became of age, came to Pocahontas county and secured a homestead in Powhatan township. During the first season he lived a short time under a wagon box and did some breaking. During this and the next few years he realized what it was to be on the frontier. He was seven miles west of the Des Moines river and, with the exception of Robert and Edward Anderson, two miles south on 15, he was the furthest west of any of the settlers in that vicinity; and those at the Little Sioux river were thirty miles distant. At first he worked for Judge Slosson, Henry Jarvis and Perry Nowlen, and occasionally went back and slept on his claim to hold it. During the second summer he put in a small crop, cared for and harvested it, having a boarding place in a little cabin two miles distant. Potatoes that cost \$2.00 per bushel at the nearest market constituted the principal article of diet, and the only money available was the pelt of the muskrat.

Oct. 14, 1867 he married Jane, daughter of Rev. Frederic Metcalf, of Des Moines township, and built first a sod shanty and later a log house. The latter was covered with a board roof that always leaked when it rained and both were very humble and unsatisfactory abodes. During the years that have passed since that date he has added acre to acre, so that he is now the owner of 782 acres of valuable farm land and the old homestead has been improved with fine buildings, fences and groves. From a very humble beginning he has attained a very high degree of success on the farm. He has rendered many years of faithful service in the various township offices and has been a leader in song in religious and various other

assemblies. He is a member of the Methodist church.

His family consisted of twelve children, of whom Emma, the sixth died at 18 in 1897, soon after the removal of a great tumor that weighed 100 pounds. Two others died before her, Cerinda at 15 in 1890 and Ida in childhood.

Rose Ella in 1890 married George Kinsey, a farmer, and has five children, Mary, Eva, Charles, Nellie and Edna.

Mary in 1896 married Henry Tansey and located on a farm in Wright county. They now live near Plover and have one son, Lee.

Albert in 1894 married Annie Gratzon, a farmer, lives near Mallard and has four children, Roy, Bessie, Sadie and Mabel.

Sarah in 1892 married Daniel Miller and located near Des Moines, where she died in 1898, leaving three children, Etta, Ray and Glenn. In 1900 Sarah married Henry L. Roush, a farmer, located near Plover and has one daughter, Hazel.

Ina, a teacher, Hattie, Clara, William and George are at home.

**Jolliffe**, James J., a younger brother of J. B., in 1869 located in the Old Rolfe settlement and previous to the advent of the railroads was intimately connected with many of the leading events of that place. Perceiving at an early day, that the habit of drinking was on the increase among the young men, he united with J. J. Bruce and others in organizing a Good Templar's lodge at that place. In connection with its work and various other social gatherings in the north part of the county, he delivered a number of temperance addresses, by which he is still remembered. Believing that the saloon is the greatest enemy of the nation, church and home, he has stood ready to antagonize it with voice and pen. His faith in God, in the growing influence of



the church and the intelligence of the American people, leads him to believe that the saloon, the only institution that now openly defies justice, violates with impunity police regulations, desecrates the Sabbath and continually dishonors God, will soon be forever abolished.

In 1878 he married the only (Ella) Sharpe girl in Humboldt county, an event he has never had occasion to regret and located near Bradgate.

His family consists of seven children. Frank, Ethel, Charley, Warren, Harvey, Clark and Mary.

**Lind, Marcus** (b. 1820), owner and occupant of a farm on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 16 from 1867 until his decease in 1897 was a native of Denmark. He went to Australia and there met and married his wife who was a native of Scotland. After their marriage they returned to Denmark and Scotland, then came to America and located in Powhatan township in the fall of 1869. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and died at 80 in 1900, leaving two daughters, Mary and Margaret McDonald, who still occupy the old home:

**Loughead, George N.** (b. 1866), postmaster, is a native of Greene county, Wis., where he grew to manhood. In 1887 he came to Pocahontas county with his brother S. J. Loughead and bought 160 acres on secs. 3 and 4, Powhatan township, which he improved and occupied until 1892, when he moved to Plover and became manager of the Counselman elevator. Feb. 1, 1899 he became postmaster at Plover and is still serving the people in that capacity.

In 1888 he married Jessie Kingdom, of Greene county, Wis., and she died in 1891, leaving one child, Isabel. In 1893 he married Ida Charlton.

**Lyman, Samuel Bert** (b. 1840; d. 1894), was a native of Southampton Mass. He enlisted as a soldier at the outbreak of the civil war and spent

four years in the army. He then entered the detective service of the government.

In 1865 in Cataaugus county, N. Y., he married Samantha Harris and soon afterward located on a farm in Ford county, Ill. He served as sheriff of Ford county eight years. In 1883 he located on a farm of 183 acres in Powhatan, occupied it during the next seven years, moved to Rolfe and three years later to Madison Lake, Minn., where he died in 1894. His first wife died in 1873 in Illinois, and in 1874 he married Maggie Matthews. His family by his first wife consisted of three children, Lewis E. owns and occupies a farm near Mallard. Samuel W. in 1890 married Mary E. Fessenden and located on a farm in Powhatan. In 1900 he moved to McHenry, N. D., where his wife died leaving a family of five children, Samuel, John, Grace, Clara and George. John H. is in Washington.

**MacVey, Thomas Lord** (b. Aug. 15, 1835), county recorder 1869-1874, is a native of Tariffville, Hartford county, Conn. He was the fourth child of Thomas and Elizabeth Lord MacVey. His father, of Scotch-Irish descent, came from the province of Quebec to Portland, Maine, where he married Elizabeth Lord, of English descent, and soon afterward located in Connecticut. Thomas spent his boyhood on the farm and in the woolen mills of his native town, where many children at that time helped to bear the family burden. At the age of 12 he was bereft of his mother and, the home being broken up, he was cast upon his own resources. Finding employment for several years among the neighboring farmers he managed to provide for himself, aid two younger brothers and acquire a thorough knowledge of carpentering.

In 1852 he became an agent for a prominent jewelry firm in Hartford, Conn., and spent the next three years

in western Pennsylvania and New York. Attracted by the oil excitement, he became an engineer in the oil region and continued until the panic of 1857 put an end to all business enterprises in that section. Accompanied by two friends, Solomon and Albert Fletcher, he traveled to Rogersville, Tenn., where, finding employment on a large river bridge, he soon became a foreman and engineer and so continued, until the storm of secession was precipitated by the assault on Fort Sumpter.

Previous to this date he had enjoyed no educational advantages, except a few months at the village school in his boyhood. He however formed the habit of reading some good book in his leisure hours, and, by persevering effort during these years of constant labor with varying fortunes, had acquired a vast amount of general information and formed the habits of a good student, so that in his later years he proved himself to be a man possessing considerable intellectual ability and even literary attainments.

He was an ultra republican and cast his first vote for Fremont. In Tennessee he became personally acquainted with Andrew Johnson and Thomas A. R. Nelson, the crippled statesman, who did so much at first to hold Tennessee in the Union, but afterwards went over to the confederacy. He was one of those who with pistol in hand, helped to make it possible for these men to make some of their last speeches against the ordinance of secession.

When the news of the fall of Fort Sumpter reached Rogersville, the men at work with him on the Slammon mill quit work to enter the confederate army, and he and the Fletcher brothers began the construction of a flatboat to make their escape to the north. When it was completed and a month's provisions were obtained they and their families began a long and perilous voyage down the Holston to

the Tennessee river, thence across the corner of Georgia, across the entire state of Alabama, the corner of Mississippi, through Tennessee and Kentucky to the Ohio. The country through which they had to pass was infested with home guards and detachments of the rapidly forming confederate army. They were stopped by the provosts at Fort Henry, then under construction, and at several other places, but were allowed to pass as persons enroute to Arkansas. They arrived at Paducah on the Ohio after a journey of six weeks and just a few days before the battle of Bull Run. Here Mr. MacVey sold the boat for \$75 and they separated, the Fletchers returning to Pennsylvania and MacVey to Connecticut, his native state, expecting to enter the service with some of his old companions. Finding they had already enlisted he returned to Crawford county, Pa., and became a member of Company K., 150th Pa. Volunteers, which formed a part of the famous Bucktail Brigade. His regiment saw some of the hardest fighting during the war, but his company was detailed as President Lincoln's guard and so continued throughout the war. He rose to the rank of first lieutenant and has several highly prized mementoes of the "late unpleasantness," among which are his commissions as first and second lieutenants, a picture entitled "Home on a Furlough," presented by Mrs. Lincoln after the assassination, and a cup decorated with the U. S. Coat of Arms, from the martyred president's tea service. Two of his brothers were soldiers in the civil war and his father served two enlistments.

In the winter of 1863 he married Rebecca W. Noble of Carlisle, Pa., but remained in the army until June 17, 1865, when he located in Chicago and engaged in stairbuilding. Here his first child was born and named, Frank Lincoln, at the request of Tad

Lincoln, who, with his widowed mother, then lived in Chicago and occasionally visited the MacVey home.

In March 1866 Mr. MacVey visited the prairies of northwestern Iowa, and filed a claim for the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 36, Powhatan township. That fall he and his family, making the journey from Ackley by stage coach and other hired conveyances, located for the winter in a part of the log house on an adjoining claim (sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25.) of Samuel Booth. He was then a skilled mechanic but had a very limited outfit, the latter consisting of a wife, a sick baby, a bureau, four chairs, a cookstove, a canary bird and \$105.00. He immediately found employment with John Rogers and later with W. H. Hait, who was then building the first two story house in the county.

In March 1867, with a sled and two yoke of oxen, he went to Boone, 80 miles distant, for lumber to build a house. He paid out all the money he had, \$100 00, for lumber, which then ranged from \$30.00 to \$90.00 a thousand feet, put it on the sled and started for home over the trackless prairie with streams unbridged save when covered with ice. The snow began to disappear quite rapidly under the influence of a spring thaw, and eleven days later he arrived home on foot, having experienced a "breakdown," a "stuck fast," and having left piles of lumber at several different places along the route as the snow disappeared and the oxen and sled at Murray's on the east bank of the Des Moines river near Rutland. The steers were brought home a few days later and the lumber was gathered up after the spring freshets had subsided. Hewed oak sills and frame lumber were obtained from the native timber along the Des Moines river at old Rolfe, and the first frame house, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x20 feet and 12 feet high, in Powhatan township, was erected. It was

the first building in the township to receive a coat of paint and in 1902 it was still protected on the east side by the shingles that were hauled from Boone thirty-five years previous.

During that spring he sowed by hand his first crop of wheat, five acres that had been broken the previous year. This work was done with a yoke of half-broken, unruly steers obtained from Samuel Booth, and their frequent attempts to run away were thwarted by riding the harrow, which was a wooden toothed affair belonging to Jerry Young. At the end of the day's work the field was subdued and so were the steers. During that summer he and W. D. McEwen ran a breaking plow together, each furnishing a yoke of oxen and doing his own breaking.

He participated in the organization of the township, served as its first assessor and received four dollars for that service. This assessment was made in one day, but it caused an attack of snow blindness that kept him in a dark room several weeks. It was largely due to his influence and effort that the name of the township was changed from "Nunda" to "Powhatan" and later from "Jackson" to "Powhatan" again. He served as one of the first school directors and as county recorder six years, 1869-74.

He made several of the first coffins used in the township, one being for the child of Samuel Booth about the fall of 1869. He carried the tools and part of the materials for it from Old Rolfe and made it in the Strong school house by the light of a lantern on a cold winter night. The first one was for Mother Lowrey in the spring of 1867.

From July 1871 to February 1, 1872, he was associated with James J. Bruce in the publication of the Pochontas Journal (p. 286.), and his later contributions to the press of the county have done much to preserve

the early history of Powhatan township.

He was an enthusiastic Granger, master of Sumner subordinate lodge in Powhatan and twice a delegate to the state grange at Des Moines. He was for a number of years captain of the "Pocahontas Rifles" (1869-1874), a military company organized at Rolfe and forming a part of the Iowa National Guard, and served as first commander of the G. A. R. post (Mill's) organized about 1884.

In 1886, the farm having been increased to 320 acres and leased, he moved to Knoxville, Tenn., and the next year to China, Louisiana, where he has secured considerable land.

Here he has made his influence felt to such an extent, by encouraging the black and enthusing the white voters, that the precinct, formerly democratic, has become republican. In 1892 he was appointed U. S. commissioner for the western district of Louisiana and still holds this position. He has several times been senior vice-commander of the G. A. R. department of Louisiana and Mississippi and was a delegate to the national encampments at Pittsburg and Louisville in 1894 and 95.

In the spring of 1893 he was bereft of his wife, Rebecca W. Noble, who was one of the early teachers in Powhatan, teaching several terms in the pioneer school house while it was located on the sw<sup>1</sup> sec. 25., and her last term in her own house on section 36 during the winter of 1873-74, the school house having been moved to another part of the township in 1873. Among her pupils were Thomas Rogers, Charles E. Fraser, Mrs. W. D. McEwen, Mrs. Geo. Stevens, Mrs. Caroline Vaughn and Mrs. J. J. Jolliffe. She taught several terms at Old Rolfe, was one of the most competent teachers in the county, assisted Supt. Hathaway to conduct his institutes and was deputized by him occasionally to conduct

teacher's examinations. She was a ready writer and a frequent contributor to the columns of the Fonda News, Fonda Gazette and Northwestern Hawkeye.

She was a native of Cumberland Co., Pa., (b. 1835) the seventh child of Frank and Mary Brown Noble. Her father was of Scotch-Irish ancestry and her mother was a niece of Commodore Joshua Barney, of revolutionary fame, and a sister of Rev. George Brown, one of the founders of the Methodist Protestant church. She grew to womanhood at Carlisle, where she graduated from the high school and also from the ladies' seminary. She began to teach at sixteen, was principal of the Plainfield, Pa., high school, and was teaching near Harper's Ferry at the time of the raid of John Brown, whom she met at the home of Dr. Leonard. In 1862 she went to Washington to care for a brother, who had been wounded in the second battle of Bull Run. Here she met Thomas L. MacVey, who the next year became her husband.

In Louisiana she engaged in teaching among the French creoles, who appreciated her labors very highly. She loved to teach and was engaged in this, her favorite employment, when she was overtaken by her final illness, which came in the form of a stroke of apoplexy while at a public gathering.

Possessing an indomitable will and unflinching courage, she knew not the meaning of the word "fail," and success was usually assured to whatever enterprises she lent her aid. She was a leader, who could arouse enthusiasm in the most indifferent and incite them to action. She was a true and helpful friend to the poor, and a lifelong member of the Episcopal church.

In 1896 Thomas L. MacVey married Fannie Josephine Work, a native of Pennsylvania, and a teacher of many years' experience, first in Crawford

county, Pa., then in Illinois, twenty years in Nevada and one, 1895, in a mission school among the Indians on Douglas Island, Alaska. He is now living in very comfortable circumstances in Jennings, Louisiana.

The success he has achieved has been largely due to his untiring industry, thoughtfulness and economy. He has been conscientious and fearless in advocating and defending the rights of the people, and has made a good record as a citizen, soldier and public officer. He acquired considerable ease and elegance as a writer, enjoyed the discussion of public questions and won the esteem of the people in the several communities in which he has lived. His family consisted of two sons, Frank and Lee.

Frank L., (b. Ill., 1865,) on November 24, 1893, married Elizabeth E., eldest daughter of Gilbert N. Brown, a veteran of the civil war, who moved from Butler county, Iowa, to Louisiana in 1884. After the marriage of his father in 1896 he returned to the old homestead in Powhatan township, which he now owns together with 160 acres in Louisiana. During the last seven of the nine years he resided in Louisiana he was a member of the republican central committee of Calcasieu parish, and a delegate to the state convention in 1892. He was postmaster at China, during President Harrison's administration and apportioner of taxes in 1896. In 1899 he became assessor of Powhatan, and in 1900 was a delegate to the Baptist state convention at Des Moines. His family consists of four children: Bernice Rebecca, Noble LeSuer, Ruth Brown and Gilbert Niles.

William Lee MacVey, (b. Oct. 10, 1867), in Powhatan went south with his father's family in 1886; first to Knoxville, then to China, Louisiana, where he resided until 1898, when he returned to Powhatan. He now owns and farms 160 acres of the old MacVey

farm. His orchard is one of the largest and finest in the county.

**McEwen** Alexander, (b. 1845), one of the pioneers of Pocahontas county and a leading citizen of Powhatan, is a native of Scotland, a son of Rev. John McEwen. His father was a minister in the established church of Scotland and served 45 years as pastor of the church at Dyke Forres, Murrayshire. In his youth he spent one year in Canada, crossing the ocean with his sister Margaret, mother of William D. McEwen, whose husband though of the same name, was no relative of hers. During that year all the family were in America—his father, mother, four brothers, Peter, James, Donald and William, and sisters, Grace and Janet. His father died in 1886, leaving a family of seven children—Alexander, Donald, Robert, Marjory, John, Mary and Henry. Donald, a surveyor in the British army, died in 1886, having spent thirteen years in India and passed through Soudan with the army under Gen. Chinese Gordon. Robert went to India, where he engaged in the indigo trade and died at Edinburgh in 1893. Marjory married John Smith, a merchant at Hong Kong, China. John became an assistant to his father before his death and is now his successor as pastor at Dyke Forres. Mary married Rev. George Bisset of the established church, and lives in Edinburgh. Henry is superintendent of the electric light plant in Glasgow. He received a medal for some astronomical drawings from the London Astronomical society at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and was made a member of the Royal Astronomical society of London.

Alexander, the oldest member of the family, having acquired a good education in Scotland came to Canada, and in December, 1869, became a resident of Des Moines township, this county, where he found a home with

Henry Jarvis and taught school during the next seven months in the Jarvis school house, located near the county line, south of McNight's Point. He then prepared a set of abstract books for W. D. McEwen at Old Rolfe, and took charge of the store of McEwen & Bruce, when it was established in the fall of 1870, while they performed the duties of county auditor and treasurer. He remained in the store until the spring of 1875, when, having bought 204 acres on section 16, Swan Lake township, he gave his attention to their improvement and built thereon a house and barn. That fall he sold this farm to Alfred Strouse and bought the homestead of Henry Thomas, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, Powhatan.

October 6, 1875, he married Delilah, daughter of Philip Hamble, one of the pioneers of Washington township, and during the ensuing winter taught his last term of school in that township. In the spring of 1876 he located on his farm in Powhatan and occupied it until the spring of 1882, when he bought and moved upon 400 acres on section 26. He improved and occupied this farm until 1892, when he moved to his present farm on section 15, near Plover. He devoted considerable attention to raising fine horses and, at the time of his sale in 1891, had 30 head of high-grade Normans and English Shires.

He is a man of excellent judgment, has always commanded the confidence and esteem of all who know him, and has rendered considerable public service. He was chosen clerk of Powhatan as soon as he became a resident of the township and has served twelve years in that capacity, ten as president of the school board and nine as a member of the board of county supervisors. He has been a trustee of the Plover Presbyterian church since its organization. He has manifested considerable interest in the educa-

tion of his children and had the pleasure of seeing two of them, Marjory and Susan, members of the first graduating class from the Plover high school in 1899.

His family consisted of eight children. John P. and Mary A. are at home. Marjory, a teacher, in 1902 married E. L. Wallace, formerly principal of the Plover schools and now manager of a lumber yard at Schaller. Susan, a teacher, on the same day. April 16, 1901, married Fred C. Chinn, a grain buyer at Viola. Philip Hamble, Henry, Elizabeth and Robert Burns are at home.

**Mueller**, Jacob (b. 1854.) merchant, is a native of Switzerland, came to America and located in the eastern part of Iowa, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1888 he located at Plover, and since that date has been a general merchant, member of the firm of Eggspuehler & Mueller. In 1880 he married Bertha Myers, who died in 1881, leaving one child, Louis. In 1884 he married Minnie Herold and their family consists of eight children, Matilda, Elizabeth, Charles, Regina, Jacob, Joseph, Lenora and Homer.

**Northrop**, Darius (b. 1829, d. 1889.) was a native of Vermont. At Buffalo, N. Y., he married Euphemia Dart and soon afterwards moved to Fon du Lac, Wis. In 1881, with wife and four children, he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 17, Powhatan township. He improved and occupied this farm until his death in 1889. His wife died in 1884. His family consisted of four children.

Charles, a carpenter, married Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Heathman) Strandberg, lives at Plover and has two children, Pearl and Alva.

Theron D., a carpenter, married Lilly, only daughter of John and Samantha (Heathman) Conley and located in Plover. In 1901, with a family of six children, he moved to Hermosa, Colo.

Clara, married Edward Mellick, one of the pioneer merchants at Rolfe, where he died in 1884 leaving one daughter, Lulu. Clara afterward married Albert Blanchard, a blacksmith, located at Plover and their family consists of six children, Roy, Charles, Ada, Simeon, Carl and Ray.

· Cora married Joseph D. Hilton. (See Hilton.)

**Pirie**, James S., (b. 1855.) for many years the popular livery man at Plover, is a native of Canada, where he spent his youth. In 1881, in Benton county, Iowa, he married Jane R. Mitchell. In 1888 he located at Plover and, engaging in the livery business, continued until 1902. He has one daughter, Maggie Belle, who in 1899 married Arthur Heathman and lives on a farm near Plover.

William E. and George L. Pirie, his brothers, are also residents of this county. William came with James in 1888, married Edna Barlow and is now living in Washington township. George in 1892 married Clara Fessenden and lives on his own farm in Powhatan.

**Shaw**, Prentice Josiah (b. 1849) secretary of the Pocahontas County Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Co., is a native of Niagara county, N. Y. In 1856 he moved with his parents to Greene county, Wis., where he received a good common school education, spent two years in select schools and then engaged in teaching. At 22 in 1872 he came to O'Brien county, Iowa, where he entered a homestead and remained five years, teaching and working on the farm. During the winter of 1875 he taught the village school at Dayton, Wis., and in November that same year married Jennie A. Marshall, who the next spring accompanied him to the homestead. In the fall of 1876, after receiving several visits of the grasshoppers, he returned to Greene county, Wis., and remained there until the spring of 1882,

when he returned to Iowa and located on the Clinton farm, north of Havelock, which he and his brother-in-law, J. C. Potter were the first to occupy. In 1885 he located on his present farm on the ne<sup>4</sup> sec. 14, Powhatan township, which he has improved and increased to 200 acres.

He has lived to see a wonderful development in this section of the country in the last quarter of a century. In 1872, when he made his first trip to northwest Iowa, crossing several counties, there were but few houses and many of them were built of sod. He traveled in a covered wagon, purchased baker's bread at the villages which were a long distance apart, and supplemented the stock of provisions by shooting game. The mirage in the morning frequently beckoned to cities, groves and beautiful lakes that appeared near the horizon, but which always vanished as the traveler advanced towards them. The Lone Tree, that stands eight miles west of Spencer, could sometimes be seen in the early morning at a distance of three days journey, but as the sun rose it disappeared, and then the next morning reappeared, apparently as far distant as on the previous morning. Lone Tree was for many a year a land mark for surveyors and travelers. It may still be seen from passing trains in Lone Tree township, Clay county, and looks very much as it did twenty-five years ago.

He is proud to be a citizen of Iowa, a state that ranks among the first in intellectual progress, and boasts, "a school house on every hilltop and no saloon in the valley;" and indulges the hope she may continue to lead in the sisterhood of states, in the roll call of commonwealths.

He served eight years as clerk of the township and has been secretary of the school board during the last 15 years. He was the republican nominee for county auditor in 1889, and is an

active worker in the Methodist church.

He is an intelligent unassuming farmer who has met with good success on the farm and has made the farmer's interests a life long study. He is one of the original founders of the Pocahontas County Mutual Fire and Lightning Association, (p. 502.) has been a director of it since its organization in 1890 and has been its efficient secretary and treasurer since October 19, 1897. Through this association he has helped to solve the problem of insurance for the farmers of this county. He has manifested great interest in the success of this organization and notes with a good deal of pleasure its rapid growth since he became its secretary, the amount of assessable risks having increased from \$511,293, January 1, 1898 to \$1,830,000, September 1, 1902.

His family consists of five children:

Albert Josiah, in 1901, graduated from the law department of Drake University and is now located at Corwith, Iowa, where he is engaged in the practice of law and the real estate business.

George Schee, a farmer, graduated from the business department of Drake University and in 1902 married Alma Rutledge of Des Moines.

Stella E., a Plover graduate in 1899, spent the next year in the seminary at Evansville, Wis.

Prentice F. and Lucy A. are at home.

**Smith**, Joel (1811-1890.) was a native of Massachusetts, and at five came with his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and in 1832 married Julia Dayton. Some years later he moved to Greene county, Wis. Here his wife died leaving six children, Harris D., Welton, Harriet, Sophia, William and Merritt, all of whom married and located in Wisconsin, except William, who with wife and three children in 1879 located in Powhatan township.

In 1849 Joel Smith married Mary Marinda Pratt, widow of Joseph Kelley, who died in Wisconsin leaving one daughter, Mary Emily, who became the wife of Alva L. Whitney. (See Whitney). In 1879 Joel and wife came with their son, Calvin, to Powhatan and located on a farm of 80 acres, which he occupied until his death in 1890. Their family consisted of three children of whom Eunice the youngest died at 16.

Phoëbe in 1868 married Squire E. Heathman, (see Heathman.)

Calvin, a farmer, married Susan Spangler and lives now in Minnesota, and has a family of five children, William, Frank, Calvin, Ray and Roy.

Since the death of Joel, Mrs. Smith has lived with her daughter, Mrs. A. L. Whitney at Plover.

William Smith, the older son is still a resident of Powhatan and has raised a family of eight children. Charles, a farmer married Etta Randall and lives in Powhatan. Olive married Oliver Goodlatson, a farmer, and lives in Palo Alto county. Joel, Cora, Edith, Fred, Etta and Blanch are at home.

**Smith**, James S., Plover, is a native of Illinois, the son of Andrew Smith. In 1869 he came with his parents to Pocahontas county where he grew to manhood on the farm and received his education in the public schools. In 1880 he engaged in the mercantile business at Pocahontas. In 1881 he was appointed station agent at Fort Dodge and in 1883 at Plover. He was the first agent at Plover and served in that capacity until 1889. He has since been engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He built the first house in Plover and owns a fine farm of 160 acres in that vicinity. He married Mary E. Hubel (p. 471) and has a family of three children, William, James and Albert.

**Stone**, William (b. 1797; d. 1877.), who September 28, 1864 filed a claim



for the ne<sup>1</sup> sec. 25, Powhatan township, and died on it at 80 in 1877, was a brother of Mrs. John Barnes. He was a native of Bradford county, Pa., where he became a millwright and in 1828 married Eliza Ann, (b. Feb. 27, 1810) daughter of G. M. (1781-1865) and Anna (Spaulding, 1786-1872) DeWolf, for whose father he had first built a mill. After he married he built a factory for making window sash by machinery, but after a few years resumed his trade and located at Schoolcraft, and three years later at Sterling, Ill. Here he worked at his trade and his wife taught several terms of school. At Elkhorn Grove, nearby, he secured a nice home and occupied it twenty years, but always suffered from lung trouble. In 1864 he came to Webster and in 1866 to Pocahontas county, where he had previously secured a homestead which he improved and occupied until his decease at 80 in 1877.

In 1890 Mrs. Stone married Ingham Stone, a native of Pennsylvania, and a nephew of her first husband; and that which was most remarkable about this wedding was the fact that both of the contracting parties were over eighty years of age. He died at 88 on Jan. 5, 1898. Mrs. Stone still lives on the old homestead which has been owned and occupied for some years by her nephew, Frank C. DeWolf, who is one of the township trustees (1901-02) and has a family of nine children.

Mrs. Eliza Ann DeWolf Stone is now in her 93rd year and is believed to be the oldest person in Pocahontas county. In February, March and April 1900, when over 90 years of age she wrote three letters, that appeared in the Rolfe Tribune, giving sketches of family history, and making an appeal to the young not to use tobacco or strong drink. Later she penned another long letter to the author of this book. Few persons of her years

have either the ability or inclination to write. She found a good and sufficient motive in the effort to trace the family history. Her father was the fourth child of a hatter in Brooklyn, Conn., where he received his education, and later taught vocal music and public school. Her grand father emigrated from France at an early date. Her mother was the oldest daughter of Willard Spaulding, who, on coming to this country, located first in New Hampshire, but soon afterward settled at Cavendish, Windsor county, Vt. He was a pioneer in that region, a man of energy and at the time of his death at 70 was the owner of two well improved farms, a grist mill, saw mill and a blacksmith shop. His family consisted of eleven children, ten of whom survived him. Her parents were married in 1808, lived in Vermont, had a family of thirteen children, two of whom with herself located in Iowa, namely Dr. DeWolf at Vail and C. H. DeWolf at Denison. Her father was an elder in the Presbyterian church and, after their removal to Pennsylvania, occasionally read a sermon, when the minister was absent.

**Strong, Ira** (b. 1811; d. 1871) one of the leading pioneers of Powhatan and a brother of Wm. B. Strong, was a native of Allegany county, N. Y., where in 1834 he married Abigail Cass (b. N. Y. 1816). In 1866 he came to Pocahontas county and secured a homestead of 160 acres on the nw<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> sec. 24, Powhatan township. Four of his sons, Oscar, Philander, Edwin and Charles also secured homesteads the same year. He died at 60 in 1871 and his wife at 70 in 1887.

His wife was a teacher in her youth and after the death of her husband resumed her favorite employment, taught several terms in the Strong schoolhouse and thus earned the money that was used to erect a loving monument to his memory. Nearly

every member of the Strong families in their turn taught one or more terms of school in this district.

Ira Strong was an intelligent, upright man, and was the head of a family, that exerted a strong influence in Powhatan township and also in the county. They rendered many years of official service in the township and five of the eleven officials furnished the county by the citizens of this township, were from this family, namely, Ira, supervisor, 1869-70; Oscar, recorder, '76-77; Geo. W., (son of Wm. B.), in 1870 and Oscar I. in '71, surveyors; Oscar I., superintendent in '74, and '80-81.

The only other family that can present a similar list in this county is that of Albert M. Thornton, an early resident of Marshall township. It was represented by Alonzo L. in 1883 to '85 and Mary E. in '86, recorders; Lucius C. surveyor '84-85; and Frank G. auditor '93-96.

His family consisted of eight children:

Augusta married Milan Sharpe and located in Humboldt county.

Orlando William married Eliza Drown and located in Palo Alto county. In 1877 he located on sec. 25, Powhatan township and occupied it until his death in 1885. He left a family of two children, Etta and Dora. Etta married Chas. Sroufe and lives on her father's farm. Dora, a teacher during the last ten years, lives with her sister, Etta.

Caroline married Samuel N., son of Wm. B. Strong, during their residence in New York. In the fall of 1865 he came to Pocahontas county, secured a homestead on sec. 15, Powhatan and began to occupy it the next spring. His father also came and lived with him. His wife died in 1886 leaving a family of five children, Alice, William, Emma, a teacher, Adelbert and Mary. Alice in 1893 married Wilfred Palmer and died the

next year. Adelbert in 1902 married Grace Dawes and lives on a farm near Plover.

Oscar (b. N. Y. 1844; d. 1885), county surveyor and superintendent, in 1866 came with his father and secured as a homestead, 160 acres on sec. 23. He taught school in winter and worked on the farm in summer. In 1872 he married Elizabeth L. daughter of Rev. John E. Rowen and a few years later located at Pocahontas. He served as county surveyor in 1871 and superintendent from Jan. 1, 1874 to June 1, 1875, when he resigned. In the fall of 1879 he was re-elected and served the next two years. He was county recorder 1876-77. He received a good education in the high school of Allegany county, N. Y., where he graduated in 1865. He manifested a genuine interest in the cause of education and filled the office of superintendent with great credit to himself. He read law and was admitted to the bar in 1874. In the spring of 1876 he went to California, but not liking that golden state, he returned and soon afterward went to Washington, D. C., where he opened a law and claim office. Not meeting with the success he expected he returned to this county. He possessed considerable energy and was highly esteemed for his manly character. He died in 1885 at Pocahontas leaving two children, Irene, a teacher, and Rollin W. The latter was for a number of years foreman of the Belmond Herald and is now a reporter for the Pioneer Press of St. Paul. Elizabeth later married Editor Huntington of the Belmond Herald and now lives in Kansas.

The following incident serves to illustrate Oscar's cleverness. In 1869 when William Brownlee and another new settler passed from the land office at Fort Dodge to their claims in Bellville township, he happened to be teaching or otherwise engaged in

Lizard township. They needed someone to locate their claims and called on him. He went with them to the nearest corner stake with which he was familiar. There he tied a handkerchief to the rim of one of the rear wheels of the lumber wagon on which they were riding and, showing them the direction, counted its revolutions. By this easy and novel method of measuring the distance, all the corners of their homesteads were easily and quickly found.

Edwin J., a teacher, secured a homestead on sec. 23. He has spent a considerable time in travel and has discovered some genius for invention.

Lucius Milton, a teacher and farmer, died in 1896.

Philander (b. N. Y. 1836) is still the owner and occupant of his father's homestead, on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24. During recent years he has turned his attention to raising sheep and occasionally markets two carloads at a time. He has adopted the plan of cropping his land for two years, then seeding and pasturing it the next two. There is usually not a weed left on any tract occupied by the sheep two years, and when it has been ploughed and planted the growing crop has the advantage of a good start. Better crops have been harvested since this method of rotation and treatment has been adopted. His first wife, Eva Rowley, died in 1883 leaving a family of three children, Frank, Charles and George. In 1885 he married Clara Bavard and their family consists of four children, Fred-eric, Florence M., Clarence and Mabel.

Charles Lemming (b. N. Y. 1851) married Phoebe J. Hayes and located on sec. 25. He kept hotel in Plover five years 1886-91, and then, with a family of two children, Eugene and Lemming, located on a homestead at Cushing, Oklahoma.

**Strong**, William B. (b. 1813; d. 1866), a younger brother of Ira, was a

native of New York the son of Elisha and Eunice Strong. In 1835 he married Jane Davy in Allegany county, N. Y. and two years later she died there leaving one son, William Wallace. In 1840 Mr. Strong married Fannie (b. 1816), sister of Perry Nowlen, an early settler of Des Moines township. In 1865 they came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and in 1866 began the improvement of a homestead of 160 acres on the se $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 12, Powhatan township. He built a log house 16x28 feet, one and one-half stories high, and for it the flooring, shingles and finish lumber were hauled from Boone. He was then over 50 years of age and no longer enjoyed good health. By reason of this fact the homestead was entered in the name of Fannie N. Strong, his wife, and she superintended all the affairs of the family and farm. He died at 53 in 1866 and was buried at old Rolfe.

He left a family of four children, one by his first wife and three by the second, and all of them came with him to Pocahontas county.

William W., during his residence in New York, married Lovern Bradford. They remained in Pocahontas county but a short time and died later leaving one child who lives in the South.

Samuel N. (b. N. Y. 1843), in the spring of 1864 during their residence in Allegany county, N. Y., married Caroline, daughter of Ira Strong. The next year he came with his parents to Pocahontas county and entered a homestead on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 15, Powhatan township. After improving and occupying it a few years, he became the owner and occupant of his mother's homestead on sec. 12, which he soon enlarged to 200 acres. He has been a resident of the township thirty six years and has served several years as secretary of the school board.

Caroline, his wife, died at 46 in 1886 leaving a family of five children. Alice in 1893 married William Palmer

and located in Powhatan township, but died at 26 in 1894, leaving one child, Wilbur. Emma, a teacher, in 1887 graduated from the normal department of Highland Park college. William (b. 1873) is at home. Adelbert (b. 1875) in 1902 married Grace Dawes and lives on a farm near Plover. Mary lives at Rolfe.

In 1896 Samuel N. Strong married Eliza Van Natta, relict of Andrew Like.

George W. (b. N. Y. 1845) came to this county in 1865 and in 1866 married Sallie, daughter of Henry Thomas. After a residence of ten or more years in Powhatan, he moved to Kansas and later to Oregon, where he died leaving a family of four daughters, who now live in the state of Washington. He secured and occupied the ne½ sec. 14, as a homestead and was county surveyor during the year 1870.

Elizabeth in 1867 married George Van Natta, and located in Powhatan township where she died at 27 in 1872, leaving two children, Jas. W., a resident of Portland, Ore., and Cynthia, who married ——— Keith and lives in Colo. Mr. Van Natta soon after the death of his wife moved to Oregon.

Mrs. Catherine N. Strong in 1894, accompanied by Mary Strong, her niece, moved from the farm to Rolfe. She is 86 years of age and has been a member of the M. E. church 55 years.

**Shaver**, Nelson H. (b. 1844), farmer, keeper of meat market, Plover, is a native of Lowville, N. Y. In 1858 he moved with his parents to Taycheedah, Wis., where Feb. 13, 1864 he enlisted as a member of Co. I, 5th Wis. and continued in the service until July 19, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Jeffersonville, Ind., having served in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Grant, and participated in 13 battles including those at the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor,

Winchester, Cedar Creek and Petersburg. He was at Burksville at the time of Lee's surrender.

His father and five of his seven brothers were soldiers in the civil war. Alfred who belonged to the 5th N. Y. died at Washington, D. C., Charles and Frank who belonged to the 5th and 18th Wis. died soon after their return, George who belonged to the 12th Wis. was captured at Lookout Mountain and confined one year in Libby prison. His father belonged to the 18th Wis., died soon after his return.

Nelson, after the war, returned to the home in Wisconsin, where in 1867 he married Alice L. Fenton. In 1879 he came and located on the se½ sec. 2, Powhatan township and engaged in farming and blacksmithing. The next year he located on sec. 17, where he improved a farm of 80 acres and occupied it until 1893, when he moved to Plover where he has been successively a miller, butcher and shoemaker.

His family consisted of four children of whom Charles died at 13 in 1887.

Glenn married Leora Thompson and lives near Rolfe. Jennie in 1896 married John Roberts and lives near Plover. Don is at home.

**Thomas**, Henry, one of the early pioneers of Pawhatan, was a native of Virginia and about the time of his marriage located in Greene county, O., where all of his children except Joel were born and raised. In 1850 he located in Logan county and later the same year in Bureau county, Ill., and about 1860 near Rochester, Minn.

Nov. 25, 1863, accompanied by his family which consisted of sons, Daniel and Joel, and daughter, Sallie, he came to Pocahontas county and located at old Rolfe. Here he met again Barney Hancher and Jerry Young, sons-in-law, who had come from Bureau county, Ill., with their families.

Sept. 26, 1864, through Barney Hancher, he had filed a claim for a homestead of 160 acres on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24, Powhatan, Daniel and Joel similar claims on 23 and Jerry Young on 25. Others that located claims on 25 the same day were Wm. Stone, Samuel and George Booth. Previous to this date Barney Hancher was the only one that had filed a claim in this township.

In the spring of 1865 Henry, Daniel and Joel Thomas and Jerry Young began to occupy their homesteads and built temporary cabins. In 1866 Henry Thomas built the first log house in the township. This building was still in use in 1900 and a cut of it may be seen in the frontispiece, there erroneously credited to Ira Strong. Mr. Thomas and family owned it until 1875, when he sold it to Alex. McEwen. In 1882 it was bought by Thomas Merchant and soon afterward successively by Joseph Egan and Nils Nelson, whose father-in-law, Henry Luff occupied it from 1883 until his death in 1894. It is now owned by Dora, a granddaughter of Ira Strong.

In 1871 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas and Jerry Young and family moved to Ness county, Kansas, but in 1881 accompanied by Barney Hancher, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas returned to Powhatan township where he died before the end of that year and his wife, Susanna, in 1883, both at the home of their son, Daniel. He participated in the organization of the township and being elected at that time served two years as a member of the board of county supervisors. When the school board was organized in 1867 he was chosen its first president and treasurer.

His family consisted of six children.

Lydia, in 1857 in Bureau county, Ill., married Jeremiah Young, who, in the fall of 1863, came to this county with a family of six

children and located first at old Rolfe and in 1864 on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25, Powhatan. He improved and occupied this farm until 1869, when he moved to Nebraska and a few years later to Ness county, Kansas. In 1879 making the journey with teams, he moved to Washington and now resides at Springdale. His family consisted of eight children. Alva and Eva, twins, Frank, Nellie, Jacob and Annetta, twins, (both of whom are dead), Henry and Basil, twins born in Hait's cabin.

Margaret Ellen, in Bureau county Ill., married Barney Hancher, see Hancher. She is now the only representative of the Thomas family in this county.

Daniel married Philena Foote and after a residence of twenty-five years in Powhatan in 1889 moved to Washington. His family consisted of thirteen children, five of whom are living.

Joel in 1878 located in Kossuth county, later successively in Winneshiek county, Oklahoma, Washington and Colorado, where he now resides.

Joshua in 1864 came to Powhatan and became owner of the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25, (Wm. Stone homestead) but did not occupy it. After three years residence near Fort Dodge he moved to Missouri where he died in 1881 leaving a small family.

Sallie, who taught the first school in Powhatan, in 1865 married George, son of Wm. B. Strong, and located in Washington, where he died.

**Trites**, Edward Ryland (b. 1855.) owner and occupant of a farm on sec. 19 from 1882 to 1901, is a native of DeWitt, Iowa, the son of Job and Harriet Turner Trites. In 1881 he married Francis Flora Holcomb and the next year located on the farm in Powhatan township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He improved it with good buildings and embarked in raising pure bred cattle,

including Shorthorns of the Motte and Rosawood families, Berkshire hogs, Norman horses and Mammoth bronze turkeys. In 1901 he moved to Cantril, Van Buren county. He has been a loyal republican, believes in prohibition, has taken an active part in local politics and filled several of the township offices including that of justice. His family consists of three children, Burness R., Job L. and Vivian Della.

**Whitney**, Alva Lewis (b.1826), Plover, is a native of Erie county, Pa. At 17 he moved with his parents, who were of Scotch descent, to Walworth county, Wis., and three years later to Dane county, where in 1849 he married Lucy Colby and engaged in farming. In 1861 he enlisted as a member of Co. E, 8th Wis. infantry and often carried the famous eagle known as "Old Abe." At the end of three years of constant service he was mustered out, but two months later he re-enlisted as a member of Co. K, 42d Wis. infantry and remained in the army until June 22, 1865, when he was mustered out at Madison, Wis. He belonged to the western department of the army, served under Gen. A. J. Smith and participated in thirty-two battles and skirmishes, including those at Corinth, Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, and Island No. 10.

At the close of the war he returned to the farm and in 1881 located on sec. 15, Powhatan township. He improved and occupied this farm until 1892 when he moved to Plover where he owns several valuable properties. He has been unwilling to be a candidate for even a township office but has been a trustee of the Presbyterian church of Plover since its organization in 1888. He is a patriotic, conscientious and upright citizen, who stands ready to lend a helping hand to every movement that has for its object the moral advancement of the community.

His wife died in 1864 leaving one son, Emmet J. (b. 1864), who in 1889 married Dora Kruse. He located first in Palo Alto county, but is now in Powhatan and has a family of six children, Ada, Bert, Oscar, Eunice, Carrie and John.

In 1866 Mr. Whitney married Mary E. Kelley, of Greene county Wis., and her mother, Mrs. Mary M. Smith, has made her home with them since the death of her second husband Joel Smith.

#### **Old Abe, the War Eagle.**

The famous bird, "Old Abe", was captured in 1861 on the Flambeau river by a Chippewa indian, who sold it to a farmer, at Eagle Point, for a bushel of corn. This farmer sold it to Mr. Willis, of Eva Claire, who presented it to the 8th regiment then forming. The bird was "sworn in" at the camp at Madison by putting around its neck, red, white and blue ribbon, and the name "Old Abe" was given it in honor of President Lincoln. He always manifested great excitement during a battle by screaming and fluttering around the flag. The enemy tried to shoot him many times and he was wounded at Corinth and Vicksburg, but recovered. He headed with his regiment the victorious army that entered Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. Sept. 26, 1864, when part of his regiment was mustered out, he was taken back to Wisconsin and formally presented to the Governor of the state having been present, it is said, at thirty-six battles and skirmishes, commencing at Fredericktown, Mo., Oct. 21, 1861. After the war he was an attraction at many gatherings, such as fairs, soldiers reunions and patriotic assemblies, until 1881, when he died and his stuffed body was placed in the museum at Madison.

There is a tradition to the effect that when LaFayette visited the the tomb of Washington, a large eagle followed the course of the

steamboat that carried him to Mount Vernon, and remained hovering in the air, over the tomb, until the famous visitor left it.

"In the blue of the sky, o'er the blue of the river,

Like a banner of love sailed the eagle's white wing;

Where the hero, in peace, laid his honors forever,

At the grave of the chief, who was more than a king.

All a country's proud story soared light on the pinions

Of the sentinel bird, in that consummate hour,

And hailed, at the door of the Mystic Dominions,

A future unmeasured in splendor and power.

And well if the eagle's white wing, spreading wider,

Heralds peace, truth and freedom in covenant bloom,

Till the Union's last children shall rally beside her,

Sincere as the pilgrim to Washington's tomb." —THERON BROWN.

### **Gandertown.**

During the 70's this township experienced several changes in its name, that have been mentioned. One name, quite common among their neighbors for a few years in the early days, was "Gandertown." The romance connected with the origin of this name has been variously given. According to one account, one of the early settlers of this township owned the first gander in that section of the country, and this one was such a fine as well as rare specimen, that it became the subject of general remark and served to designate the locality. According to another account the early settler set a hen with 13 goose eggs. When they were hatched he was surprised to find that everyone of them was a gander, and this singular flock of so many ganders attracted considerable public attention.

### **Powhatan.**

The name "Pow'-ha-tan'" signifies "Falls in a Stream," and was first applied to a small peninsula on the

north side of the James river, where Wahunsan (p. 692) had established one of his abodes. Powhatan was a remarkable man, a sort of a savage Napoleon, who had achieved his imperial dignity and power by the force of his character and the superiority of his talents. The history of the tribes included in the Powhatan confederacy ended with the treaty at Albany in 1684, but most of their names have been preserved in the names of streams and rivers in Maryland and Virginia.

At the time this name was suggested old Rolfe was the county seat. The county bore the name of a princess, the county seat the name of a prince, and it seemed appropriate to the citizens of this township that it should bear the name of a chief or king, inasmuch as they were then returning annually the largest republican vote. Its citizens cast a solid republican vote from the time of its organization in 1866 until the fall of 1877, when six of 29 votes polled, were cast for Elias Jesup, the prohibition candidate for governor. The first democratic votes were polled in 1878 when 10 out of 34 were cast for the democratic nominees.

This township has polled the largest number of prohibition votes of any in the county, and the period of their greatest number was during the years of 1892, 93, 94 and 95, when they numbered 33, 37, 25 and 25 respectively. It has always returned, however, a large republican majority.

### **POSTIN-DAY CONTEST, 1902.**

At the general election held Nov. 4, 1902, R. E. Postin and Geo. W. Day, candidates for the office of county auditor and both from Powhatan township, received according to the official count 1445 and 1419 votes respectively, Geo. W. Day having a majority of 4 votes.

Mr. Postin contested the right of Mr. Day to the office on the following

pleas, namely: (1.) That the judges of Cedar, Center, Clinton and Lincoln townships failed to certify to the returns from those townships and therefore made no returns to the auditor; (2.) that ten ballots in Powhatan, crossed in the Prohibition squares and in the one in front of Postin's name in the republican ticket, were not counted for him, there being no county candidates on the prohibition ticket; (3.) that a number of ballots in Clinton, Des Moines, Lake No. 1. and Lizard that were marked in the republican squares were counted for Day. (4.) Other irregularities were charged in regard to the returns from Grant, Lake No. 2 and Washington townships.

The hearing of this case occurred at Pocahontas, Dec. 22, and 23, 1902. The contest board consisted of Charles Elsen, chairman of the board of supervisors; L. W. Chandler of Fonda, and T. F. Lynch Esq., of Pocahontas. Mr. Postin was represented by Wm. Hazlett and Hon. F. C. Gilchrist, attorneys, and Mr. Day by Judge Kenyon of Fort Dodge.

After some discussion it was agreed that the contest board should recount the ballots that had been cast for the county auditor in the townships named. The result appears in the following exhibit, which shows the changes that were made in the various townships, and it gave Mr. Day a majority of 8 votes.

	Official Vote		Votes Changed		Recount	
	Postin	Day	Added	Rejected	Postin	Day
Bellville....	91	83		3	88	83
Cedar.....	165	172		1	164	172
Center.....	93	212			93	212
Colfax.....	70	35			70	35
Clinton....	165	178	1		165	179
Des Moines	51	58		1	51	57
Dover.....	56	98		2	55	97
Grant.....	67	60	3		68	62

Lake No. 1.	60	50		5	58	47
Lake No. 2.	31	12	2		32	13
Lincoln....	52	86		1	52	85
Lizard.....	46	100			46	100
Marshall...	69	36		1	68	36
Powhatan...	87	97	5		91	98
Sherman...	67	57		3	65	56
Swan Lake.	188	63		1	187	63
Washington	87	52		1	86	52

Total....1445 1449 11 19 1439 1447  
 Day's majority.. 4 8

This was the fourth and, in view of the questions raised and interests involved it was the most important election contest ever held in Pocahontas county.

OTHER ELECTION CONTESTS.

The first instance of a contest over an election occurred at old Rolfe, February 2, 1864, between the candidates for the office of county treasurer and recorder, then filed by the same incumbent. The candidates for the position, Michael Collins and W. H. Hait, received on the home vote, October 13, 1863, 16 and 14 votes, and from the soldiers in the army, 2 and 3 votes, making, 18 and 17 votes, respectively. The court consisted of Fred A. Metcalf, county judge; John A. James, associate judge, and Philip Russell, clerk of the district court. Mr. Hait, the contestant, plead his own cause and John F. Duncombe appeared for Collins. A motion to dismiss the case prevailed.

The second contest occurred also at old Rolfe, November 25, 1868, when Philip Russell contested with J. J. Bruce for the office of county supervisor from Lizard township. The latter at the previous general election had been accorded a majority of the votes, but his opponent deemed his bond insufficient. The court consisted of J. N. Harris, county judge, W. S. Fegles and Patrick Forey, and their decision was in favor of J. J. Bruce, the previous incumbent.

The third contest was held at Pocahontas, November 23, 1877, and was between Joseph Breitenbach and



Thomas L. Dean for the office of sheriff of this county. At the previous general election they were accorded 266 and 269 votes, respectively. The court consisted of Wm. Brownlee, chairman of the board of county supervisors; W. H. Hait and J. E. Pattee. Capt. J. O. Yeoman and Hudson & Gould, attorneys, appeared for the principals. The court, by a majority of one, decided in favor of Dean, the previous incumbent.

It will be perceived, that in this county the official count, though close has never been reversed. The contestant, whatever he may have gained, has always had a "hard road to travel."

A tie vote occurred October 8, 1867, when Oscar Slosson and George Spragg each received 50 votes for sheriff. The matter was amicably decided October 26th following, by drawing cuts, and Slosson received the office.



## XXV.

### SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.

You ask what land I love the best,  
The fairest state of all the West,  
Iowa, 'tis Iowa.  
From yonder Mississippi's stream,  
To where Missouri's waters gleam,  
O! fair it is as poets' dream,  
Iowa, O! Iowa.

See yonder fields of tasselled corn,  
Where plenty fills her golden horn,  
See how her wondrous prairies shine,  
To yonder sunsets' purpling line;  
O! happy land, O! land of mine,  
Iowa, O! Iowa.

—S. H. M. BYERS.

#### GENERAL FEATURES.



HERMAN township (92-33) belonged to Des Moines township until Sept. 5, 1876, when it was attached to Washington. April 5, 1880 it was established in its present form and named in honor of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, the hero of the "March to the Sea." "Hurrah! Hurrah! We bring the jubilee!  
Hurrah! Hurrah! The flag that makes you free!  
So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea,  
When we were marching through Georgia."

It is located near the center of the

county and its surface throughout is a beautiful prairie. Pocahontas, the county seat, extends over part of sec. 36, and Ware was located on sec. 17, near the center of the township, in 1900, when the C. R. I. & P. Ry. was built. The citizens of this township have now excellent railway facilities and occupy a section of country as attractive and beautiful, as that of which Hamlin Garland wrote:  
"I love the prairies; they are mine,  
From zenith to horizon line;  
Clipping a world of sky and sod,  
Like the bended arm and wrist of God.  
I love their grasses; the skies  
Are larger, and my restless eyes  
Fasten on more of earth and air,  
Than sea shores furnish anywhere."

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The early settlement of Sherman township was coincident with that of Washington that joins it on the north. In May 1870 the representatives of several families in Dubuque county, namely, James C. Strong, Jason N. Russell, a brother-in-law, and Jonathan L. Clark, wife and three children, came to this county, making the journey on wagons, and secured farms, Strong and Clark in the south row of sections in Washington and Russell in the north row of Sherman. Each began to occupy and improve his own farm but during that season all lived together in the house built by Clark on sec. 3, Washington township.

In 1871 Jason N. Russell built the first cabin in Sherman township on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 4, where during the previous year he had done the first breaking. He was then joined by his brother, Harvey S. Russell, who lived with him one and a half years. In 1872 Morah F. Russell, -another brother arrived with his wife and he erected that year on the sw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 4, the first dwelling house. In 1873 the new residents were Maggie Hamble, the bride of Jason Russell, and Mr. and Mrs. John Sic, Bohemians, who built a sod shanty in the southeast part of the township.

This was the period when the grasshoppers drove many settlers from their claims and new ones were deterred from going to the frontier. Those that had to locate in the north part of this township realized during this period the disappointments and the loneliness of living far out on the prairie. In making the trips to Fonda, the nearest station and eighteen miles distant, the house of A. T. Omtvedt was the first and usually the only one passed.

In 1875 Aaron Smith (b. N. Y. 1816.) located on 3, and Jeremiah Barnes (b. Pa; 1814) on 8.

In 1878 Joseph and Anthony Hudek located on 25 and John Kopriva on 36. They were followed by James W. Carson and C. F. Alchon in 1879.

In 1880 A. J. Stover, W. B. Starkey and R. C. Jones arrived, and they were followed by G. W. and J. W. Mills, J. W. O'Brien and B. T. Griffith the next year.

In 1882 there came Thomas Barningham and John H. Adams, and they were followed the next year by Joseph Bloudel, Boy C. Boyeson and C. L. Flint.

Those that followed soon afterwards were Hans Tychsen, Frank Stacy, Rev. C. W. Clifton, Prof. James C., Clel and Fred Gilchrist, J. H. Eno, A. M. Coville, Thomas M. Olson, A. J. Wonderlich, Martin L. and Jacob S. Stover, C. M. Doty, R. R. McCaslin and others.

## ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

The first election was held Nov. 2, 1880, when Morah F. Russell, Aaron Smith and Thomas P. Clark were elected trustees; Aaron Smith, clerk; J. W. Carson, a justice; and J. W. O'Brien, assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES: M. F. Russell, 1881-89, '93-94; Aaron Smith, Thos. P. Clark, '81-82; Anthony Hudek, '82-84; Jeremiah W. Barnes, J. W. Carson, '85, 92, 98-1900; A. J. Stover, '86-98; Joseph Hudek, '86-88; Jason N. Russell, '89-91; Clel. Gilchrist, '90-92, 98; M. L. Stover, C. C. Bovee, '93-95; R. R. McCaslin, '95-97; W. B. Starkey, '96-99; M. F. Russell, 1900-02.

CLERKS: Aaron Smith, 1881; J. W. Carson, '82-84, 93-94; John H. Adams, '85-90; Anthony Hudek, '91-92; Frank Stacy, '95-96, B. T. Griffith, '97-1902.

JUSTICES: J. W. Carson '81-82; J. W. O'Brien '83-88; A. Hudek, '86-89, '98-1900; A. J. Wonderlich, Boy C. Boyeson, C. F. Boekenooogen, C. M. Doty, Rev. C. W. Clifton, A. Em-

bree, James Speer, C. L. Flint, 90-91.

ASSESSORS: J. W. O'Brien, '81-82; John H. Adams, '83-84; A. Hudek, '85-88; C. L. Flint, '89-91; John Sic, M. L. Stover, Henry Bourret.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OFFICERS.**

The first school house was built in 1877 on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 4, near the home of Philip Hamble, who lived across the line in Washington township, to which Sherman was then attached. The first teachers in it were Sarah Reamer (Hamerson), Samuel Smith, Hattie Drown and Mrs. Matilda Smith, the latter during the summer and winter of 1881 and summer of 1882.

The first record of the school board is of date March 21, 1881, when the first school board consisting of C. F. Alchon, J. W. Carson and Aaron Smith met and organized by the election of C. F. Alchon, president; Jason N. Russell, secretary; and Morah F. Russell, treasurer.

The second school house was built in the Hudek neighborhood, district No. 7, by T. L. Dean in 1882, and the first teachers in it were James W. Carson and Cora Jones.

In 1883 the third school house was built and the new teachers employed that year were Emma Pfeiffer, Lulu C. Blake (Hamble) and Elizabeth O'Brien.

During this and the next two years John W. O'Brien hauled three and one-half tons of coal to each of the school houses for \$6 a ton.

In 1893 the last district, No. 3, was organized and supplied with a school house, and the pioneer building in the Hamble district was replaced by a new one located at the Center of the district, No. 2. The township then had nine districts and a good school house in each of them.

All the school houses in Sherman township are provided with good storm caves, flags and flag-poles; and nearly all of them have

pretty groves, consisting of larches, maples, box elders and evergreens; planted around them. In 1897 an addition of twenty feet was added to the center school house making it the largest rural school house in the county.

The succession of school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS:** C. F. Alchon, 1881; R. C. Jones, '82-85, 89; J. W. Carson, J. N. Russell, '87-88; J. M. Mills, J. H. Enc, A. M. Coville, M. L. Stover, '93-94; J. Marchbanks, W. B. Starkey, T. M. Olson, C. C. Bovee, J. M. Shull, '99-1900; Peter Kemmer, '01-02.

**SECRETARIES:** J. N. Russell, '81-83; B. T. Griffith, '84-86, 91-93; J. W. Carson, '87-88; Clel Gilchrist, '89-90; Thomas M. Olson, R. R. McCaslin, '95-97; Anthony Hudek, '98-1902.

**TREASURERS:** Morah F. Russell, '81-86; J. W. O'Brien, '87-90; Morah F. Russell, '95-1902.

**TEACHERS:** Among the early teachers in this township were Sarah Reamer, Samuel Smith, Hattie Drown, Mrs. Matilda Smith, J. W. Carson, Cora Jones, Emma Pfeiffer, who was the first in district No. 3; Lulu C. Blake, Elizabeth and Stella O'Brien, Clara Gilson, Jennie Bishop, Lona Hawley, Louisa Bennett, Ida Crouse, Mary A. Dooley, Mrs. Mary L. Eigler, Fretta Winegarden, Susie Clark, who in 1887 was the first in No. 4; Lillie Rose, Martha and Mary Kelly, Mary Clifton, Carrie Blake, Mary Bolton, Peter Donahoe, who in 1889 was the first male teacher employed; Addie Newton, Myra Russell, Louis T. and Mrs. Edith C. Button, Frank C. Rogers, Louisa and Edith Ludwig.

During each of the years, 1881 to 1884, the total enrollment of the children in the township was 7, 12, 17 and 20, respectively; and the number of them that attended school was 5, 11, 12 and 13, respectively.

## INTERESTING EVENTS.

The first child born in Sherman, then a part of Des Moines township was Edith, daughter of Jason N. Russell, whose birth occurred March 31, 1875. At the time of her marriage in 1899 she had attained the reputation of being the best teacher in the township.

The first religious services were held in the pioneer or Hamble school house, on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 4, about 1877; and J. W. Carson, who came in 1879, organized here the first Sunday school.

The harvester was first used in Sherman township in 1883, when Clel Gilchrist and J. Flagler cut the crops of Morah and Jason N. Russell and others.

The first postoffice was established in the store of W. S. Cox at Ware in 1900. During the early seventies mail was obtained once a week from Pocahontas.

The largest orchard was planted on the farm of Jason N. Russell on section 4.

The finest corner markers in this county are found in this township, on sec. 32, and were placed there by F. M. Robinson in 1888. These markers are of dressed rock, six inches square at the top and show the number of the adjoining sections. They were dressed for but not used in building the station at Missouri Valley, where Robinson the owner of a farm on sec. 32 and who had the numbers cut on them, was serving as ticket agent.

It was with stone posts, similar to these, but quarried, dressed and marked in England with the letters P. and M. on their opposite sides, that Charles Mason and James Dixon in 1766-67 surveyed and marked the previously troublesome boundary line, between Pennsylvania and Maryland, now commonly called the Mason and Dixon line. They placed a stone thus marked at the end of each mile, and

at the end of every fifth mile a larger one, having on its other sides the arms of the Penn family in the days of Richard Penn and those of Lord Baltimore.

May 14, 1893, a tornado that passed over Sherman, Grant and Lincoln townships destroyed the house of G. W. Madden on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  18, the barn and sheds of Frank Stacy on nw $\frac{1}{4}$  32 and a vacant house of Moody & Davy on the same section. It occurred about 10 o'clock p. m. and the darkness for a short time was relieved by the appearance of electrical sparks attended with a snapping sound similar to the effect produced when the back of a cat is sometimes stroked in the dark. There was not very much rain but a vivid electrical display and the wind whirled the material of the buildings in every direction.

## WARE.

Ware, located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 17 and the se $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 8, along the line of the Gowrie & Northwestern branch of the C. R. I. & P. Ry. is a thriving village of 150 inhabitants. This is the newest town in the county and was named in honor of Francis L. Ware, of Chicago, who, owning 1480 acres in that vicinity, donated to the railroad company the usual right-of-way across the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 17, and additional ground for depot and sidetracks at that place. The establishment of this town and Palmer was the result of a railroad passing through Pocahontas, the last county seat in Iowa, to be thus connected with the outside world. It is six and a half miles northwest of Pocahontas and about the same distance from Laurens. It is centrally located in a section of country that is comparatively new but as rich and productive as Ancient Egypt.

Mr. Ware, owing to his absence on the Pacific coast during 1900, did not plat his land at the depot until after his return the latter part of October. In the meantime Aug. Hamfeldt, of

Ottawa, Ill., owner of several hundred acres in this vicinity, through his agent, Paul Silberger, proceeded to plat and build up the town on the set sec. 8, just north of the depot. He built several store buildings and dwellings in the fall of 1900 and they were occupied as soon as they were completed.

The first buildings completed were the depot and the store of W. S. Cox, of Havelock, both of which were opened about Sept. 1, 1900. About Oct. 7, following, Leonard Sease was appointed postmaster and opened the Ware postoffice in this store. Wheeler's elevator was then completed and there were in progress of erection several other store buildings, a two story hotel, Counselman's elevator, the Jenkins-Hesla lumber sheds, and a number of cozy and comfortable homes. No other town in the county was growing so rapidly as Ware at this period, and the scene of so many new buildings springing up in a cornfield was a very interesting sight to passengers on the passing trains.

Feb. 18, 1901, before six months had passed after the completion of the first building, Hon. R. C. Barrett, state superintendent, visited the town and addressed the citizens of the community on the propriety of erecting a large central school building and consolidating the adjacent rural school districts.

The first public school was commenced in April, 1901, in the Hamfeldt block by Olive Jones, of Laurens.

The first religious services were held about this time in the opera house by Rev. C. W. Coons, of Havelock, and a Sunday school was organized. The Methodist Episcopal church was built that fall.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

The Ware Savings Bank was opened March 1, 1901, by the Allen Bros., of Laurens. On July 17, following,

it was incorporated by a board of directors consisting of Homer A. Miller, B. L. Allen, C. N. Carlson, M. T. Nilsson, C. S. Allen, and J. H. Allen, as the Ware Savings Bank of Ware, with a capital stock of \$10,000 and under the following persons as officers: B. L. Allen, president; M. T. Nilsson, vice-president; C. N. Carlson, secretary. This bank enjoys the confidence of the community and, like the postoffice, supplies a long felt public want.

#### CREAMERY.

The creamery of J. L. Blunt & Co. was erected at a cost of \$3,000 and opened June 18, 1902. The building is 20x50 with an addition 20x20, and it is equipped with all the latest improved machinery for making the best quality of butter. The patrons are supplied with separators at their homes and the proprietors of the creamery have given a guarantee to pay them, for their butter, within five cents of the highest quotations of the New York market. This creamery was built at a time when many in all parts of the state, managed in the old way by separating the cream in the creamery, have closed or contemplate doing so. The men who have taken the lead in this enterprise have shown much of pluck and energy, and are winning their patronage on the principle of merit. This is the basis of permanent success, the kind they hope to achieve. J. L. Blunt, the general manager, is successfully operating two other creameries in this section of the state. C. A. Vittum, secretary of the company, is a graduate of the dairy school at the Iowa State Agricultural College and stands at the head of his profession. Six thousand pounds of butter were made during the first month. J. H. Springer, the senior member of the firm, is the inventor of the Springer cream separator and has improved other separators. His family arrived at Ware in 1902,

from Norristown, Pa. They now live at Manson.

WARE IN 1902.

AGENT: C. R. I. & P. R'y; M. T. Rouse since Sept. 1, 1900.

BANK: Ware Savings, C. N. Carlson, cashier.

BARBER: L. Van Buskirk.

BLACKSMITH AND WAGONMAKER: John Dahl, successor of N. M. Hally.

CHURCH: M. E. built in 1901, dedicated Feb. 9, 1902 at a cost of \$2600.

CREAMERY: Springer and Blunt, 1902.

DRUGGIST: E. B. Pohle, Dr. Heathman.

ELEVATORS: Wheeler Grain and Coal Co., Daniel Davis, mgr.; Charles Counselman & Co., C. W. Miller, mgr.

GROCERIES, flour and feed: C. Dexter successor of R. E. Nibel, M. A. Smith.

HARDWARE: Johnson & Son.

HOTEL: Ware Hotel, H. W. Herrington, successor of Henry Bourett and A. W. Hilton.

IMPLEMENTS. W. L. & E. C. Boyd; Kuhn & Schmitt; Hamilton & Donahue.

LIVERY AND DRAY: Charles McClurg, successor of A. D. Barrick.

LUMBER AND COAL: Jenkins-Hesla Lumber Co., J. C. Herrington, successor of J. B. Harris, manager.

MERCHANTS: C. Dexter, M. A. Smith.

PAINTER: George Sanders.

POSTMASTER: Crolis Dexter, June 24, 1902 successor to Leonard Sease.

REAL ESTATE: Bash & Bourett, successors to J. W. Carson.

TEACHER: May Russell, successor of Olive Jones.

TELEPHONE: The Northern, E. B. Pohle, agent.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Sherman township has been represented by the following county officers:

SUPERVISOR: J. W. O'Brien, 1884-86.

SUPERINTENDENTS: Fred C. Gilchrist, '90-'91; Clel Gilchrist '92 - Nov.

7, '97; Norma L. Gilchrist, Nov. 7 to Dec. 31, '97.

LEADING CITIZENS.

**Barnes**, Jeremiah (b. 1812) was a native of Pennsylvania. About 1845 he married Margaret Jane Hogg. He rendered military service as a soldier during the civil war. In 1875, accompanied by his wife and four of his six children, Albert, Milton, Sarah Jane and Elizabeth, he located on the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 8, Sherman township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He served as one of the early trustees of the township. He died at 75 in the year 1887. In 1894 the family moved to Eldyville, Oregon.

**Boyesen** Boy E. (b. 1861), owner and occupant of a farm on sec 14, since 1883, is a native of Germany and a stepson of Hans Tychsens, with whom, coming to America in 1875, he located in Clinton county, Iowa, and in 1883 in Sherman township this county. He was the pioneer occupant of the first 160 acres of this farm. He has improved it with ample buildings for taking care of a large amount of stock and has been quite successful, having increased the farm to 440 acres. He is one of the leading stock men in the township.

In 1885 he married Betty Fallmer, and she died in 1895 leaving three children, Harry, Andrew and William. In 1896 he married Mary Marholz and their family consists of one child, Louie.

Hans Tychsens (b. 1845) his stepfather is now a resident of Washington township.

**Clifton**, Charles Wesley, Rev. (b. 1841) owner and occupant of 183 acres on sec. 3, is a native of Gilead, Miami county, Ind., the son of Nathan and Mary Smith Clifton. In 1843 he moved with his parents to Marshall county, Ind., where he grew to manhood and received his education, which

consisted of a course in the public schools and two years in the college at Valparaiso. In May 1865, after teaching four terms he enlisted as a member of Co H, 138 Ind. Vol. Inf., and served nine months. In 1866 he married Adaline Cole (b. 1847) and the next year located on a rented farm near Lake City, Iowa.

In 1869 he acquiesced in a request to enter the ministry of the M. E. church on account of the lack of missionaries, left the farm and was assigned the Peterson circuit in Clay county, which he served two years. In 1870 he became a member of the Des Moines and two years later of the North West Iowa conference when it was formed in 1872. During the twenty-five years of his ministry he served the following fields: Peterson, two years; Smithland, Sac City, Newell and Fonda, Goldfield, Irvington, Primghar, each one year; Old Rolfe, Rutland, Luverne, Hull, Ruthven, and Lake Park, each two years; Ashton, Akron and Inwood, each one year.

He became identified first with this county in the fall of 1873, when, stationed at Newell he supplied Fonda and occasionally preached at Sunk Grove. He came to this field just after the grasshoppers had cleaned out everything on the few and widely separated farms, and received only \$350 of the \$400 pledged. Unable to supply himself with overshoes and an overcoat until near Christmas, he protected himself with quilts while driving over the country.

He became a resident of the county first in 1878, when he was assigned to the old Rolfe circuit, which included Rolfe and Coopertown in Des Moines township, the appointments at the Strong and Heathman schoolhouses in Powhatan and at the Hamble and J. C. Strong schoolhouses in Washington townships. There was not a church building on this mission field

and the salary was fixed at \$400. He preached five years before he enjoyed the privilege of serving a field that had in it a church building. Although his salary was small and he seldom received all of it, he always made it a rule to live within his means and pay as he went. He was frequently offered homesteads during the period of his ministry but he always declined them because he wished to be a man of one work. He greatly enjoyed his work as a missionary and endeavored to do it well, because he was laying foundations. He united with the church at thirteen and has made a life long record of faithful and efficient service in the Master's vineyard.

In 1895 he located on his farm near Havelock, which he purchased in 1881 at \$4.50 and \$5.00 an acre, the funds for this investment having been realized from the sale of his stock when he quit farming in 1869. He has improved this farm with neat and cozy buildings and after the lapse of twenty years it is worth ten times what he originally paid for it. He has been a republican since he was in the army in 1864, and in 1887 lacked only 61 votes of being elected auditor of this county.

Adaline Cole, his estimable wife, was raised on a farm near Walkerton, Indiana, and in 1867, the year after their marriage, came with him to Iowa in a lumber wagon. She has cheerfully shared his itinerant experiences on the frontier, living often in log cabins before the day of comfortable parsonages. From her scanty store she has ministered to the wants of many weary heralds of the cross of all denominations. She left others, whom she believed could do it better, to meet the demands of society. She has endeavored to make the home happy and comfortable, and her children "arise and call her blessed, her husband also and he praiseth her." She



loves the farm, and is much attached to it and now devotes considerable time to cultivating flowers and raising pure bred poultry.

His family consists of five children.

Mary, in 1889, married C. M. Ather-ton, a farmer, lives near Sheldon and has a family of five children.

Lulu Ines, a deaconess, located first at Falls River, Mass., and is now at Omaha, Neb.

Alvah Nathan, is the owner of a farm of 240 acres in Monona county.

Charles Cole, a butter maker, is at Luana.

John Eltsie, is at home.

**Gilchrist, James C.**, Prof (b. May 20, 1831; d. Aug. 12, 1897), founder of the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls, and owner of a farm in Sherman and Washington townships, since 1884, was a native of Allegheny, Pa., the son of James Cleland Gilchrist, who was of scotch descent. In his boyhood and youth he acquired the discipline of hard work incident to farm life and at nineteen, to satisfy his thirst for knowledge, he became a student at Mahoning Institute, Poland, Ohio, where he remained, teaching at intervals during the next three years. In 1854 he entered Antioch college, Yellow Springs, O., of which Horace Mann, the celebrated educator was president. After his graduation he served successively as superintendent of the schools at Republic and Marlboro, O., and New Brighton, Pa.

He then became principal of the Seminary at California, Washington Co., Pa. At the end of five years of prosperous labors he projected the plan and successfully converted this institution into a State Normal School. He continued at the head of it during the next six years. He served as Superintendent of Washington county during three years of this period, and, under his leadership, there was developed a general revival

in the educational work of that county.

In 1871 he accepted an invitation to aid in the organization and establishment of a State Normal school at Fairmount, in the new state of West Virginia.

In 1872, in accordance with an oft expressed wish, he came to Iowa and became superintendent of the public schools in Mason City. He introduced the schools into the elegant building, then completed, and systematized the educational work in that rapidly growing city.

In June 1876 he was elected president of the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls, for the establishment of which he had previously taken the lead in having the General Assembly of Iowa that year make its first appropriation. This institution was organized under his personal direction, and, during the ten years that he continued at the head of it, it developed so rapidly as to become one of the most important educational institutions in the state and rank among the best Normal Schools in the country.

In 1885 he and several of his associate instructors, retired from this institution, and he established the Upper Iowa Normal at Algona, where he remained until 1890. During that year the Northwest Conference of the M. E. church, proposing to found a university at Sioux City, elected him and he began to fill the chair of Didactics. When the financial panic came, two or three years later, and caused the temporary suspension of this enterprise, he retired to his farm, in this county, which had been in charge of Cleland, his oldest son, since the time of its purchase in 1884. He died at 67, August 12, 1897.

He was a member of the M. E. church, received ordination as a minister and preached to scores of congregations, but preferred educational work to a local pastorate. He was a

life member of the National Educational Association and was president of the Normal School section of it at the meeting in Chatauqua, N. Y., in 1890. His services were in great demand at teachers' institutes, and he served as an instructor or lecturer at more than a hundred of them, including at least one in every county in Iowa. He wrote a number of articles for educational periodicals, and in 1888 a work entitled, "Iowa, Its Geography, History and Resources," that was published by G. G. Merrill, St. Paul. He left the manuscript for another volume, entitled, "Education. Its Principles and Practice." This was intended to be a text book for the use of Normal schools, institutes and private students.

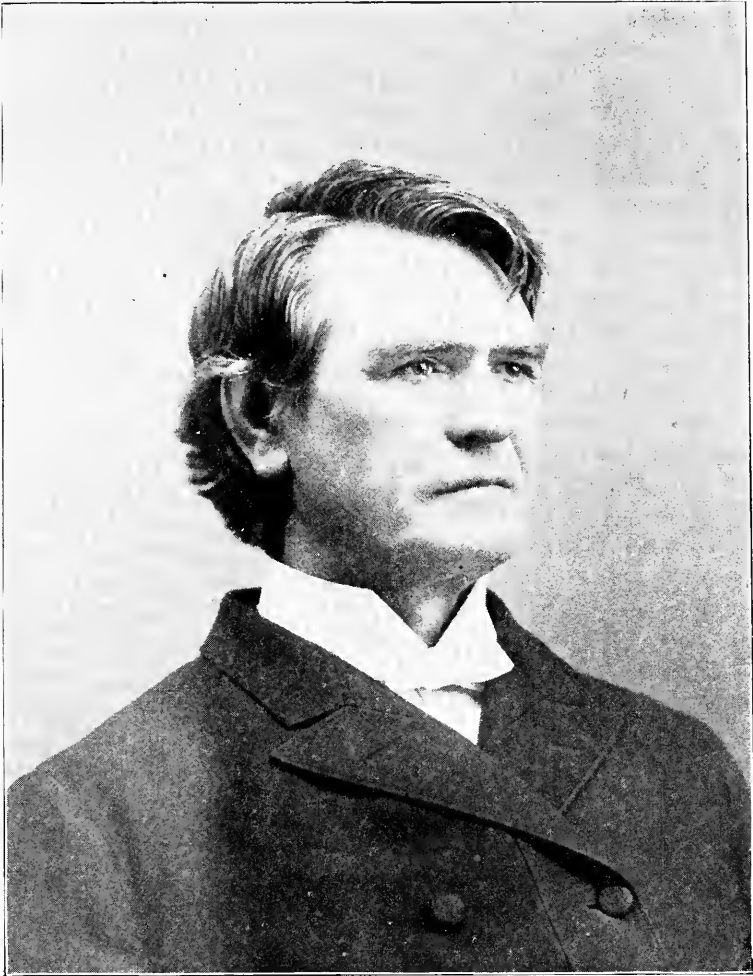
He was an ambitious and indefatigable worker. He did not stand around with his hands in his pockets, as if appalled at the magnitude of an undertaking, but with a faith that removed mountains pushed on to the successful achievement of the object of his ambition. He might over estimate his resources or ability to put a mountain behind him, but having launched an enterprise he turned neither to the right or left hand, and looking to God for results, pressed on with a super human energy, until he over came the most serious obstacles. During the early days of the Iowa State Normal he made large contributions out of his own pocket to supply equipment that could not otherwise be provided. After he became the head of educational institutions, not a year passed that he was not a benefactor of one or more young people, who, under adverse circumstances, were endeavoring to obtain an education. There were times when half his income was used in this way. He was ceaseless in his labors for the institutions he represented, and found a cordial cooperation in his estimable wife who, surviving him,

had opportunity of perceiving the meed of praise and honor that a grateful people stood ready to bestow upon him, "whose meritorious services to the state entitled his memory to perpetual recognition "

Dec. 23, 1897, a special service was held in his honor at the Iowa State Normal School, Cedar Falls, at which his successor, President Homer Seerley, presided and memorial tributes were rendered by Hon. E. H. Thayer, of Clinton, Prof. D. S. Wright, of the Normal School and Hon. Henry Sabin, of Des Moines.

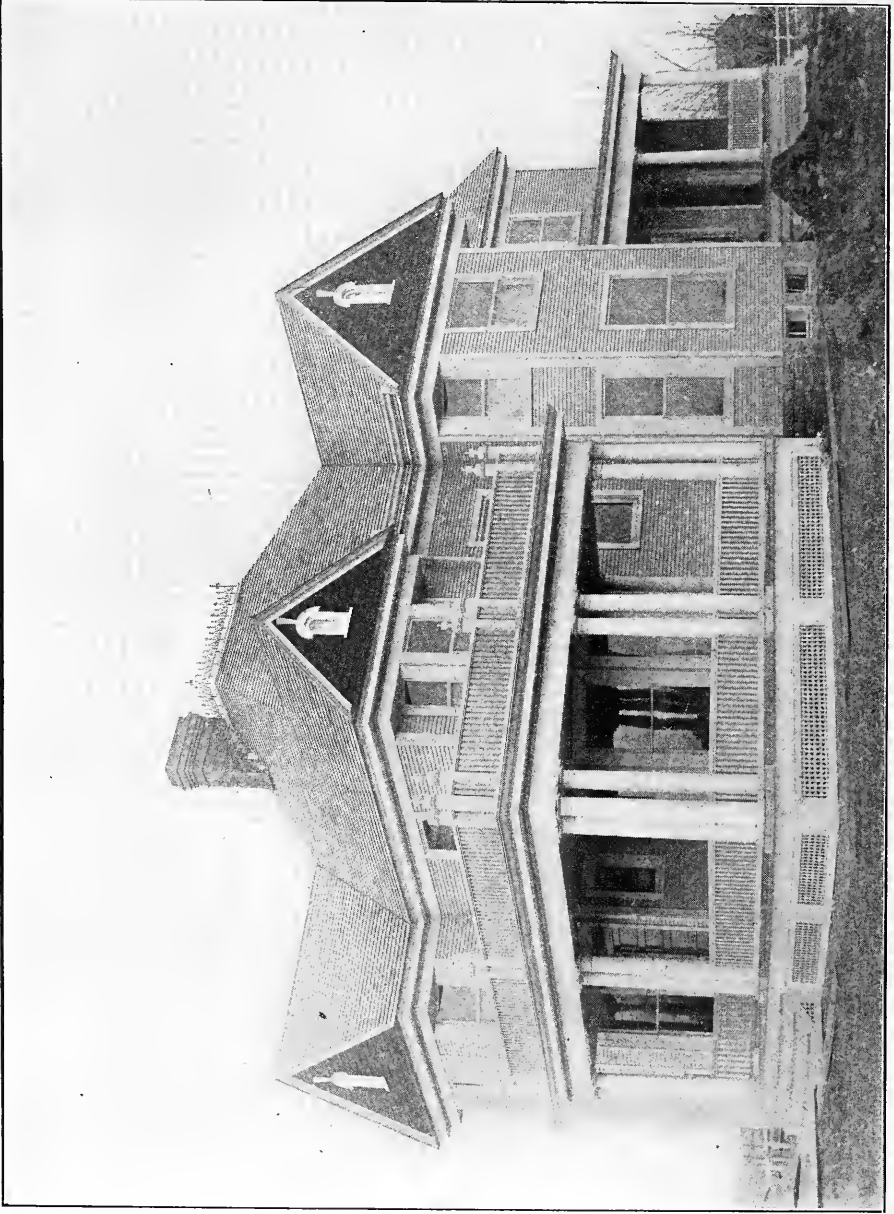
The story of his struggles to secure an education is eloquent with inspiration and encouragement to every youth similarly situated. He never lacked encouragement at home, but that was all he could there expect. Having to depend on his own resources while pursuing his studies in the academy, he did not hesitate to work in the harvest fields during vacation, or to serve as janitor and teach occasional classes in the academy, in order that he might supplement the meager savings received from teaching country schools. In pursuing his collegiate studies at Antioch, he alternately taught a village school and resumed his place in that institution, where he seemed to have reached the summit of his educational ambition, when he sat at the feet of Horace Mann, America's greatest teacher."

He was principal, at the inception of seven important educational institutions, three of which were State Normal Schools. It was his mission in life to lay foundations rather than to rear superstructures. This feature of his life's work requiring frequent changes of location, brought him in contact with multitudes of teachers and pupils, that he could not have reached in any single institution. He inspired, with the force of his own unique personality, a vast army of



PROF. JAMES C. GILCHRIST, 1831-1897.

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, 1876-1885.



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES S. ALLEN, LAURENS.

pupils that numbered tens of thousands.

He possessed strong convictions as to the value of professional training for teachers, and was an eloquent champion of the State Normal School. Heartily endorsing the American system of public schools, he insisted the Normal School was a necessary adjunct to it. He regarded teaching as a learned profession and exalted learning, including didactics, as a prerequisite to filling the teacher's desk. The true teacher must be profoundly versed in his subject and know the most approved methods of instruction. He who would train the minds of children and youth must know something of the character and qualities of mind; he who would shape the destiny of others should have some adequate conception of what that means to the individual.

He entertained exalted ideas of the mission of the teacher, on account of the potent influence the teacher wields over the minds of youth. Believing the teachers in our free schools wielded a power so great, that they might justly be made responsible for the principles that should underlie this government in the 20th century, he embraced every opportunity of impressing upon parents the fact, that the teachers had more to do in moulding and forming the mind, character, disposition and ambition of the child than they themselves. "He often spoke of the dignity of the teacher's work, emphasizing the fact that, his influence was never-ending. It is seen in the results of education—grand men and women—and in the rewards that lie beyond. In his public addresses he emphasized the need of good citizenship, salvation from sin and a godly life; and declared failure in these things a calamity."

He was preeminently a thinker, delighted in abstruse investigation and often expressed the conviction that

the boys and girls in our public schools are not properly taught how to think. They are left to solve the problems in the text book by the author's rules and no hint is given them that original thought is either a possible or desirable accomplishment. It is a great thing, an inestimable privilege to teach another, but it is a grander thing to inspire him to be, to do, to think.

"Think for thyself; one good idea,  
known to be thine own,  
Is better than a thousand gleaned  
from fields by others sown."

As an educational thinker he was conservative, rather than radical. Convinced that some things were essential and constant, he abominated fads that would displace them. When the Quincy methods became the fad he did not hesitate to proclaim publicly as well as privately, that there was nothing good in the "new education" that was really new. That the maxim "Learn to do by doing" had been the guide of every true teacher and of every successful learner from the days of Comenius (1592-1671), the Slavic educational reformer. He believed in toiling hard for knowledge and that the educational discipline that results from thorough study is one of the best things acquired by the student.

In 1858 he married Hannah Cramer, a teacher in the schools of Warren, O. She is now a resident of Laurens. Six of their family of ten children are living.

Cleland (b. 1860) became a resident of Pocahontas county in 1882 and engaged in teaching and farming. He managed the affairs on the farm, while his father and other members of his family pursued their educational work or studies elsewhere. He served as secretary of the school board of Sherman township and five years and ten months (1892-97) as superintendent in this county, when he resigned

on account of ill health. After spending one year in Colorado, during which he regained his health, he returned to this county and located at Pocahontas, where he has since been engaged as a carpenter and contractor.

Maud, a teacher, has given special attention to the Natural sciences, having prosecuted her studies in these branches in the schools of America and Europe. She has held the chair of Natural science in the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls, has been professor of Botany in Wellesley, College, Mass., of which institution she is a graduate, and Lady Principal of the Illinois Female College. She is now Dean of the woman's department of the State Agricultural College at Lansing, Michigan.

Charles Willard, (b. 1866), a salesman, is a resident of Havelock. In 1890 he married Florence Hinkley, a daughter of a Pocahontas county pioneer, and has a family of six children: James, Charles, Pierre, Claude, Richard, and a baby girl.

Fred C. Hon., (b. June 2, 1868), is a native of Washington county, Pa. but has grown to manhood in Pocahontas county. He is a graduate of the Iowa State Normal and of the law department of the State University. After teaching in the rural schools and serving as principal at Laurens one year and at Rolfe two years, he was, on reaching his majority in 1889, elected superintendent of schools in this county. He served in this capacity two years, 1890-91, and was the youngest official of the kind in the state. In 1892 he handed this office over to Cleland Gilchrist, his oldest brother, and turned his attention to the study of law. Upon receiving his degree in 1893, he commenced the practice of his profession at Laurens, where he still resides.

In 1899 he presided at the judicial convention held in Algona and, at the representative convention held at

Rolfe, July 11, 1901, though not an active candidate, he received the vote of all the delegates on the first ballot and thus became the republican nominee for the legislature. This unexpected nomination, which was intended to harmonize the factions that had arisen that season in this senatorial district, was a very high compliment. His election that fall was a natural sequence to the unanimity expressed at the time of his nomination.

He is an attorney of ability and promise. As an advocate of republican principles and policies, he has won the gratitude of his friends and respect of his opponents. On Feb. 13, 1902, when the pioneer lawmakers were the guests of the House, he made one of the principal addresses. During his service in the legislature of 1902 he was several times called to the chair by Speaker Eaton and made an impression so favorable upon the members of that body, that he was frequently referred to as a good candidate for the speakership in the next Assembly.

In 1896 he married Ella Hurley and has three children: Francis, Fred Cleland and Mavis,

Grace G., a graduate of the Iowa State Normal and a teacher, in 1899 married Joseph H. Allen, a banker, and lives at Pocahontas.

Norma L., a teacher, while teaching at Pocahontas, Nov. 8, 1897, was appointed superintendent of the schools in this county, in place of her brother Cleland, who resigned, and filled that office during the next two months. She has since spent much time in pursuing special studies in Oberlin and Wellesley Colleges. Her home is with her mother at Laurens.

**Hall, L. D.** (b. 1817; d. 1898) was a native of Pittstown, N. Y. In 1841, at Whitingham, Vt., he married Lucinda Morse. In 1852 he moved to Ohio and, in 1854, to West Liberty, Iowa. After successive residences at

Iowa City and Tama county, in 1883 he located in Sherman township, this county. In 1898 he died at 80 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Betsey A, Phelps, near Havelock. His family consisted of two sons and one daughter. One son died at nine and George M. lives at Reinbeck.

**Hamfeldt**, August (b. 1858), an enterprising man, who will always be remembered in connection with the early history of Ware, is a native of Germany, where he received a good college education. In 1881 he came to America, empty handed, and found profitable employment with a wholesale house in New York City. He met with good success in his business enterprises and, in making an investment some years ago, purchased the land on which, in 1900, he had surveyed and platted the town of Ware. In building up this town he found an opportunity for that push and enterprise that has characterized his business life. He became a resident of the town in the fall of 1900, at which time several buildings had been built by his agent, Paul Silberger. He erected four of the first dwelling houses, one two story double and three one story business blocks in the town, and tendered their use to others at a low rental. He speaks several languages fluently and is a man of energy, pluck and good business methods. He has accumulated considerable wealth by prudent and profitable investments, and has greatly enjoyed the work of building up the town of Ware.

**Hudek**, Joseph (b. 1844), a resident of section 25, is a native of Bohemia, and one of the most prosperous farmers in the township. In 1867 he came to America and located in Jones county, Wis., where his parents and other members of their family also located. Anthony, his father, died there in 1883 and his mother at 80 in 1895. In 1878 Joseph married Hellena Wilhelm and, accompanied by his wife and

Anthony, a younger brother, came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 25 Sherman township. He has improved this farm with fine buildings and groves and increased it to 680 acres. He is a good farmer and has made a splendid use of his opportunities to raise and feed stock. He regards this a very fine country and has endeavored to do his part in the matter of its material, moral and educational development. He is one of the founders of the Catholic church and parochial school at Pocahontas and has continued to give these institutions his liberal support.

His wife died at 37 in 1888 leaving a family of four children, Josephine, Frank, Joseph and John. Josephine in 1899 married Frank Stoullil, a farmer, and lives near Pocahontas.

In 1889 he married Anna, daughter of Theresa Wassel, and their family consists of five children, Edward, Alfred, Rudolph, William, and Albert.

**Hudek**, Anthony (b. Boh. 1851) brother of Joseph, is also a resident of section 25 and the owner of a finely improved farm of 760 acres. He came to Jones county, Wis., with his parents in 1868 and to this county with his brother in 1878. Both located on the same farm and worked together during the first two years. In 1879 Anthony married Mary, daughter of Michael and Annie Bartosh, who were among the first settlers in Center township. He has been very successful as a farmer and his buildings are among the largest and best in Sherman township. His present dwelling house was built in 1888 and barn in 1893. He believes in converting the grain he raises, which usually grades low, into fat hogs and cattle, that command the highest market price. His annual output of stock is a beautiful sight as well as a source of financial profit. He has filled with credit all the important township offices, having served two years as a

trustee and clerk, four as assessor, five as secretary of the school board and seven as a justice.

His family consists of seven children, James, Annie, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Ellanora and Louis.

**Russell**, Morah Frink (b. 1840), one of the first residents of Sherman township, is a native of Michigan. In his youth he came to Dubuque county, Iowa, where in 1869 he married Jemima, daughter of Benjamin Mather, and located on a farm. In March 1872 he came to Pocahontas county and located on eighty acres on the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 4 Sherman township. He has improved this farm with fine buildings and groves, increased it to 240 acres and still occupies it. His first house built in 1872 was the first one in the township. As the years have passed the pioneer buildings have been replaced by larger and more modern structures that would be a credit to any community. The barn 40x80 and 18 foot posts, was built in 1892. He believed in planting trees and his buildings are protected by a large and valuable grove. He planted fruit trees also and now enjoys their annual yield. He assisted in the organization of the township in 1880 and has been a very popular officer ever since, having served as treasurer of the school funds, nineteen of the twenty-two years since that date and fifteen as a trustee. In 1874 he cut his first crop of wheat with a cradle and his wife bound it after him.

His family consists of eight children.

Myra L. in 1891 married Anson Parker. They live on their own farm in Harris county, Texas, and have four children, Daisy, Ora, Nelson, and Elden.

Mary E., in 1890 married William S. Taylor and lives in Wisconsin. Three of their four children are living, James R., Gertrude J., and Fac.

Alice E. in 1892 married David Ashmore. They live in Minnesota and have five children, Ferne, Bessie J., Mary Alice, Walter W. and Edna L.

May, a teacher, in 1899 married Rola Schriver.

Jessie R., Emory, William H., and Lulu E. are at home.

**Russell**, Jason N. (b. 1844) the first resident of Sherman township, is a native of Michigan. In 1870 he came to Pocahontas county with J. C. Strong, his brother-in-law, and bought the n $\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 4, 106 acres. He was the first to break the virgin prairie of the township and did it that summer while he lived with Jonathan L. Clark and family (sec 30 Washington), who had come with him and Strong from Dubuque county. In 1871 he built the first cabin, 12x16 feet and became the first resident of the township. His brother, Harvey S. Russell, came and lived with him in the cabin a year and a half, having previously bought 106 acres on the same section, and then returned to Dubuque.

Dec. 18, 1872 he married Maggie, daughter of Philip Hamble in Dubuque county and, on his return the next spring, he was accompanied by Philip Hamble and family, who located on sec 33 Washington township. He served three years as the first secretary of the school board, two as its president and three as a trustee.

He increased the original farm to 320 acres, improved it with good buildings, groves and orchard and occupied it until 1902, when he accompanied Philip Hamble to Long Beach, near Los Angeles, Cal.

His family consisted of six children.

Edith E., a teacher, in 1899 married L. D. Smith, a hardwareman, and located, first in Havelock and in 1902 in California.

Mary A., a teacher, in 1900 married Ora Crummer. (See Crummer)



Irene, Lewis F., John H., and Hugh Hamble are at home.

**Russell**, Harvey S., brother of Morah and Jason, in 1869, through James C. Strong, effected the purchase of a farm of 103 acres on sec. 4, and living with Jason, began its improvement in 1871. After one year he returned to Dubuque county. In 1877 he returned to his farm on sec. 4 and has continued to manage it, living with his brother, Jason.

Morah and Jason Russell, as pioneers on the frontier, enjoyed the rare distinction of officially participating in the organization of two townships in this county, namely, Washington in 1876 and Sherman in 1880. At the organization of Washington township Jason Russell was elected and served as one of its first trustees four years, 1877-80, and was assessor in 1879. Morah Russell served as the first assessor of Washington two years, '77-78, clerk two years, '79-80, and first president of the school board two years, '77-78. Harvey S. Russell was a trustee of Washington in 1880.

This early record in Washington followed by the later and longer one in Sherman township indicates that these men have been leading and influential citizens as well as pioneers. They have manifested an integrity that was above suspicion, possessed a courage that enabled them to face the trials and dangers incident to a home on the frontier and discovered an industry that has been crowned with successful achievement. These qualities have been the special heritage of many of the pioneers of this section, and they have enabled them to lay broad and deep the foundation of the best civilization and government in the world.

**Stacy**, Frank (b. 1860), one of the leading farmers of Sherman township, is a native of Potter Co., Pa. His father died during his infancy and at

two years he came with his mother to Bureau Co., Ill., and at fourteen to Grundy County, Iowa. In 1881 he married Mary Adams and, locating on a farm, remained there until 1888, when he became the pioneer occupant of the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 32, Sherman township. He has improved this farm with good buildings and increased it to 320 acres. He has had to triumph over many disappointments and embarrassments in order to achieve success. His barn and 100 feet of sheds were destroyed by a tornado in 1893 and the first and second plantings of trees were killed by droughts and other causes. He is manifesting that perseverance and pluck that insures success. He served as clerk of the township two years, 1895-96.

**Stover**, Andrew Jackson, (b. 1847.) the pioneer owner and occupant of a farm on sec. 9, is a native of Illinois, the son of Emmanuel and Mary Ann Stover. In 1869 he came with his parents to Marshall county, Iowa, where in 1870 he married Jane Dickerson, who died in 1877, leaving five children, Charles E., Calvin U., Andrew S., Artie B. and Oscar W. Soon after her decease he moved to Grundy county, where in 1879 he married Jane Hilton. In 1880 he located on his present farm, which he has improved with fine buildings that are always kept in the best looking condition. He has devoted considerable attention to raising pure bred stock,—Poland China hogs and Polled Angus cattle,—and has achieved a well merited success on the farm. He participated in the organization of the township and served as a trustee eighteen years.

His family consisted of eight children:

Charles E., a farmer in 1896 married Olive Ashmore and occupies a farm in Sherman township.

Calvin U., a farmer in 1897 married Christie Berry.

Artie B., in 1897 married Clarence Hopkins.

Oscar W., in 1900 married Venia Berry.

Andrew S., in 1902 married Nellie B. Stover.

James H., Mary E. and Agnes are at home.

In 1883 his sister, Eliza Ann (Alexander) McLain and family located in Marshall township and in 1890 his brothers, Martin L. and Jacob S, located in Sherman township.

**Stover**, Martin Luther, (b. 1848.) is a native of Ogle county, Ill., where in 1872 he married Emma C. Evans and located on a farm. In 1890 he located in Sherman township where he has lived on several rented farms and is now the occupant of the s½ sec. 17, owned by F. L. Ware. He was elected assessor of Sherman township before he had completed a year's residence in it, and served eight years in that capacity. He has been a trustee three years and served as president of the school board. He has been a member of the republican county

committee during the last four years and takes as much interest in the affairs of Ware as though he were one of its business men. He is one of the prominent men of that vicinity.

His family has consisted of five children:

Lewis A. (b. 1873 ) in 1894 married Ida Hurley and has three children.

Harry died at 20 in 1896.

Nellie B. in 1902 married Andrew S. Stover.

Clara May in 1900 married Frank Speer.

Roy E. (b. 1888.) is at home.

**Stover**, Jacob S., brother of A. J., is a native of Illinois. In 1889 in Marshall county, he married Ida Crouse and the next year located on the se¼ sec. 15, Sherman township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He has been very successful as a farmer and is now the owner of 240 acres. The buildings erected are among the best ones in the township.

His family consists of two children, Hazel and Gladys.



## XXVI.

### SWAN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Once upon the prairie, as the sun was sinking,  
One might have seen the cabin of a pioneer;  
Its clapboard roof, lagging to the rear,  
Its walls rejecting their inartistic chinking.  
Among the groves that by the streamlets nestle,  
No more is heard the noise of freighter's camp;  
But in its stead the strange gigantic tramp  
Of railway trains upon the rumbling trestle,  
Good-bye, old cabin,—  
Faithfully have you performed your trust,  
And sheltered manly worth and moral vigor.

—Eugene F. Ware.

Believe me, the talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can, and doing well whatever you do—without a thought of fame.—Hyperion.

#### GENERAL FEATURES.



SWAN LAKE township (93 34) formed a part of Des Moines township until Sept. 7, 1866, and then of Powhatan until Sept. 4, 1871, when, in response to the petition of Geo. W. Proctor and others it was established in its present form as Swan Lake township.

To build, to plant, whatever you intend,

To rear the column, or the arch to bend,

To swell the terrace, or to sink the gout,

In all let nature never be forgot.—Popc.

This township has two of the largest lakes in the county near the center of it, a mile and a half northwest of Laurens. The larger one on sections 16 and 17 is called, "Swan Lake," by reason of its fancied resemblance to the body of a swan, and the smaller one, just east of it on section 15, "Muskrat Lake." A skirting of timber on the east and south banks of Swan Lake made its shores an attractive resting place and favorite camping ground, to those who journeyed east and west.

These lakes are very near each other and are connected by a narrow channel. Their outlet through the north branch of Cedar creek, which flows southward a few rods east of Laurens,

is at the southeastern extremity of Muskrat Lake.

During the drought period of 1894 and 1895 these lakes became dry, and the board of supervisors having notified the public that they belonged to the county, M. Peters offered the Board \$4,000 for these and the other unoccupied and unsold lake beds of the county. This bid was held under advisement until Sept. 2, 1895, and then the disposal of these lands was deferred until April, 1896. They were then filled with water and have not been dry since.

The parties, who about this period purchased the south one of the Twin Lakes in Calhoun county and in 1899 filed a swamp-land quit-claim deed from Callinan & Savery, were later successfully enjoined from draining it, and the swamp-land claims of Callinan & Savery, that clouded the titles of many farms in that and adjoining counties, were held to be invalid.

The decision in the case of Owl Lake, near Humboldt, was different. In this case Geo. R. Pearsons of Fort Dodge in 1885 received from Humboldt county, in consideration for his services in securing and constructing the original Fort Dodge & Fort Ridgely railroad, now the M. & St. L., received a deed for Owl Lake and the adjacent swamp lands in that county. He then expended a large amount of money in the improvement of these lands, including the construction of the largest ditch in the state, at that time, through Owl lake. A number of squatters then located on the bed of the lake, that had thus become dry, and disputed in the courts the title to the land. The Attorney General of the state then instituted proceedings for the same purpose and the final verdict of the U. S. Supreme Court, approving the title of Geo. R. Pearsons, was rendered in 1902.

In the fall of 1897 M. E. DeWolf

and others, securing the approval and a small appropriation from the board of supervisors, built a dam at the outlet of Swan Lake so as to maintain the water in it at the former natural level. Pickerel Lake, three miles northwest of Swan Lake in Buena Vista county, though not so large is deeper than the latter and both are now well stocked with pickerel, buffalo and other kinds of fish.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

John B. Strouse, who secured the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 16, on the east bank of Swan Lake, and began to occupy it June 1, 1869, was the first settler in Swan Lake township. He was accompanied at this time by his brother-in-law, Isaac W. Peed, who selected as a homestead the se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 14, but did not begin to occupy and improve it until the next year.

John B. Strouse returning to Warren county, with I. W. Peed, arrived with his family, and goods at Swan Lake, July 7, 1869. He built first a log cabin, 11x12 feet and five feet high at the eaves. The roof was covered with clapboards and dirt. It had no window, the floor was on the ground and the door was closed with a blanket.

At the time of his first visit to this place it was in the center of a large stretch of uninhabited country, the nearest house being eleven miles northwest and the nearest on the east on the Fort Dodge route being that of Samuel Booth, twelve miles distant in Powhatan. As this place was midway between the settlements along the Des Moines and Little Sioux rivers, it became necessary for him to entertain a great many travelers and he soon built a one story frame house in which he kept hotel.

Gilbert G. Wheeler on 30, Geo. W. Proctor and John D. Proctor, his father, on 20, were the next to arrive. These families located near each

other three miles southwest of Swan Lake.

In September 1869 David H. Hayes and family located north of the lake, on sec. 9. He improved and occupied this farm until sometime during the early 80's, when he and his wife died, leaving a family of five children, some of whom are still residents of the township.

In 1870 Isaac W. Peed located on his homestead east of the lake. He improved and occupied it four years and then moved to Boone county.

In 1871 James W. Taylor (16) and Oscar A. Pease(30) located south of the lake. Taylor the next year went to Nebraska and was succeeded by Benjamin Brown, who two years later sold out to Alexander McEwen. Thomas W. Merchant and Park C. Harder also arrived.

In 1874 W. R. Mather located on 26, and the next year Mr. and Mrs. John Strouse, parents of John B., and their son, Alpheus H. Strouse and family arrived and located south of Swan lake. Charles L. Strong, Wm. H. Drown, Joseph Morton and others were residents at this time.

In 1879 there came Henry H. Brower (b. N. Y. 1841.) on 7, Philip E. Baker (b. Ind. 1850.) on 15 and A. L. Wood (b. N. Y. 1845.) on 29. In 1880 John Pettit located on 19 and C. L. Strong returned to Powhatan.

In 1882, with the railroad and founding of Laurens, there came J. L. Hopkins (b. Conn. 1841.) on 19, T. Davidson (b. Iowa, 1855 ) on 23, Adam Roehlk (b. Ger. 1840.) on 24 and W. T. Rush on 36. Also Geo. W. Leverich, S. F. Sturdivan, Shoemaker Bros., Hiram Herrold, J. H. Queal & Co., S. R. Overton, Agt., Dr. J. M. Carroll, Nelson Parker, T. J. Nelson and G. H. Gammon at Laurens.

In 1883 and '84 there arrived Fred Dubbert and August Roewe on 36, and Frank DeKlotz on 35; and at Laurens,

E. A. Caswell, jeweler; W. R. Dwiggins, hotel keeper; Frank G. Thornton and Dr. J. H. Farson.

In 1885 there was a large immigration and among those that came then were Philip Kemp, Hans D. Stater, N. J. Nilsson, J. R. Greene, Samuel Tibbits, Jacob and Geo. W. Wright, to the rural districts; and Hakes Bros., merchants; L. E. Lange, editor; H. O. Austin, harness maker, and M. H. Murray to Laurens.

In 1886 there came Charles S. and Benjamin L. Allen, Geo T. Johnson, M. Messinger, J. M. Edmundson Jr., John Cook, W. J. Martin, S. H. Spickler and others.

#### STOCK FARMS.

The settlement of Swan Lake township is far more recent than that of many other parts of this county. Many of the farmers in it, however, have founded beautiful homes, are raising and fattening stock with profit and have manifested a considerable pride in giving a special and an attractive name to their farms. The plat book of 1901 shows more "stock farms" in Swan Lake township than in any other township in the county. They are as follows: Box Elder, by C. C. Krug on 34; Early Dawn, by John Shuler on 16; Evergreen, by Geo. Aschenbrenner on 35; Green Valley, by Gust Hackerson on 4; Highland, by Hans Stuter on 15; Maple Grove, by August Roewe, Jr. on 36; Orchard, by Geo. Reinhart on 9; Pocahontas, by W. D. Cottrell on 5; Swan Lake by C. F. Carlson on 3, and Willow Grove, by Adam Roehlk on 23.

#### SWAN LAKE, GARLOCK AND LAURENS POSTOFFICES.

Previous to 1877 the residents of the west part of Swan Lake township had to go to Sioux Rapids for their mail. Nov. 1, 1877 Swan Lake postoffice was established at the home of Charles L. Strong, on sec. 16, on the route from Pocahontas to Sioux Rapids, and he was appointed postmaster. Thirty

days later the name was changed to "Garlock" in honor of A. O. Garlock, then serving as county auditor. In June 1879 C. L. Strong resigned and the office was discontinued.

April 1, 1882, the Laurens postoffice was established in the store of Geo. W. Leverich and he was appointed postmaster. The succession of postmasters at Laurens has been as follows:

Geo. W. Leverich, April 1, 1882-84; Frank G. Thornton, April 1, '84-85; Montague Hakes, August 1, '85-89; Charles E. Herrick, May 1, '89-90; Geo. T. Johnson, January 1, '91-93; Louie E. Lange, January 1, 93-97; Wm. F. Atkinson, the present incumbent, since October 1, 1897.

In 1893 Laurens became a presidential office and it now ranks as one of the third class.

In December 1900 the C. R. I. & P. Ry. began to carry mail, one train each way a day.

Feb. 1, 1902 rural free delivery route No. 1, was established with Jared Hughes as mail carrier at a salary of \$500 a year. This route extends from Laurens southward to the south line of Marshall township. The route is 24 miles long, covers an area of 40 square miles and serves 105 families containing 525 persons.

**RAILWAY AGENTS:** The succession of the railway agents has been as follows.

C. & N. W. Ry.—S. R. Overton, 1882-85; C. H. Thomas, '85-87; W. A. McNee, '87-89; Frank W. Johnson, '89-91; Frank J. Lincoln, '91-93; C. A. Fairman, '93-95; L. G. Smith, since 1895.

C. R. I. & P. Ry.—J. H. McKinney, since 1900.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The first election was held at the house of John Proctor, Oct. 10, 1871. The first officers then elected were Gilbert G. Wheeler, John D. Proctor and David Hays, trustees; O. A.

Pease, a justice; Geo. W. Proctor, clerk.

The earliest records are of date, Feb. 10, 1872, when the trustees held their first meeting. Gideon G. Wheeler served as chairman, and Geo. W. Proctor as secretary. David Hays was appointed a justice to fill a vacancy and Isaac W. Peed was appointed assessor.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

**TRUSTEES:** Gilbert G. Wheeler, 1872-76; John D. Proctor, '72-73, '76-77; David Hays, '72; P. C. Harder; O. A. Pease '73-75, '79; Geo. W. Brown, '73-74; Joseph Morton, '74-76; Aaron Proctor, '76-77; A. H. Strouse, '77; John B. Strouse, '78; L. M. Strong, '79; M. Newell; R. S. Frost, '80-82; John Pettit, '80-83; H. H. Brower, '83-86; H. E. Spurrier, '83-84; F. G. Thornton; J. T. Worrall '85-87; W. F. Atkinson, '86, '95-97; John Cook, '87-88; Frank DeKlotz, '87-88; N. J. Nilsson, '88, '90-91, '99-01; Eri D. Anderson; August Roewe, '89-93; R. C. Hall, '89-91; Andrew Ostrom, '92-94; R. N. McComb, '92-98; Wm. Vance, '94-99; J. Billman, '93-1900; J. W. Cartwright, 1900-02; H. A. Moore, '01-02; W. J. Freeman.

**CLERKS:** Geo. W. Proctor '72, '74-76; Thos. W. Merchant, '73; O. A. Pease, A. H. Strouse, H. H. Brower, R. S. Frost, '83-86; L. E. Lange, '87-92; W. A. McNee, '93-94, '97-98; Andrew Ostrom, J. A. Henery, J. R. Miller, 1900-03.

**JUSTICES:** O. A. Pease, '72, '74-75; James W. Taylor, G. G. Wheeler, '73; Joseph Morton, '74-76; Geo. W. Proctor, L. M. Strong, H. H. Brower, T. J. Nelson, '83, '88-90; Jared Hughes, '83-93, 1901-02; C. H. Hutchins, S. H. Spickler, M. P. Messinger, J. L. Hopkins, John Bardue, Jesse Clifton, '95-1900; Fred Brown, F. L. Stout, B. L. Saum, 1901-02.

**ASSESSORS:** Isaac W. Peed, '72; James Taylor, Aaron Proctor, '74-76;

A. H. Strouse, '77-78; W. H. Drown, A. L. Wood, H. H. Brower, '81-82; H. Herrold, J. L. Hopkins, '86-93; Fred Dubbert, '94-95; C. L. Kester, F. E. Manatt, '96-1901; Roy Buckwalter.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

In 1872 two school houses were built, one on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 16, near the home of John B. Strouse, and the other on section 20, near the home of Geo. W. Proctor. The first teachers in the Strouse district, commencing in the fall of 1872, were Sarah Wells, Mrs. James Taylor, Charles L. Strong, Alva A. (son of J. C.) Strong and Orlando Strong. The first teachers in the other district were Addie, daughter of John Proctor and L. M. Strong.

The third school house was built on section 9, and in 1878 there were three schools. The teachers that fall were John Broadwell, Fred Herrick and Hattie Barnes.

The early school records of this township, including those of the secretary and treasurer, were burned at the time the home of John D. Proctor, the treasurer, was consumed by fire, Sept. 11, 1878. The information relating to this early period has been obtained from the survivors of the early settlers of that period.

The earliest school records now available are of date April 30, 1879, when the board consisted of Geo. W. Proctor, L. M. Strong and M. Newell, and Charles E. Herrick, served as secretary pro tem.

In this first record appears a statement from the county treasurer, W. D. McEwen, showing that their treasurer had received from him during the years, 1874 to 1878, inclusive, for building school houses, \$2,213.79, for teachers fund, \$2,321.97, for contingent expenses, \$1,315.28, and for library \$119.22; total \$5,970.26. It was decided that certain outstanding orders should not be paid.

On May 7th, following, the offices

of secretary and treasurer were declared vacant and a member of the board resigned. These vacancies were supplied by appointing Joseph Morton to serve as a member of the board, L. M. Strong, president; William H. Drown, secretary, and Charles L. Strong, treasurer. This complete change in the school officers, was a reform movement that had for its object a more economical management of the finances of the township.

The succession of the school officers, as far as could be obtained, has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** Oscar A. Pease, 1872; James W. Taylor, Geo. W. Proctor, Aaron Proctor, '75-76; L. M. Strong, Jared Hughes, '82-83; Nelson Parker, R. S. Frost, '85-87, '90; Peter Stemmin, John Cook, James Ellis, Fred Dubbert, '93-96; N. J. Nilsson, J. Bilman, C. L. Kester, W. D. Cottrell, H. A. Moore, W. C. Larson, 1902.

**SECRETARIES:** Geo. W. Proctor, '72; O. A. Pease, Geo. W. Proctor, '74-78; William H. Drown, H. H. Brower, J. L. Hopkins, '85-92; W. F. Atkinson, '93-96; Fred Dubbert, '97-1902.

**TREASURERS:** John D. Proctor, '72-78; C. L. Strong, A. H. Strouse, H. H. Brower, Geo. Leverich, T. Nelson, Dr. J. M. Carroll, '85-92, Andrew Ostrum, Frank DeKlotz, '94-98; J. L. Pattee, August Roewe, 1901-02.

Early teachers in Swan Lake township were Sarah Wells, Mrs. James Taylor, Charles L., Orlando and Alva A. Strong, Addie Proctor, L. M. Strong, Louie E. Lange.

Among recent teachers have been Ruth Seright, T. J. Lynch, Mamie Vance and Rolland Nelson.

**PUBLIC OFFICERS.**

Swan Lake has been represented by the following public officers.

**CORONER:** Dr. J. M. Carroll, 1885, '90.

**Attorney:** Byron J. Allen, '89-90.

**SUPERVISORS:** L. D. Beardsley,

'87-90; J. L. Hopkins' '91-92; Louie E. Lange, '96.

REPRESENTATIVES: M. E. DeWolf, '98-99; Fred C. Gilchrist, 1902-03.

#### INTERESTING EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was that of Frank, son of John B. Strouse, Dec. 31, 1870.

The first wedding occurred Aug. 29, 1880, when O. A. Pease, justice, performed the ceremony for Fred Pease and Clara Wood.

John D. Proctor, who located on sec. 18 in 1869, was the oldest inhabitant of the township and also of the county while he remained in it, 1869-1880. He was born in Virginia in 1801.

Robert S. Frost, a resident of this township, was the last mail carrier from Pocahontas to Sioux Rapids, 1880-82.

Homesteads were secured in it by Isaac W. Peed on 14, John B. Strouse on 16, Geo. W. Proctor on 20, Gilbert G. Wheeler and O. A. Pease on 30. A timber claim of 40 acres on 28 was entered by Emma Hirschfield in 1883.

The household goods and stock of W. F. Atkinson were the first freight goods unloaded at the Laurens station. This was in March 1882, when two buildings had already been erected. The lumber for them had been hauled on wagons from far distant towns.

During the severe blizzard of Jan. 12-13, 1888, Richard Olney of Marathan froze to death along the railroad two miles west of Laurens. Samuel Tibbets, finding his team refused to face the storm, overturned the sleigh and, remaining under its shelter with a daughter and child fourteen hours, they were badly frozen.

#### TRAPPING AND HUNTING.

Muskrats, mink, skunks, badgers, foxes, otters, lynx, and occasionally panthers, deer and elk were found there. Trapping claims were often bought from the land agents representing the absent owners, and the trapper often had to protect his ex-

clusive right to them (p. 274.) by driving off intruders with gun in hand. When intruders were caught they were usually given about two hours to gather their traps and depart.

So important was this industry to the early settlers that some of them employed men to trap for them. John B. Strouse thus employed Jacob Wisecarver of Ohio to assist him during the winter of 69 and 70, and later Samuel Harvey of Wisconsin and Wm. Cahill.

A fox chase was sometimes the most interesting event that happened from one year's end to the other. The fleet-footed fox could outrun the common dogs of the neighborhood, and reynard was seldom captured except when hunters came from a distance, bringing a pack of hounds with them. During the later 70's a company of hunters from Waterloo visited this place once a year and they came fully equipped for hunting water fowl, fishing in the lake and chasing the fox. A cordial welcome was always extended this party for no other sport in the early days was quite so exhilarating, or so tended to vary the monotony of that period, as a good fox chase, with hounds and horses on the open prairie.

#### TOWN OF LAURENS.

Laurens, one of the largest and most important towns in the county, is located in the northwest part of the county, on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, and the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 22, Swan Lake township. It was platted Nov. 10-11, 1881, by P. Folsom, surveyor, for the Western Town Lot Co., of which Albert Keep was president and J. B. Redfield secretary. The original plat contained blocks 1 to 12, south of the depot, and it still embraces the business part of the town.

Oct. 10, 1883, A. O. Garlock, owner, had Oscar L. Strong plat the s $\frac{1}{2}$  sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 22, north of the depot, as North Laurens. The high school building is located in this part of the town.





MR. AND MRS. GEO. T. JOHNSON, ROY, MILO AND CORAL; LAURENS.

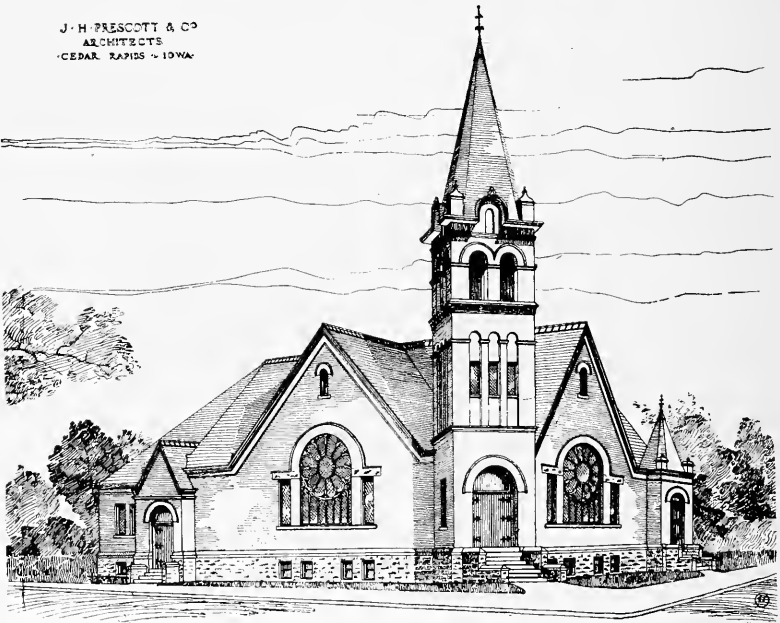


DR. JOSEPH M. CARROLL, WIFE AND DAUGHTERS, ALMA AND FLORA; LAURENS



DR. J. W. HIGGINS, LAURENS.

J. H. PRESCOTT & CO  
ARCHITECTS  
CEDAR RAPIDS - IOWA



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LAURENS. DEDICATED MARCH 6, 1904.

Oct. 25, 1892, the Allen Land & Loan Co. platted the  $w\frac{1}{2}$  ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, H. W. Bissell, surveyor. Other additions have also been made.

June 17, 1901, the corporate territory of the town was enlarged by the addition of 120 acres on the east side of it so that it now extends three quarters of a mile north and east from the half mile stake between sections 27 and 28.

This town was named in honor of Henry and John Laurens, father and son. They were French Huguenots, became residents of Charleston, S. C., and distinguished themselves by their patriotism and loyalty to the Colonial cause during the Revolution. Henry (1724-92) was a member from South Carolina of the first provincial congress in 1775 and was president of the Continental congress in 1777 and 1778. John (1756-82) was an aide to Washington in all his battles during the Revolution, and was killed in a skirmish at its close.

The site of the town is upon a high, rolling prairie, one mile south of Swan Lake, and five miles south of Rush Lake. The C. R. I. & P. Ry. depot is just twelve miles from the one on the same line at Pocahontas and the track is 100 feet higher than at the latter place. No town in this vicinity has any better natural advantages. The country around it is as rich and fertile as any the sun shines upon, and the class of people who have located here possess those sterling qualities of character that give a high moral tone to the community. The enterprise and thrift of the young business men of this town have come to be felt in other localities, and the public recognition secured by several of them in recent years has been a real surprise in other parts of the county.

"Here in the wilds of Iowa," where, a few short years ago, the untutored savage aimlessly roamed or chased the wild buffalo, and the foot of the white

man had never trod, is today a flourishing city of 1,000 people, who have established prosperous industries and built splendid business blocks, elegant residences, handsome churches, ample schools and modern hotels. The town has long since passed the doubtful stage, and is now occupying a well earned position, as one of the leading towns of the county, numerically, materially, morally and politically. The development of the city is a monument to the faith, ambition, energy and perseverance of the men who changed the haunts of the wily savage to a busy metropolis.

Dame Nature has been kind to Laurens by providing for the city a variety of natural resources, that may be transmuted into valuable products, and a number of attractions that appeal to the aesthetic instincts of those who behold them. "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." This is eminently true of Laurens. The natural scenery is beautiful and its attractive power has been enhanced by the skill of the architect, the hand of the builder and the influence of those moral and educational facilities, that are the precursors of culture and refinement.

"The advancement of Laurens has not been spasmodic, but steady, healthy and continuous, each year leaving the community more firmly established than the preceding one. There has been no bubble of a boom to occasion regret, but a steady advance toward commercial greatness and leadership.

The population is principally American, and the people are cultured, refined and united. A home here now combines the quiet enjoyment of the country with the conveniences and delights of a large city."\*

It has two railways, the Chicago & Northwestern, and Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, that afford excellent shipping facilities in every direction.

\*Iowa Publishing Co., 1893.

It has a large school building, four churches, four elevators, two banks, a creamery, a grist mill, an opera house, good hotels, and a full quota of business houses. It has also good representatives of the legal, medical and clerical professions.

The headquarters of several extensive and important business interests are located at Laurens. The following companies, doing business in other localities also, have their principal offices at this place, namely, DeWolf & Wells successors of Wilson & DeWolf, who have seven elevators along the Milwaukee and Northwestern railroads; Hinn Bros., who have creameries at Laurens, Marathon, Mud Lake, Havelock and Pocahontas; M. and J. R. Hakes, poultry dealers, who buy stock at every town from Humboldt to Hawarden on the Northwestern railroad; and the Wheeler Grain and Coal Co., composed of L. W., W. S. and M. M. Wheeler, who coming from Kankakee, Ill., in 1909, have become proprietors of elevators at Laurens, Leverett, Ware and Pocahontas, and have their headquarters at Laurens. The spirit of leadership seems to be in the very air that these people breathe.

The survey of the Toledo, now the Chicago & N. W. Ry. was made in April, 1881, the track was laid through Swan Lake township in March 1882 and by the end of May there were running four trains a day, but it made the spectator laugh to see the mail and express, which consisted of an engine, the tender and one small coach, that went bobbing along after it over the rough and muddy track, like a bustle trying to follow a Grecian bend, the mud spurting from under the ties as the ponderous engine passed over them.

#### FIRST SETTLERS AT LAURENS.

Geo. W. Leverich and wife, who arrived Dec. 15, 1881, were the first to locate at the new town of Laurens.

He secured the erection of the first building, opened the first store—a hardware and grocery—and became the first post master about April 1, 1882. He lived in the rooms over the store and used them as a hotel more than a year. This building was afterwards owned and occupied by the Johnson Bros. who kept a general store.

S. F. Sturdivan erected the second business house, and opened a general store in the spring of 1882. The Shoemaker Bros. built the third one and opened a hardware store. The first dwelling house was built by Hiram Herrold and was located on Fourth street. The Methodists secured the erection of the first church building.

On Sept. 1, 1882, at the end of the first season it was found the population had increased to fifty persons and the business interests were represented by one general store, a furniture, a hardware, and an implement store, two lumber and two coal yards, a meat market, blacksmith shop, drug store and hotel. In 1890 the population had increased to 318, in 1900 to 853 and in 1902 to 1000.

In 1895 a good system of water-works was erected at a cost of \$1,800 by the Challenge Wind Mill Co., of Batavia, Ill. It consists of a 22 foot tank set on a steel tower 80 feet high, and a pump that is propelled by a gasoline engine.

#### GREAT FIRE OF 1898.

Although several of the homes of the pioneers of Swan Lake township had been consumed by fire, including those of John B. Strouse in 1872 and again in 1877, and of John D. Proctor in 1878, it was, for more than fifteen years, the pride of the people of Laurens that the town "had never had a fire." The town was, however, not destined to be free from the ravages of the fire fiend.

The first fire occurred on the night of March 20, 1897, when the large barn

of Geo. H. Bunton, containing 350 tons of hay belonging to T. F. Shufflebotham, was entirely consumed. The water-works were brought into use as soon as enough help arrived to pull the hose cart through the mud, but a constant stream was not opened upon it until nine o'clock the next morning, the water being reserved to protect the town in the event of wind. The loss was estimated at \$2,000 of which \$1000 on the hay was covered by an insurance.

On March 8, 1893 the town was visited by the most disastrous fire in the history of Pocahontas county. The west side of Main street, in the business portion of the town, was swept almost clean the length of a block. The loss sustained included ten buildings and their contents, valued at \$50,000.

This fire was discovered about 4 o'clock in the morning, in the rear of the hardware store of Moore & Stacy. The fire company assembled with remarkable promptness and in a short time three streams of water were playing on the burning building, but these means were powerless to check the progress of the rapidly devouring element. The flames soon spread to the hardware and furniture store of Shoemaker & Anderson, the general store of M. and J. R. Hakes, and then to all the other frame buildings in that block, including the ice house of M. M. Noah.

A brief summary of the losses sustained showed as follows: M. and J. R. Hake's building and stock of general merchandise \$30,000 insurance \$5,000; Shoemaker & Anderson, a double building and stock \$7,000, insurance, \$1,500; Johnson Bros. (G. T. and S. D.) general merchants, building and stock \$3,700, insurance \$700; F. O. Younggren, merchant, stock \$1,500, insurance \$500, in building owned by Mat Jensen \$1,000; M. C. Adams, building and restaurant supplies \$2,-

000 insurance \$800; E. H. Southworth two buildings and harness stock \$2,200 insurance \$800; Moore & Stacy building and stock \$2,500; First National Bank building and fixtures \$2,000, F. C. Gilchrist \$100 therein; Erickson sisters, milliners, \$200, in building owned by E. C. Stott, \$500; M. M. Noah, ice house \$800; Dr. P. Gallaher office fixtures \$100; B. L. Saum and J. H. Willey office fixtures \$50.

This fire was believed to be the work of an incendiary. The work of the fire company was entirely satisfactory and there was a full supply of water. The first one to rebuild was M. M. Noah, who immediately built another house over the ice that remained. Others that suffered the loss of buildings very soon cleared away the charred memorials of their sad loss and erected more substantial ones of brick in their places.

On the west side of Main street there is now a solid block of one story brick buildings, finished with pressed brick and large plate glass windows. They are substantial in appearance and are provided with new and convenient fixtures. A beautiful cement sidewalk extends the entire length of the block in front and some of the buildings have a cemented cellar, brick vaults and an elevator.

The disastrous character and speedy recovery of Laurens from the baptism of fire, remind one of the experience of Chicago in recovering so quickly from the great loss sustained by the ever memorable fire of 1871. It is pleasant to note the noble rivalry between these two ambitious cities. Of Chicago it may be said that one hundred years ago it could not be found on the map, sixty years ago it was merely the chief town of a county, 25 years ago it was the chief city of a state, but it is now the intellectual, industrial and financial capital of an empire—the great Middle West—

which is now tributary to her. The commercial leadership already attained by the citizens of Laurens is a harbinger of the greater supremacy that shall follow in the years that are to come.

#### GOWRIE & NORTHWESTERN R. R. 1900.

In 1900 the citizens of Laurens, by voluntary contributions, paid the Gowrie & Northwestern R. R. Co., \$3,715, the cost of the right of way and depot grounds at that place.

This line was opened to traffic Nov, 18, 1900 and two days later, that fact was duly celebrated at Pocahontas and Sibley. It began to carry mail Dec 17, 1900, and Jan. 15, 1901, it was sold to the C., R. I. & P. Ry., for \$1,579,315.58. A mortgage for this amount was given an Eastern loan company, and the recording of the deed and mortgage at Pocahontas cost \$2,220. J. H. McKinney has been the local agent since August 1900, and Joseph Murray was the first operator of the interlocking switch.

The depot on this road at Laurens is just 12 miles from the one at Pocahontas. The track is 100 feet higher at Laurens and 200 feet higher, along the west bank of Pickerel Lake, than at Pocahontas.

#### PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION.

July 4, 1885, was the first great day in the early history of the town. On that occasion the citizens celebrated the birthday of American freedom with all the pomp and splendor appropriate for such an occasion. The day was clear, powder burned, fire crackers banged, sky rockets shot high in the air and the stars and stripes waved more gloriously than ever before.

At the public meeting held at the bowery erected for the occasion Dr. J. H. Farson presided; Rev. F. H. Hungerford offered prayer; Miss Chapman read Whittier's poem, Liberty and Independence and also the Declaration of Independence, and Cleland

Gilchrist delivered the oration. At the afternoon meeting toasts were responded to as follows: Rev. F. H. Hungerford, Our Country; Louie Lange, American Liberty; and S. R. Overton, American Progress.

#### SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS.

The town of Laurens was incorporated June 12, 1890, and at the first election the following officers were chosen: Mayor, B. E. Allen; recorder, W. A. McNeer; treasurer, S. D. Johnson; councilmen, Montague Hakes, J. P. Shoemaker, R. C. Hall, Geo. F. Johnson, Geo. H. Bunton and D. J. Allen.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

MAYORS: B. E. Allen 1890-91, Louie E. Lange '92-95, Milton M. Noah '96-99, J. A. Harvey 1900-01, M. M. Noah.

RECORDER: William A. McNeer 1890-1902.

TREASURERS: S. D. Johnson, Daniel Davis, F. L. Stone '92-93, F. E. Brown '94-95, J. R. Hakes, H. W. Ludwig '97-99, E. G. Cool 1900-02.

COUNCILMEN: M. Hakes 1890-94, J. P. Shoemaker '90-94, R. C. Hall, G. T. Johnson '90-98; G. H. Bunton, D. J. Allen, B. L. Allen '91-96, Charles F. Kreul '91-98, W. E. Caswell '91-1902, Eri D. Anderson '95-1902, C. J. Bovee '95-1902, J. R. Tool '97-99, J. R. Hakes '99-1902, W. E. Crowder '99-1901, C. S. Jones 1900-02, Anton E. Wells 1902.

#### THE CHURCHES.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL — The first religious services in Laurens were held in the waiting room of the depot after it was completed in the spring of 1882 and they were conducted by Rev. A. W. Richards of old Rolfe. Jeremiah Brower, a local preacher who lived in the vicinity of Pickerel Lake, in Buena Vista county, held occasional services that season in the neighboring school houses and also in the depot. A Methodist appointment was soon established and it formed for several years a part of the Marathon charge. During this period it was served by

the following pastors. Revs. F. H. Hungerford, Rhinehart Hild, Levi Jarvis, and Robert Burnip, '88-91.

Dec. 5, 1891 it was organized as a separate charge during the pastorate of Rev. E. J. Bristow, Rev. Jesse Cole serving as presiding elder.

The families that united to form this organization in 1891 were those of Charles S. Allen, Jacob P. Shoemaker, Jeremiah Brower, Fred L. Buckwalter, W. V. Moore, Daniel Davis, Joseph Brower, Dr. Joseph M. Carroll, Joseph Southworth.

The first officers were as follows: Local preacher, F. L. Buckwalter; stewards, Dr. J. M. Carroll, J. P. Shoemaker, Mrs. W. V. Moore; trustees, Charles S. Allen, D. Davis, Joseph Brower.

The succession of pastors has been as follows: Edmund J. Bristow to May 5, 1893; Geo. F. Whitfield to Oct. 1, 1894; S. C. Olds, one year; R. A. Quinn four years, '95-99; Geo. P. Hathaway, one year; A. W. Luce, two years; H. C. Chambers, the present pastor, who began his labors Oct. 1, 1902.

A church building, 28x44 feet, was built in 1888 at a cost of \$1500; and a parsonage in 1900, at a cost of \$1200. Since its organization this church has numbered among its officials many of the most cultured and influential people of the community; and the congregation is now contemplating the erection of a new and larger building.

The present officers are as follows: Stewards,—Mrs. B. E. Allen, Mrs. T. B. Mather, Mrs. T. D. Landon; trustees,—C. S. Allen, P. G. Weittenhiller, J. M. Turner, Dr. J. M. Carroll, B. L. Saum, John King, J. W. Mick, J. P. Shoemaker; class leaders,—J. H. McKinney, S. G. Peterson; S. S. Superintendents,—J. H. McKinney, W. H. Roewe; president of Epworth League, Elizabeth Atkinson.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.—As a result of a protracted meeting, held by Rev. Bruce Brown, the Church of Christ

was organized Feb. 1, 1892, with sixty members. The officers then elected were: G. H. Bunton and Daniel Davis, elders; G. T. Johnson and T. B. Steel, deacons; G. T. Johnson, treasurer; and Fred Starr, clerk.

Nov. 6, 1892, a fine church building, 50x80 feet, was dedicated at a cost of \$3500, in the north part of the town. It has now a membership of 150.

The succession of pastors has been as follows: C. H. Mattox, April 20, 1892—July 1, '93; D. A. Hunter, July 15, '93—July 15, '95; T. F. Olenmeller, Oct. 1, '95—Oct. 1, '96; C. R. Neel, Oct. 1, '96—Apr. 1, '98; W. B. Cash, Apr. 1, '98—Oct. 1, '99; A. E. Major, Oct. 1, '99—Aug. 1901; Edward Wright, Sept. 1901—June 1902; J. C. Hauna, the present pastor since Sept. 21, 1902.

The elders in 1902 were, R. C. Hall, Frank Stacy, and O. M. Murphey; deacons,—J. E. Clanton, Roland Nelson, Fred Sawtell, H. M. Spencer, B. C. Coel and John Cromwell.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN: The Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel congregation of Laurens was organized July 4, 1897, by Rev. Mr. Mutschmann, of Boscobel, Wis. Several families having moved from his parish to Laurens, he visited them, effected their organization and entrusted them to the care of neighboring pastors. The succession of pastors has been as follows: Rev. Mr. Matthias, C. Ida, Mr. Dralle, J. Pless, the present pastor since November 1899.

The families that united to form the original organization were those of August Ehlers, Charles F. and Henry A. Kreul, William and George Hinn, George Kreul, A. Roehlk, John Krohn, C. J. Drecssen, and Jacob Kern. The first officers were John Drecssen, H. A. Kreul and Adam Roehlk. The officers in 1902 were William Hinn, Geo. Hinn and H. A. Kreul. The membership in 1902 included fifteen families, representing seventy-three souls.

Rev. J. Pless also serves the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran church at Pocahontas. This congregation was organized in Lincoln township in 1893 by Rev. O. Stachling, of Lizard township, who, in 1896, was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Weltner. In 1900, when the railroad came, the place of meeting was changed to Pocahontas and that fall this congregation became a part of the pastorate of J. Pless, of Laurens. The next year a church, 32x48 feet and costing \$2,400, was built and dedicated Sept. 14, 1901. This congregation includes twenty-six families, 140 souls. The officers in 1902 were J. DeWall, J. H. DeWall, F. Weltner, Wm. Boog, H. DeWall, G. Bottin, and G. Aden.

**SWEDISH LUTHERAN:** The Swedish Lutherans are quite numerous in the vicinity of Laurens, and, during the early 90's, they secured the erection of a church building, costing about \$1,800, at Laurens. They have a resident pastor, Rev. R. Beckstrom, who has served them a long time in the pastorate. Their house of worship is used also by the German Lutherans.

**CATHOLIC:** Catholic services have been maintained at Laurens several years by Rev. P. H. McCauley and Rev. Joseph Murtagh, successive pastors, of the Rolfe Catholic church. In 1901 a neat church building was built at Laurens at a cost of \$1,800.

#### THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The Independent school district of Laurens was established Feb. 14, 1891, including the south half of sections 21 and 22, the north half of sections 33 and 34 and all of sections 27 and 28; and this act of the township school board received public approval Feb. 25 following, by a vote of 29 to 3.

The first election in this district was held March 9, 1891, in the office of Beardsley & Allen. W. E. Caswell served as chairman of the town meeting and Jesse Clifton as secretary. Daniel Davis, W. E. Caswell and Al-

fred Darnell were elected a board of directors; and a tax of \$300 was levied to complete the two upper rooms of the school building.

March 16th 1891, the board organized by the election of Daniel Davis, president; W. E. Caswell, secretary; and W. A. McNee, treasurer. A teachers' fund of \$1200 was levied and the school term increased to nine months.

The first school in Laurens was taught by L. M. Starr during the winter of 1882-83. It was held in the second story of Shoemakers' hardware store and was attended by six pupils, two each from the families of Dr. Carroll, Joseph Cranton and Hiram Herrold. Jared Hughes was elected the director that year.

The first building had only one room and was built in 1883. In 1889 a four room frame building was built at a cost of \$3000. Only the two lower rooms were completed and during the next two years it continued to be used as a township building. In 1891, when the independent district was established, the building was completed and two additional teachers employed. In 1896 the fifth teacher was added. In 1900 the building was enlarged and improved at a cost of \$7000. In 1902 seven teachers were employed and 300 scholars were enrolled.

The school building, a large frame structure, is located on the summit north of the C. & N. W. depot where it towers in bold relief at the north end of Third street. It is a credit to the town and its rooms are open to pupils from the township. The course of study is equal to any in the public schools of Northwest Iowa and parents find here the facilities for giving their children a good education.

In October 1900, in response to a proposition made by Hon. Geo. W. Schee, of Primghar, to donate \$100 for a library the school children raised \$50, the citizens \$150 and a library costing \$300 was put in the high school.



Mr. Schee has helped many poor boys to obtain a good education by putting them in a position to help themselves. It is his desire by means of libraries of this sort to aid as many children as possible of Northwest Iowa.

Louie E. Lange taught the school four years, 1886—89, in the one room building. In the new building he was succeeded by Prof. Gates and Myra Steward in 1889 and 1890, who had as assistants respectively, Viola Eaton and Anna L. Shoemaker.

The succession of principals since the establishment of the independent district has been as follows: Gilger E. McKinnon, 1891; Jesse Gates, G. A. Emery, W. P. Fobes, Lillian L. Crissley, C. C. Hodges, '96—97; E. L. Groat, '98—1902; W. H. Reeve.

The assistants have been Myra Steward, Ida M. Moore, Ida M. Barrett, Anna L. Shoemaker, Grace M. Roewe, Minnie E. Curtis, Kate L. Seright, '93—96; Julia A. Riddle, Cora Montgomery, Mrs. G. E. McKinnon, Jessie B. Lawson, '95—97; J. J. Lynch, Carrie E. Carrick, Lillian Wheeler, Bessie B. Arnold, Cora A. Hall, '97—1902; Clara E. Boothroyd, '98—1900; Bessie B. Osnald, Marie Vance, Anna Fouche, '99—1900; Jessie Campbell, '99—1900; Mrs. Kate Melson, Flora V. Noble, '99—02; Dence Braley, Tessa Douglass, Alice McDougall, Altha Curry.

The high school was organized in 1897 and the following classes have graduated from it.

1898, Flora Carroll, Roy Hunter, May Galleher, Daniel W. Bovee.

1899, Maud Allen, Ethel Saum, Lena Hughes, Orin Nelson.

In 1901 the course of study was extended to twelve years.

1902, Albert H. Kreul, Bernice Olson, Vira V. Davis, Elizabeth Allen, Oliver E. Atkinson.

In 1901 the ladies of the Mother's Club secured the loan of 100 volumes from the State Library—50 for adults

and 50 for young people. This library was placed in the store of Stacy & Weaver and it was open to all applicants free of charge from 3 to 5 o'clock every Saturday afternoon beginning April 20th, for a short time.

**NOBLE OPERA HOUSE.**—One of the recent improvements worthy of special mention is the opera house built in 1902 by V. A. Noble. He was the owner of the Commercial House, built by Robert Foust in 1883, and, removing it to another part of the town to be used as a dwelling house, he erected in its place a double brick block, the lower story of which is used for store rooms and the upper one for an opera house. This hall is 60x80 feet and has a platform 30x40 feet, that is furnished with elaborate and artistic scenic effects. The auditorium will seat 537 persons and its acoustic properties are excellent. The formal opening Oct. 16, 1902 was the occasion of an important society event. The house was crowded with the best people of the community and many visitors from neighboring towns, to witness the performance of the play entitled, "The Wrong Mr. Wright." Many of the ladies wore beautiful gowns prepared for the occasion, and the receipts were nearly \$1000. It is a commodious and beautiful auditorium and the citizens gave Mr. Noble a bonus of \$1500 to encourage him to build it.

#### G. A. R., LAURENS.

The G. A. R. Post of Laurens was organized on the evening of Jan. 29, 1884, by Comrade A. L. Burnell, of Pattersonville, assisted by C. L. Davison, L. V. C. of the department of Iowa, as follows: Commander, B. E. Allen; L. V. C., Philip Herrold; J. V. C., Jared Hughes; Adj't., Stephen Sturdivan; Searg., Geo. W. Proctor; Chap., J. Brown; Q. M., Robert C. Jones; O. D., Nelson Parker; S. M., Daniel Pew; Q. M. S., Peter Urban; Comrades, Albert L. Wood, Edward

Burke, J. B. Gifford, Robert Frost, John Pettit, C. W. Bahm.

#### LAURENS SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The succession of the Laurens school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** Daniel Davis, 1891-92; M. M. Noah, '93-96; C. J. Boyce, '97; C. F. Krael, '98-99; W. E. Crowder, 1900; M. M. Noah, '01-02.

**SECRETARIES:** W. E. Caswell, '91-92; H. O. Austin, Jesse Clifton, '93-1901; E. E. Narey, E. G. Coel.

**TREASURERS:** W. A. McNeely, '91-92; B. L. Allen, '93-1902.

Others that served as members of the board were W. E. Caswell, Alfred Darnell, W. V. Moore, F. O. Nichols, J. N. Furness, Geo. T. Johnson, '93-99; J. J. Lynch, R. C. Hall, '95-1902; J. E. Peterson, O. M. Murphy, Hon. M. E. DeWolf.

#### LEADING BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

##### FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

This bank was established as a private institution in 1889 and in September 1892 was incorporated as a National bank. Its officers from the first have been F. H. Hessel, president; J. P. Farmer, vice-president; W. A. McNeely, cashier, L. D. Beardsley and G. E. McKinnon, assistant cashiers a few years ago, have been succeeded by C. E. Narey. The capital stock is \$50,000.

This bank is located on the corner south of the depot and is provided with a fire proof vault, burglar proof safes and the Diebold automatic time device.

The officers of this bank are proprietors of several others in the vicinity of Laurens, and have a high standing in commercial circles. They are careful, conservative men, and are endeavoring to extend to their patrons all the advantages of a safe banking institution.

##### DEWOLF & WELLS.

M. E. DeWolf and Anson E. Wells, in the fall of 1902, became the suc-

cessors of (A. J.) Wilson & DeWolf as proprietors of a line of elevators at Laurens, Havelock, Marathon, Varina, Albert City and Webb, and a bank business at Curlew, with the principal office at Laurens. The firm of Wilson & DeWolf was formed in 1895, when they bought elevators at Laurens and Havelock. In 1899 they built elevators at Albert City, Varina, Webb and Marathon. In 1901 they became the owners of the elevator of Geo. H. Bunton, Laurens, and in the spring of 1902, in place of the two elevators then owned, they built a large one at Laurens, that has a capacity of 60,000 bushels, modern hopper bins, conveniences for elevating corn in the ear and a shelter that can shell 500 bushels of corn in an hour.

On Oct. 1, 1902, Anson E. Wells of Laurens, who had previously disposed of his elevator interests at Laurens and Havelock to the Wells-Hood Grain Co., of Central City, Neb., purchased the elevator interests of Hon. A. J. Wilson and thus became a member of the firm of DeWolf & Wells. The banking business at Curlew, that was included in the deal, was soon disposed of and the new firm, with its headquarters at Laurens, is devoting its sole attention to the work of its line of elevators located at the six other towns above named. This firm does a vast amount of business and is the disbursing agent of a large amount of money. They ship annually more than 1,000 cars of grain that average 1,000 bushels to the car.

##### WELLS BROS.

Wells Bros., Anson E. and A. A., grain buyers at Havelock, in 1897 purchased an elevator at Laurens and located there. They had been engaged in the grain business since 1888 and had become familiar with all its details. They secured the management of elevators at Laurens, Havelock and Curlew, a bank at



DANIEL J. ALLEN. LAURENS.

1832-1897.



M. E. De WOLF,  
REPRESENTATIVE, 1898-99.



FRED. C. GILCHRIST,  
REPRESENTATIVE, 1902-03.



CHARLES S. ALLEN.  
BANKER.



MONTAGUE HAKES,  
REPRESENTATIVE, 1904-05.

LAURENS.

Curlew, and had the principal office at Laurens since 1897.

June 1, 1902, this firm of Wells Bros. sold their elevators at Laurens, Havelock and Curlew to the Wells-Hood Grain Co., of Central City, Neb.

Oct. 1, following, Anson E. Wells bought the elevator interests of Hon. A. J. Wilson and thus became a member of the new firm of DeWolf & Wells, who are the proprietors of a half dozen elevators in the vicinity of Laurens and have their principal office at that place. A. A. Wells has become a resident of Marathon. The firm of Wells Bros. for several years was a very prominent one in this county and its proprietors were always ready to do their share toward the upbuilding of the towns in which their elevators were located.

#### WHEELER GRAIN & COAL CO.

The Wheeler Grain & Coal Co., with headquarters at Laurens, is one of the new enterprises established in this county, as a result of the construction of the new railway—the C. R. I. & P.—in 1900. This company was incorporated Aug. 15, 1900 with a paid up capital stock of \$20,000. They own and operate elevators at Pocahontas, Ware, Laurens and Leverett, Iowa, that are unsurpassed in their facilities for handling grain. They have low driveways, patent controllable dumps, Fairbank's Standard scales and the machinery is propelled in each by gasoline engines. L. W. Wheeler, the president and general manager of the company came from Kankakee, Ill., where for several years he was assistant cashier of the City National bank. The other stockholders and directors are H. H. Wheeler, vice-president, and W. S. Wheeler, secretary.

#### ALLEN BROS., BANKERS AND LOAN AGENTS.

The history of Laurens would not be complete, if it did not include an account of the rise and progress of

the business interests established by D. J. Allen & Sons, now Allen Bros., bankers and dealers in real estate and live stock. The rapid growth and expansion of their business enterprises is almost without a parallel in the history of Pocahontas county.

These men, now occupying a leading place in the business interests of Laurens, Ware and Pocahontas, were first represented in this county in the year 1886. In February 1886, two brothers, Charles S. and Benjamin L., sons of D. J. Allen of Marshall county, having previously obtained possession of several thousand acres of unimproved land in this vicinity, came to Laurens with a capital of \$35,000 and, purchasing the two private banks of Geo. W. Leverich and M. B. Caswell, united them and established in their place the Exchange Bank of Laurens. They also at the same time and place established a Land & Loan Agency. D. J. Allen & Sons were the sole proprietors of both of these institutions, and they were personally conducted by Charles S. and Benjamin L. Allen. Later they established a loan agency at Pocahontas. In 1887 they were joined by their brother, Byron J. Allen, an attorney, who located at Pocahontas and took charge of the office at that place.

In 1890 D. J. Allen, their father, became a resident of Laurens, and in 1891 another bank was established at Pocahontas under the management of Byron J. Allen, president.

July 1, 1892 the business interests of D. J. Allen & Sons were re-organized and their scope greatly enlarged. The capital of the Exchange Bank at Laurens was increased to \$50,000, and it was incorporated as the State Bank of Laurens under the following directors, D. J. Allen, Frank Deklotz, Eri D. Anderson, G. H. Bunton, Louie E. Lange, S. F. Sturdivan and C. S. Allen. The officers then chosen were C. S. Allen, president, Frank

Deklotz, vice-president and B. L. N. Carlson, cashier, with a capital of \$10,000.

The Land & Loan Agency was reorganized as the Allen Land & Loan Company, and its capital stock was increased to \$136,400. The new officers were D. J. Allen, president, C. S. Allen, secretary and treasurer, and B. L. Allen, assistant secretary. That same year a double two story brick building, costing \$11,000, was built for the bank at Laurens. This building is provided with a fire proof vault, burglar proof chests and all possible safe-guards.

January 24, 1893, the other bank was reorganized as the State Bank of Pocahontas and its capital increased to \$25,000. The officers then chosen were C. S. Allen, president, Terrence Doyle, vice-president and T. F. McCartan, cashier.

In 1893 they had the Iowa Publishing Co., of Dubuque, prepare and print for free distribution, a large edition of a seventy page pamphlet, that gave an excellent account of the agricultural resources, manufacturing industries and business interests of Pocahontas county. They endeavored to attract to this locality new settlers and outside capital, by making known through this excellent advertising publication the opportunities for safe and profitable investment, in the rich and productive lands of Pocahontas county.

December 31, 1896 the charter of the State Bank at Pocahontas was surrendered and the business there sold to Heald, Stegge & McCartan; but January 1, 1900 the bank of "Allen Bros." was re-established there with a capital of \$10,000 under the management of J. H. Allen, president, C. S. Allen, vice-president, F. W. Lindeman, cashier, and B. L. Allen, assistant cashier. They also established the same year (1900) the Savings Bank at Ware under the management of B. L. Allen, president, M. T. Nilsson, vice-president, and C.

With the progress of years some changes have taken place in the personnel of the State Bank at Laurens. D. J. Allen died in 1897, Charles L. Allen continues to be president and M. T. Nilsson is cashier. It is now one of the most popular and successful banking institutions of northwest Iowa and enjoys fully the confidence of the people. Its constant aim is to serve its patrons faithfully and afford them every facility and convenience consistent with safe and conservative banking.

During the years that have passed, the Allen Bros. have permanently invested many thousands of dollars, in the erection of some of the finest buildings in Laurens and Pocahontas. Utilizing their lands for raising and feeding stock, they have become leaders in that business, carrying each year several thousand sheep, hogs and cattle. Under their skillful management their capital has rapidly increased. If however they have reaped bountifully during the recent years of unrivaled prosperity, it is because they had previously sown with a liberal hand. The times have been prosperous and they were in a position to ride upon the crest of the wave. Their names have become inseparably connected with the growth and prosperity of this county, especially of the cities of Laurens, Pocahontas and Ware.

The banking institutions of a community indicate the character or development of its commercial interests better than any other, because, they constitute the medium of exchange, that supplies the life currents to business enterprises. They are as serviceable and indispensable to commercial life as the veins and arteries, through which the blood circulates, are to the animal organism.

The people of Laurens are to be congratulated on the solid and substantial character of their banking institutions and the constant increase in the amount of their deposits.

HAKES BROS., MONTAGUE AND JAMES R., POULTRY DEALERS.

Hakes Bros., merchants and poultry dealers, who used to make the sale of general merchandise their principal business, have made it easy for the farmers of Pocahontas county to realize a handsome profit raising poultry. They have studied the eastern markets and learned what is wanted. They have also learned how to dress, pack and ship poultry so as to receive for it the highest price.

Perceiving that capons brought the highest price paid for chickens, they were not deterred by the difficulties incident to raising them and, believing that Pocahontas county could produce the best, in the summer of 1894 they secured a man familiar with the art of caponizing roosters and sent him through the country to do this work for all their customers free of charge, the only condition being that they be allowed to handle their surplus poultry paying for it the highest market price.

This experiment proved so satisfactory that a large majority of the poultry raisers in the vicinity of Laurens adopted this method of raising poultry and the Hakes Bros. in 1897 and 1900 extended their trade to Rolfe, Marathon and many other localities on the two lines of railway centering at Laurens.

The price paid for capons varies according to the weight of the fowl, the heaviest ones bringing the highest price per pound. The following illustrations, showing the experience of several of their customers living in the vicinity of Rolfe, have been noted by the Reveille and much of this article has been taken from the columns of that excellent paper.

Harry K. Squires, who raises a good grade of Plymouth Rocks, sold the first year 23 capons that averaged 8½ pounds and four of them brought \$1.00 each. In 1901 Squires delivered 36 capons. Two averaged 13 pounds and brought \$1.30 each; 18 averaged 10 pounds and brought \$1.00 each; and 16 averaged 8 pounds. Benjamin Ritters delivered 14 capons and received \$14.00. W. S. Butler delivered 50 capons and received an average of 80 cents. James Cunningham, who raised 200, Frank DeWolf, Robert Roy and Claus Johnson received similar prices for their fowls. These results can be duplicated by any careful farmer who raises the larger breeds of fowls, such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Brahmas or Langshans. Caponizing has the effect of extending the period of growth and increasing the size. Capons therefore require a little more time for full development than roosters.

The number of capons handled by this firm is steadily increasing. From five to seven thousand are annually caponized at Laurens. About 5,000 are annually caponized in the vicinity of Rolfe and at a number of the other towns where they purchase poultry.

The annual income of the farmers in the north part of this county from poultry and their product is much larger than many suppose and caponizing tends to greatly increase it without any extra expense to the producer. During the first season caponizing was a difficult undertaking. The idea was new to the farmers and they looked upon the stranger with suspicion. Some feared his contract would later appear as a promissory note, and others told him, "they would wiggle along the old way and let their roosters do the same."

It is altogether different now. They have become acquainted with M. & J. R. Hakes and learned the value of

their work. They know what it means to receive 50 cents to \$1.25 each for their roosters instead of the old price, 25 to 50 cents a head.

In 1900 Hakes Bros. erected at Laurens a two story building, 40x96 feet, for dressing and packing poultry. This is a substantial building that rests on a brick foundation, and adjoining it are large and commodious sheds and yards for live poultry.

During the year ending June 30, 1900 they paid to the farmers in the vicinity of Laurens \$17,000 for poultry and to patrons at Havelock, Rolfe and other towns \$40,000 more, making an aggregate of \$57,000 for that year. On one day in December 1902 they paid \$5,000 for the live poultry delivered to them by wagon and rail at Laurens that day, and nearly \$100,000 for the entire amount of it handled by them that year. There is perhaps not another town in the state that gives the farmers so much clear cash for poultry as this one firm pays its patrons at Laurens. During the packing period each year their establishment is a very busy place. Twenty-five men are employed in it. Thousands of chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese may be seen in the yards and sheds around it; also a procession of loaded wagons moving towards it, and on the side track car loads of live or dressed fowls arriving or ready for departure. In the spring of 1902 they had at one time twenty car loads, 225 tons, of dressed poultry in cold storage at Laurens and New York City.

All the dressed fowls are assorted and graded as they are packed. A careful record is kept so that at any time they can tell the quantity, grade and cost of the stock on hand.

Many patrons of the poultry dealer do not appreciate the loss to which he is exposed through a little negligence on their part. The most frequent and serious losses usually occur in con-

nection with the shipment of live birds, through the neglect of some of their patrons to deliver their poultry on the appointed day. This seems a small matter, but it usually determines whether the dealer shall have a profit or sustain a loss on that shipment. The dealer has secured a car for a certain date and contracted for the delivery of enough fowls to fill it that day, but a few farmers are either busy or negligent, and the car has to be shipped with a partial instead of a full load. The expense of buying and hauling and also of freight, is as great as if the full amount had been received, and the commission is about as great, so that in frequent instances the shortage in delivery changes the expectation of profit to a realization of loss.

It has been truthfully said, that he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is a benefactor to his race. When men of enterprise build up a business, that brings clear profit to so many of the people of a community as the poultry business under the management of the Hakes Bros., they merit recognition and public patronage. Such men are public benefactors. None have been more grateful for the public patronage accorded to them than these men who have made Laurens the attractive center of the largest poultry trade in Northwest Iowa.

HINN BROS., W. & J. G.

Hinn Bros., millers and butter manufacturers, Laurens, are men whose cleverness and ambition have enabled them to attain an enviable leadership in the lines of business they represent.

In 1894 they erected a mill that does all kinds of mill work and has a capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day. It is fully equipped with the latest improved machinery and its wheels are propelled by an engine of thirty-five horse power. Their first and



second grades of flour are called "Fancy Patent" and "Snow Flake," and their respective merits have long since awakened a demand for their sale in other and even distant localities. In 1900 they established a feed mill at Pocahontas and, through it, have maintained a general exchange business in flour at that place.

In 1897 they purchased of T. J. Beats & Co., the Laurens co-operative creamery and moved it near the mill. Under the management of T. J. Beats it commanded a large patronage and was one of the important industries at Laurens. Important improvements were made at the time of its purchase in 1897, and in 1902 its work was completely re-arranged by furnishing each of their patrons with a hand separator that they might do the separating at home. This plan lessens the cost of gathering the cream, enables the creamery to pay a better price for the butter and leaves the farmer his own skim milk fresh for feeding purposes. This creamery has the machinery and the proprietors have both the desire and the means to make it the strongest and best one in the county.

In May 1902, wishing to extend their business into some new territory they purchased the creamery at Pocahontas and supplying its patrons with hand separators changed and greatly improved the method of its operation. They have creameries operated in the same manner at Havelock and Marathon.

They are thus the successful managers of creameries at Laurens, Havelock, Pocahontas and Marathon, and have the principal office at Laurens. The patrons of their creameries and mill have become their best advertisers and it has been their good fortune to witness a steady growth and enlargement of the butter and milling industries under their careful management.

#### PROCESS BUTTER.

In 1901 they obtained the machinery for renovating, or making anew, old butter. By means of it they are able to take the worst butter, found in the back-rooms of stores, and make it pure, clean and sweet. The new product is called, "Process Butter," and it is claimed to be cleaner and purer than either dairy or creamery butter, because every element of foreign substance and even odor has been removed from it.

Whilst the finishing process is a secret and gives to the product its name, "Process Butter," the principal operations are as follows:

A barrel of old butter is dumped into a vat, brought to a boiling heat with hot water and steam, and then it is constantly stirred. The foul stuff, that gathers on the surface, and the sediment at the bottom are repeatedly removed until nothing remains but the pure butter fat. This fat or oil is then placed in a large conical shaped rectifying vat, where it is again brought to a boiling heat with hot water in an outer vat. During the next five hours pure air, forced into and sprayed over the bottom of the inner vat, comes bubbling up through the boiling oil and takes from it every element of odor.

This chemically pure, odorless butter fat is then colored and allowed to cool and harden. It is then churned with fresh milk to give it a butter taste, worked, salted and packed, the same as creamery butter, but it is marked, "Process Butter." On account of its purity, it is rated equal to creamery butter and brings a higher price in the city market than the dairy product.

The Iowa Dairy report for 1902 states that there are now twelve such factories in this state and nine of them during that year renovated 4,530,388 pounds of bad butter, of which, 991,333 pounds were sold in

Iowa, principally in Des Moines, and the rest was shipped to New York City.

In 1902 there was an average of 25 cows to the square mile in Iowa, and 40 in Bremer, the banner county. The creamery product was 77,885,696 pounds and its average price was 24 1-6 cents, the highest in ten years. In 1900 the value of the entire dairy product in this state was \$27,516,870, and in the entire country \$475,000,000, which is six times the value of the entire gold product in this country during the same year.

In no branch of industry has the use of improved facilities made greater changes than in the manufacture of butter. The first creameries were established in this section, in 1880 at Fort Dodge and in 1882 at Fonda, on the plan of keeping the milk cold under water in Cooley cans. About 1885 the separator was introduced in the creameries and a new impulse was given to the manufacture of butter. In 1897 C. M. Saylor and his son, Calvin B. Saylor, began to use hand separators on their farms in Lincoln township. These were probably the first farm separators used in Pocahontas county. In three years from that time a complete change became necessary in the management of the creameries to maintain them. The number of them in operation in Iowa in 1902 was considerably less than in 1900. Those that have survived have had to adopt the plan of furnishing all their patrons with a hand cream separator. The latest phase or transition is in the direction of centralization, which means the establishment of large butter manufacturing in the larger cities and the shipment of the cream by rail from the localities thus directly connected.

The creamery industry has developed with great rapidity during the last three years, and it has added greatly to the farmer's wealth by in-

creasing his annual product of butter and bringing him higher prices for it. During the early 80's, thirty-six hours were needed to develop the cream, the farmer's wife spent a good share of her time skimming milk and washing cans, and the farmer might have been seen in the woodshed laboriously working a dasher up and down in an old churn. The times have changed. Now the farmer spends a few minutes running the new milk through a hand cream separator, feeds it to his calves and sells his cream to the proprietor of the creamery. The introduction of new machinery and new methods has greatly increased the product of the dairy, raised the standard of its quality and thereby increased the farmers annual income.

The farmers, especially the dairy-men of the Mississippi Valley, have been styled, "Western Gold Bugs," because they have become not only self supporting, but the creditors of the east, and therefore not so liable to suffer from financial panics as formerly. It has been estimated that the dairy interests of the United States now represent an invested capital of one billion, and that the value of the annual dairy product is about one million dollars. This great development in recent years has been due to the general introduction of improved machinery and the adoption of new methods on the farm.

KREUL BROS, CHRISTIAN F. & HENRY A.  
The smith, a mighty man is he,

With large and sinewy hands,  
And the muscles of his brawny arms,  
Are strong as iron bands;  
He looks the whole world in the face,  
For he owes not any man.

—Longfellow.

One of the oldest and most widely known of the business firms at Laurens is that of the Kreul Bros, C. Fred and Henry A., who are general blacksmiths and manufacturers of wagons, buggies and plows, but make

a specialty of wagon and plow work. Their shop, 32x103 feet and two stories in height, is the largest one in this county. It is supplied with a large amount of new and improved machinery, consisting of forges, lathes, planers, borers, band and circular saws, etc., all of which are propelled by a gasoline engine of twenty-five horse power. It is well provided for doing all sorts of iron and wood work. It is a regular manufacturing establishment and gives employment to four to six men. As a good mill draws patrons and traders a long distance, so has this industry of the Kreul Bros. tended to make Laurens great.

In 1898 they made a traveling cart for some Swedish missionaries in China. Its axle was adjustable so as to suit roads of different widths. It was much heavier and stronger than the ordinary cart and had a regular buggy top. It was ordered through the missionaries from Fairfield township, Buena Vista county, because such vehicles, when made by the natives, are very rude and clumsy affairs.

In 1902 they built a large ditching machine for the G. W. Strickland Ditching & Grading Co., for use in the Red River Valley, Minnesota. This machine excavates a ditch 8 feet wide and 3½ feet deep, and four capstans are used in propelling it.

The successive steps in the enlargement of this industry are illustrative of the growth of the town and surrounding country. It was started in a little blacksmith shop, built by C. F. Kreul in 1884, only two years after the town had been founded. Henry A., his brother, came two years later and began to work for him. In 1888 they formed a partnership under the name, "Kreul Bros." In 1890 they erected the spacious two story building now occupied and in 1893 began the manufacture of plows. The upper

story of their building was used several years as an opera house.

This firm represents one of the most important of the pioneer industries of the town. The proprietors are industrious and skillful mechanics, they employ only courteous and trusty workmen and warrant all their work.

#### REED'S INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE.

The Independent Telephone exchange at Laurens was established by Charles G. Reed, druggist, in the fall of 1899, with a patronage of 30 phones. The number of phones the next year was increased to 60 and in 1902 to 135. It connects with all the Independent lines in the vicinity and renders a very efficient and satisfactory service. As a public convenience it is a favorite with the people. Mr. Reed is aggressive in his methods and is endeavoring to give his fellow citizens the very best telephone service at the lowest possible rate. Harriett Bellman of Cherokee was the first operator and in 1901 she was succeeded by Pearl Rickabaugh.

#### RURAL TELEPHONES.

In January 1902, the farmers northwest of Laurens organized the Northwestern Telephone Company by the election of W. D. Cottrell, president, Harry A. Moore, secretary, and W. F. Atkinson, treasurer. The aim of this organization is to extend the advantages of the Laurens Telephone Exchange into the rural districts. In the spring of 1902 they erected three rural lines from Laurens, each 8 to 10 miles in length, running, No. 1, northwest, No. 2, due north, and No. 3, northeast.

In December 1902 another rural telephone company was organized by the farmers south and east of Laurens, of whom F. K. Hawley, president, George Aschenbrenner, Jr., secretary, H. M. Doty, treasurer, N. Moore and H. De Young were chosen a board of directors, and constructed a line from Laurens four miles southward thence east to Ware.

The rapid extension of telephone lines in the rural districts of Iowa during the years 1900 to 1902 was marvelous. No other public utility of equal value and convenience is furnished the public at so trifling expense as the telephone, and hence the number of lines has multiplied rapidly. In 1900 there was an increase of 138 companies and in 1901 an increase of 238 companies or a growth of 170 per cent. On Jan. 1, 1902 there were 651 companies having 22,409 miles that were assessed at \$1,000,000. The growth in 1902 was even greater than in 1901.

While the telephone is designed to annihilate distance, its greatest use is in direct ratio to its nearness, chiefly because people are concerned most in their immediate surroundings. Whilst the long distance telephone has its limitations owing to the difficulty of duplexing the circuit, the use of the short distance telephone is yet in its infancy.

The Rolfe Telephone Co., (p. 505), which started July 1, 1900 with 85 phones, on Oct. 1, 1902 had constructed a number of rural lines over Clinton, Des Moines and Powhatan townships and had a patronage of 383 phones.

The Northern Telephone Co., (p. 393), Sept. 1, 1899 opened an exchange at Fonda with 57 phones and built that season toll lines to Newell, Sulphur Springs, Nemaha, Juniata, Storm Lake, Alta, Varina, Lilly, Albert City and Laurens. The next year it extended its lines to Aurelia, Cherokee, Pocahontas, Plover, Havenlock, Rolfe, Gilmore City and Palmer; and bought a line to Knoke, Jolley and Rockwell City that was later exchanged for one in Pocahontas county. The toll lines of this company have been since extended to Sioux Rapids, Humboldt and Fort Dodge; and it is now building a copper circuit from Fort Dodge to Cherokee. It has exchanges at Fonda, Newell, Storm

Lake, Aurelia, Sioux Rapids and Gilmore City and many rural lines that altogether have a patronage of 1000 phones. The capital stock has been increased from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and it is again under the general management of George Sanborn.

#### THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY SUN.

The Pocahontas County Sun, as a democratic local paper, was established by Louie E Lange, June 15, 1885. During the first six months the only room that could be obtained for the printing outfit at Laurens was the barn of Geo. W. Leverich. The outfit consisted of a Washington hand press and a few cases of type. The population was less than 200, and the older papers of the county could not refrain from poking a little fun at the new paper printed in a little barn; but its plucky founder worked hard, lived economically, dodged creditors and taught school until it became self-supporting.

The outlook during the first two or three years was not very encouraging, but then an era of better times commenced, many new settlers began to occupy the wild prairies, the town grew, the people saw the paper was bound to live and in one summer—1887—400 new names were added to the subscription list. It lived to print sad obituary notices of some who predicted its early failure. When it was established there were no sidewalks north of the track and the little school house on the hill was the only place for meetings. Only seven of the firms doing business in 1902 existed then, namely: Beardsley & Allen, M. Hakes, T. B. Steel, Geo. T. Johnson, C. F. Kreul, J. P. Shoemaker and Dr. J. M. Carroll.

Mr. Lange continued in charge of it until Aug. 1, 1900, a period of more than 15 years. It had become one of the leading newspapers in the county, and occupied a fine office on Main street, that was furnished with a

splendid printing outfit including a Sidney folder that folds, cuts, pastes and trims 30 papers in a minute.

Geo M. Long, of Peterson, the successor of Mr. Lange, changed it from a democratic to a republican paper and in February 1902 sold it to R. C. Garver, of Cedar Rapids, the present proprietor.

A new and very artistic heading was adopted for the first page Dec. 21, 1900, and continued the two years it was published by Mr. Long. It was a beautiful piece of pen work on the part of Roy Bouton, an employe of the office, and its presentation was a pretty compliment to the editor whose name it bore. It consisted of the great seal of the state, as a central sun sending rays of light in every direction, surmounted by an American eagle with wings out-spread, and on the right and left hands the title, "Pocahontas County Sun," intertwined with a streamer on which was inscribed the Iowa state motto, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

R. C. Garver, its present editor, served some time as a special reporter for the Associated Press, and thus acquired a wide and valuable acquaintance with the public men and affairs in this state. He is a very capable man, a polished writer and is endeavoring to make the Sun a valuable exponent of the sentiment and progress of the northwest part of the county.

#### THE STANDARD.

The Laurens Standard, the only other paper hitherto published at Laurens, was issued weekly from Oct. 1, 1896 to Dec. 1st following by F. M. Lenahan. It was a six column quarto and its outfit was removed from the county when it was discontinued.

#### LAURENS IN 1902.

AGENTS: C. & N. W. Ry, —L. G. Smith; C. R. I. & P. Ry.,—J. H. McKinney; Switch tower,—James H.

Rickabaugh, in 1901 successor of Joseph Murray.

MAYOR: M. M. Noah.

POSTMASTER: Wm E. Atkinson.

ATTORNEYS: Hon. Fred C. Gilchrist; F. W. Paige, since 1892.

AUCTIONEER: J. R. Tool.

BANKS: State, C. S. Allen, president; M. T. Nilsson, cashier; First National, F. H. Helsel, president; Wm. G. McNee, cashier.

BAKER: F. C. Manatt at Gem cafe.

BARBERS: A. E. Sawtell and Homer Bros., Charles and Geo. F.

BLACKSMITHS: Kreul Bros., (C. F. and H. A.); C. E. Winsor, in 1900 successor of Winsor and (Geo. R.) Kreul.

BOOKKEEPER: C. E. Narev.

BROOM MAKER: John Workman (blind), since 1899.

CARPENTERS: F. Oscar Youngren, C. F. Coleman, R. C. Hall, L. N. and Herbert Ellis, L. L. Cook.

CHOP HOUSE: John Sniggs.

CLERKS: Daniel Davis, John Miller, John Cromwell, John Jensen, Charles Swanson, Harry Ludwig, Herbert Babcock, Albert Kreul, Lettie Allen, Ralph E. Hughes.

CLOTHIERS: Thompson & Bellman, succeeded by V. A. Noble in 1902, who closed out the stock.

CHURCHES: Methodist, (built 1888), —Rev. H. C. Chambers, pastor; Christian, (1893),—Rev. J. C. Hanna, Pastor; Swedish Lutheran, (1893),—Rev. R. Beckstrom, pastor; German Lutheran,—Rev. J. Piess, Pastor; Catholic, (1900),—Rev. Joseph Murtagh, of Rolfe, Pastor.

CREAMERY: Hinn Bros. (W. and J. G.).

DENTIST: Dr. F. N. Beam.

DOCTORS: J. M. Carroll, J. H. Hovenden, P. Gallaher, J. W. Higgins, and M. Moore, who in 1902 removed to Walnut, Iowa.

DRAYMEN: Mather Bros., (J. T. and E. K.), Daniel McAfee, Joseph Clanton, and E. H. Atwood.

DRESSMAKER: Marie Lundwick.

DRUGGISTS: Dr. J. M. Carroll, since

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1882; C. G. Reed, in 1897 successor of Paul Jones & Sterrett; J. W. Higgins.

**DRAINAGE ENGINEER:** J. E. Peterson.

**ELEVATORS:** DeWolf & Wells, in 1902 successors of Wilson & DeWolf (1895), Laurens Grain Co., Cowan & Bardue, (1889-92), Cowan and Davis, ('87-89), D. J. Allen & Sons, F. G. Thornton and Eri D. Anderson; successors also of (H. L. Bruett) Geo. H. Bunton ('93-1901), Allen Grain Co. ('89-93); Northern Grain Co., in 1893 successor of Johnson & Brown, and Lyman Johnson ('91-92); Wheeler Grain & Coal Co., since 1900.

**FURNITURE DEALER:** T. D. Landon, in 1901 successor of Eri D. Anderson.

**GENERAL MERCHANTS:** Hakes Bros., (M. and J. R.), in 1885 successors of S. S. Sturdivan (1882); O. M. Murphey in 1895 successor of August Youngren (1890); M. T. Nilsson and Joseph Peterson, in 1901 successors of Geo. T. and S. D. Johnson, (1886); M. M. Noah in 1903. Variety store, —C. W. Erret.

**HARDWARE:** Shoemaker J. P., in 1901 successor of Shoemaker & Anderson, established by J. P. Shoemaker in 1882; Stacy & Weaver, in 1900 successors of Moore & Stacy, Moore & Johnson, John Wells, and Frank G. Thornton (1884-87).

**HARNES MAKERS:** Edwin H. Southworth, Geo. W. Wright.

**HOTELS:** Adams Hotel, M. C. and C. W. Adams, in 1903 succeeded by S. D. Johnson. The Commercial House, in 1902 was replaced by the Noble Opera House by V. A. Noble successor, as proprietor of the Commercial House, of Solomon Cundy, Nelson Parker, Sherman Anderson, Geo. W. Bellinger, William Dwigans, and Robert Foust 1833-84.

**IMPLEMENT DEALERS:** Jacob Billman, in 1900 successor of W. E. Crowder; V. A. Noble, in 1901 successor of H. L. Bruett.

**INSURANCE:** Samuel Harper, N. H. White.

**JEWELERS:** H. M. Spencer, in 1896 successor of P. J. Cilley; E. J. Nutting, 1902.

**LIVERYMEN:** Mather Bros., James T. and E. Kenneth; W. H. Higgins and (Frank) Kendall; W. E. Crowder.

**LUMBER & COAL:** C. J. Bovee, since 1882; L. D. Beardsley and B. L. Allen; Jesse Smith.

**MAGNETIC HEALER:** C. W. Adams.

**MEAT MARKETS:** Milton M. Noah till 1902; Noer E. Bigglestone, successor of J. M. Turner, Gus Ehlers and John Schroeder 1886-97.

**MILLERS:** W. and J. G. Hinn since 1894.

**MILLINERS:** Mamie Johnson, Elvina Stuhr, Erickson Sisters, Beda and Anna.

**MUSIC TEACHERS:** Mrs. C. J. Bovee and Mrs. E. C. Winsor.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:** Levi Dean.

**NURSE:** Myra Crandall.

**PAINTERS:** Fred Post, M. H. Murray, Jesse Clifton, Fred Sawtell and Frank Martin.

**NEWSPAPER:** The Pocahontas County Sun, est. 1885, R. C. Garver, editor.

**OPTICIAN:** Harriet F. Spencer.

**POULTRY DEALERS:** M. and J. R. Hakes.

**REAL ESTATE:** B. L. Saum, H. L. Bruett, J. J. Lynch, Samuel Harper and N. H. White, Allen Land & Loan Co., P. S. Weittenhiller, Beardsley & Clanton.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** C. F. Garrison of Rolfe, and C. O. Brown.

**RESTAURANT KEEPER:** M. C. and C. W. Adams, succeeded by S. D. Johnson in 1902.

**SEAMSTRESSES:** Mrs. Edward Gunkel, Edith Ludwig.

**SEWING MACHINES:** Levi Dean.

**SHOE DEALERS:** V. A. Noble, Geo. Larson, Hakes Bros., O. M. Murphey, Nilsson & Peterson.

**STOCK DEALERS:** Robinson & Jones, and Noah & Wiss.

**TEACHERS:** W. H. Reeve, principal, Kate Fowler, Tessa M. Douglass, Alice McDougal, Viola Bleakly, Flora Noble, Margaret McCarty and Bertha Warren.

**TELEPHONE:** Laurens Independent, established 1899 by Charles G. Reed, proprietor, Pearl Rickabaugh, operator.

**VETERINARY SURGEONS:** C. A. Clinton, M. D. C. and P. E. Fagan, D. V. S.

**VOCAL INSTRUCTOR:** J. P. Scott.

**WELL DRILLERS:** Lofquist & Mattelin, Thomas Burke.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** M. M. Noah, president, Christ F. Krenz, Hon. M. E. DeWolf, O. M. Murphey, R. C. Hall; E. G. Coll, secretary, B. L. Allen, treasurer.

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Allen**, Benjamin E (b. 1842), lumber dealer, Laurens, is a native of Clinton county, N. Y. In his youth he came to Kane county, Ill., where in 1861 he enlisted as a member of Co H, 36th Ill. Inf. and rendered four years of military service during the civil war. July 22, 1864 he was captured at Atlanta, Ga., and with other comrades was confined two months in Andersonville prison. He was then successively transferred to the prisons at Florence and Charleston, S. C., Wilmington and Goldsborough, N. C. He was paroled at Goldsborough, March 3, 1865.

In 1872 at Huntley Grove, McHenry county, Ill., he married Fannie E. Knapen (b. N. Y. 1850) and engaged in farming. In 1875 he located on a farm in Sac county, Iowa. In the spring of 1883 he came to the new town of Laurens and, forming a partnership with L. D. Beardsley, has since been engaged in the sale of lumber and coal.

Twenty years have passed since the firm of Beardsley & Allen began to do

business at Laurens. They represent one of the oldest firms in the town. During these years they have witnessed many changes not only in the development of the town and country but also in the management of the business interests of the town. The long and prosperous career of this firm is very creditable both to them and the community they have been endeavoring to serve. They have been equitable and progressive in their methods and the name of the firm has become widely and favorably known. Mr. Allen was accorded the honor of serving two years, 1890-91, as the first mayor of Laurens.

His family consisted of four children. The two oldest died in 1879 and the youngest in 1891. Maud E., a teacher, graduated from the high school in 1899.

**Allen**, Daniel Johnson (b. 1832, d. 1897), banker, Laurens, was a native of Columbiana county, Ohio. In 1853, locating near Marietta, he became one of the early settlers of Marshall county, Iowa. In 1855 he married Elizabeth Holmes who, two years before had also come from Columbiana county, O., and, locating on a farm three miles west of Marshalltown, continued to occupy it, raising and feeding stock, until 1886. Previous to that date the farm, known as the Strathmore stock farm, had been increased to 1,000 acres and he had improved it with large and beautiful farm buildings. It was then sold to Ex Gov. Packard of Louisiana.

In 1890 he located at Laurens, where his two sons, Charles S. and Benjamin L., had preceded him four years and, through his co-operation, had established the Exchange Bank of Laurens (p. 761.) and the Land & Loan Agency of D. J. Allen & Sons.

During the brief period of his residence at Laurens he exerted a potent and beneficent influence in the development of its business interests, and

also in its moral and religious life. During his later years he spent the winter seasons at San Diego, Cal. In the fall of 1897, while enroute to that place, he became sick and died Oct. 13th, before he reached his destination, at the age of 65 years. His wife died at Laurens at 59 in 1891, and both are buried in Riverside cemetery at Marshalltown.

He was a kind and affectionate father, and manifested a desire to keep his family together as much as possible. He was a lifelong republican and a zealous defender of the rights of the negro in the south. He was a staunch advocate of the cause of prohibition and gave liberally toward the suppression of the saloon. He belonged to the Hicksite Friends by birthright and when possible attended their services. The generosity of his nature was manifested by his words of sympathy to those who were in trouble and by numerous gifts of charity to the needy. He was unassuming in manner but aggressive in spirit, and manifested a genuine interest in the public welfare of Laurens. He left a legacy of \$1,000 to assist in establishing an Orphan's Home in the city of Laurens.

His family consisted of eight children. All of them were born in Marshall county, Iowa, and two of them died in childhood.

Charles Sumner (b. 1856), banker, Laurens, is a native of Marshall county, where he grew to manhood and, after acquiring an academic and business course of study at the Iowa State University, devoted his attention to farming and stockraising.

February 1, 1886, four years after the founding of the town, he and his brother, Benjamin L. Allen, located at Laurens. Aided by their father, Daniel J. Allen, they purchased and united the separate banking interests of George W. Leverich and M. B. Caswell in the Exchange Bank of Lau-

rens, and established the real estate agency of D. J. Allen & Sons. Charles S. has been president of the bank ever since and in 1892 effected its incorporation as the State Bank of Laurens. The same year through the cooperation of his father and brother, Benjamin, he effected the reorganization of the real estate agency as the Allen Land & Loan Company (p. 761) and greatly increased its capital stock. To these important business interests he has been devoting his time and talents, and has had the privilege of seeing them greatly prosper under his skillful management. In 1891 he performed a leading part in the establishment of the Allen bank at Pocahontas, that the next year was incorporated as the State Bank of Pocahontas but was discontinued December 31, 1896. He is the owner of a large amount of real estate in the vicinity of Laurens and in 1898 built one of the finest residences in that town. He has been a trustee and liberal supporter of the M. E. church of Laurens since its organization in 1891 and a loyal republican.

In 1881 he married Martha E. Steward of Marshall county and has a family of six children, Burritt S., Elizabeth, a Laurens graduate in 1902, William J., Charles F., Martha Lucile and Eleanor May.

Benjamin Lot, (b. 1858.) banker and dealer in real estate, Laurens, is a native of Marshall county where he grew to manhood and received his education.

February 1, 1886, he located at Laurens. where he co-operated with his father and brother, Charles, in the establishment of the Exchange, now the State bank and a real estate agency. He has been a cashier of the bank at Laurens since it was founded and has been personally identified with all of the business interests established by D. J. Allen & Sons at Laurens,



Pocahontas and Ware. He is president of the Savings Bank of Ware and its organization in February 1901 was largely due to his influence and leadership. In 1891 he succeeded his father as a member of the Laurens town council and served six years, 1891-96. He is a republican and is always ready to do his part in promoting the public welfare of his home town, Laurens.

In 1887 he married Lulu, daughter of Senator Mills, of Marshall county and before the end of the next year she died of diphtheria. In 1892 he married Addie Coulson, of Hinkley, Ill. His family consists of three children, Lenore, Thorena and Wilmont.

Byron J., (b. 1863, d. 1892.) after graduating from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1887, came to Pocahontas county that year and located at Pocahontas, where he began the practice of law and became local manager of the real estate and banking business of D. J. Allen & Sons. In 1888 he became the republican nominee for the office of County Attorney and, as the second incumbent in that office, served this county two years, 1889-90.

In 1890 he married Anna Jackson and died at 29 in 1892, after an illness of three days from appendicitis at Fort Dodge, leaving one child, Elizabeth G.

Mary (b. 1861) in 1882 married Byron E. Whalen, a banker and dealer in merchandise and live stock. They live at Galva and have a family of four children, Edna, Bessie, Ralph and Grace.

Sarah, (b. 1867.) a skillful accountant, after rendering seven years of faithful service as head bookkeeper and assistant cashier in the Laurens Exchange Bank, in 1895 married Rev. George F. Whitfield, a member of the Northwest Iowa M. E. Conference and is now located at Ruthven.

Their family consists of one daughter, Rachel Elizabeth.

**Joseph** Holmes (b. 1870), a regent of the Iowa State University, and banker at Pocahontas, is a native of Marshall county. He received his early education in the public schools of Marshalltown and graduated from the high school there in 1889. He then came to Pocahontas County and began to fill a position in the land office of his father and brothers at Pocahontas at \$50.00 a month. Two years later he entered the Iowa State University, completed the college course and graduated from its law department in 1895.

At the University he enjoyed the honor of being chosen one of the debaters of the Irving society in the intercollegiate contest, editor-in-chief of the Hawkeye, the College Annual, and represented that institution in the all-around Western Football team.

His first earnings of \$500 in 1890 were invested as a payment on a half section of land in Emmet County; and this investment, supplemented by the earnings received during vacations, enabled him to defray the expenses of his university courses and left him a surplus of several thousand dollars.

Purchasing then a lot of stock in the Allen Land & Loan Co. he was elected president of it and gave the management of its affairs his closest attention until June 21, 1898, when in response to the call of the president for volunteers in the Spanish American war he and nine other young men of Pocahontas county, going to Cedar Rapids, became members of the Tip-ton company (F) of the 49th Iowa, and rendered ten months of service at Jacksonville, Fla., Savannah, Ga., and Havana, Cuba. Previous to his enlistment he had received from the governor of Iowa, L. M. Shaw, permission to raise a company in this county. He did this but as no call was made

for additional companies he enlisted and served as a private soldier.

In 1900 he located at Pocahontas.

On Jan. 1, 1901, with the co-operation of his brothers, Charles S. and Benjamin L., he re-established the Allen Bros.' bank at Pocahontas, and built for it one of the finest bank buildings in this state. The next year they built a large brick hotel at that place. He has also built a fine residence. Through these and other recent improvements he has contributed greatly to the upbuilding of Pocahontas, our county seat.

In 1900 he was the delegate from this 10th congressional district in the national convention at Philadelphia that renominated President McKinley, and in January 1902 he was appointed a regent of the Iowa State University by the General Assembly of Iowa.

He is a young man, well equipped physically, intellectually, and morally for the best performance of the duties of life, public or private. He possesses that sagacity that is needed to insure success in business and the courage to perform his duty conscientiously in any station.

In 1899 he married Grace, daughter of Prof. James C. Gilchrist. After completing her education at Wellesley College, Mass., she engaged in teaching and became a favorite in musical circles. His family consists of one child, Byron Gilchrist.

**Atkinson**, William F. (b. 1840), county recorder and postmaster, Laurens, is a native of Palatine, Cook Co., Ill., the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Furness Atkinson. He lived with his parents, working on the farm in summer and attending public school until he became of age.

Feb. 28, 1862 he became a member of Co. G., 18th, Ill. Inf., and continued to render military service until March 15, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Annapolis, Md. He par-

ticipated in the battle of Chicamauga, Sept. 19-20, 1863, and was there taken prisoner by the confederates. He was confined in Pemberton Castle and also in Libby prison, which were on opposite sides of the same street in Richmond, until Dec. 1, 1863, and then, with most of the prisoners there, he was sent to Danville, Va. Here he was assigned the charge of the small-pox hospital and, during the following winter, cared for more than 600 patients. In March in company with others from the hospital he was paroled and sent to Annapolis, Md. During his imprisonment in Pemberton Castle he was tied up by the thumbs half an hour for refusing to give the names of other prisoners who tunneled a hole through under the wall of Pemberton Castle. He belonged to the Army of the Cumberland and served under General Rosecrans.

In the fall of 1865, having formed a partnership with Thomas Atkinson, his father, they came to Norway, Benton county, Iowa, and engaged in the mercantile business. He was immediately appointed post master at that place with a salary of \$36 a year. In 1877, owing to ill health he sold his interest in the store and engaged in farming.

In 1882 he came to Pocahontas county, and located on the s½sec. 11, Marshall township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. His household goods and stock were the first freight goods unloaded at the Laurens station. There were only two buildings at the station, which was merely a freight car, in what is now the thriving and prosperous city of Laurens. Prairie wolves then sneaked through the tall grass at twilight in search of stray pigs and pullets, and, sitting on the hill tops, made the night hideous with long drawn wails, that never fade from the memory of the early settler.

On the farm he kept a dairy of

twenty cows and achieved good success as a stock-raiser. He let the calves do their own milking until they were old enough to be separated from the cow, and thus secured as good cattle at two years of age as many of those raised on skim-milk are at three.

He served four years as county recorder, 1887-90, and has been serving as postmaster at Laurens since Oct. 1, 1897.

During the period of his service as recorder he discovered that there were several small pieces of unpatented lands in this county and secured one of them containing 40 acres on the se $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 4, Marshall township, under the timber culture act. In 1891 he located on sec. 16, Swan Lake township and is now a resident of Laurens.

He was a gallant soldier and has been faithful and efficient as a public officer.

In 1867 while keeping store at Norway, he married Ellen, (b. Joliet, Ill., 1848) daughter of O. P. and Elizabeth Phillips, and she has faithfully shared with him since the trials and triumphs of life. Their family consists of five children. Paul W. (b. 1869.), a farmer in 1902 married Minnie Thornton and is now a resident of Clavis county, New Mexico. Ada E. in 1890 married Alfred H. Richey (see Richey) and now resides at Laurens. Charles D. (b. 1877) after graduating from the law school at Dixon, Ill., in 1900 located at Pocahontas and began the practice of law. In 1902 he was chosen chairman of the Republican County Central Committee and in November that year went to Washington, D. C. to fill a position in the office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Previous to his departure he married Vina, daughter of Mrs. Mary E. (John W.) Wallace of Pocahontas. Elizabeth E. (b. 1880) is now assistant postmaster at Laurens. Oliver Perry (b. 1883.) is a native of

Pocahontas county, a graduate of the Laurens high school in 1902 and is now pursuing a business course in the Capital City Commercial College, Des Moines.

**Bovee**, Cassius Jacob (b. 1846), lumber dealer, Laurens, is a native of Caledonia Co., Vt., the son of Moses and Helen Warden Bovee. He was raised on a farm and received his education in the public school. In 1865 he moved with his parents to Green Mountain, Marshall county, Iowa, and there found employment in a hardware store. In 1878 he married Anna, daughter of Daniel Williams, a prominent farmer of that section, and located on a farm. Two years later he moved to Marshalltown and served two years as clerk in a hardware store. In the spring of 1882 he located on a farm in Marshall township, this county, improved and occupied it the next ten years.

In 1892 he became a resident of Laurens, where, associated with M. Hakes, he became an extensive dealer in lumber, coal, brick and tile. He had extensive facilities for carrying a large stock of building materials, and, as a purchaser, acquired the happy faculty of anticipating the coming needs of the local market. He is a well built man physically and morally and has a laudable ambition to confer a lasting benefit on the community by furnishing the people the largest possible amount of the best building materials. In 1900 he built a new residence in Laurens and his son, Daniel, became a member of the firm in place of M. Hakes, who then withdrew. Jan. 1, 1903, they sold the business to the Lane-Moore Lumber Co.

During his residence in Marshall township he served as president of the school board one year and six years as a trustee. At Laurens he has been president of the school board one year and a member of the council during the last eight years.

He has one son, Daniel W., a Laurens graduate in 1898, and a teacher.

**Carroll**, Joseph M., Dr. (b. 1848) Laurens, is a native of Laporte, Ind. He moved with his parents to Illinois in his boyhood and to a farm near Iowa City in 1855. After several years devoted to study at Iowa City he began the practice of medicine, locating in 1873 in Fonda and the next year in Pomeroy. In 1874 he married Eva J. Brock of Calloun county and in 1879 graduated from the Medical Department of the Iowa State University. In 1882, after a residence of nine years at Pomeroy, he located at Laurens, a new town founded that year. He established a drug store and office, the first in the town, and has enlarged them from time to time with the growth of the place. The building now occupied is a two story brick erected in 1893. He carries a large stock of goods and has acquired a very lucrative practice. He cared for all the sufferers in the track of the tornado in Colfax township in April, 1878, and was medical examiner during Cleveland's last administration. He served several years as county coroner, as treasurer of Swan Lake township and as the health physician for Laurens and the two adjoining townships. He owns a fine residence, located at the corner of the road south of Laurens.

His family consisted of two children both of whom are married.

Alma in 1897 married Edmund Plumb, a farmer, and lives in Colorado.

Flora B. in 1896 married Floyd Tool, a barber, lives at Laurens and has one child, Helen.

**Caswell**, Elbert A., one of the pioneer lumber dealers at Laurens, located there in the spring of 1882 and found employment as a contractor and builder. In the spring of 1883, he formed a partnership with L. D. Beardsley and bought out J. H. Queal

& Co., who had established the first, and to that date, the only lumber yard at Laurens. A few months later he sold his interests at Laurens to B. E. Allen, and, moving to Rolfe, opened a new lumber yard at that place. At the end of a year he returned to Laurens and resumed work as a contractor and builder. In 1887 he moved to Pocahontas and became the successor of J. F. Harlan in the abstract and loan business. In 1890 he relinquished his interests at Pocahontas to L. C. Thornton, and moved to Grand Junction where he has since been engaged in the clothing business.

In 1883 he married Anna, daughter of John O'Neil, of Lizard township, and has two children, Flossie and Glenn.

**Caswell**, William E. (b. 1856) brother of Elbert, carpenter and salesman, Laurens, is a native of Susquehanna Co., Pa., where he grew to manhood. In 1879 he came to Sac county, Iowa, and in May, 1882, to the new town of Laurens where he found employment as a carpenter. He has continued to reside at Laurens since that date, except two years, 1888 and 1889, which he spent in Colorado. He has been a salesman in the lumber yard of Beardsley & Allen during the last eleven years. He has been a member of the Laurens school board two terms and of the city council the last twelve years.

In 1884 he married Annie, daughter of T. J. Nelson, and has three children, Alma E., Carleton A., and Fannie C.

**Caswell**, Miles B., brother of Elbert, in 1884 came from Pennsylvania to Laurens and established the bank of Laurens. Two years later he sold the bank to D. J. Allen & Sons, went to Colorado and died there in 1889.

**Clifton**, Jesse S. (b. 1852) painter and justice, Laurens, is a native of Whiteside Co., Ill., where he grew to manhood. In 1878 he married Ida

Dietz and engaged in farming and teaching school. In 1887 he came to Pocahontas county and located in Sherman township, and two years later in Laurens, where, as a member of the firm of Cook & Clifton, he engaged in the implement business. At the end of the first year he severed his connection with this firm and has since devoted his time to painting and an office business as justice of the peace. He became very popular as a justice, held the office a long term of years, and served as secretary of the school board of Laurens nine years, 1893-1901.

He owns a good residence and has a family of four children, Leroy E., Guy E., Ethel B., and Merritt Melvin.

**DeWolf**, Merton E. Hon. (b. July 23, 1867), grain dealer, Laurens, and representative 1898-99, is a native of Cambria, Hillsdale Co., Mich., the son of S. P. and Martha J. DeWolf.

He attended district school until he was fourteen, and then began to work on a farm at \$7 a month. This was a very satisfactory compensation and two of the lighter forms of employment, incident to this situation, consisted in running a bucksaw and picking stones from the fields. After one year's employment on the farm, an uncle, like a prince in disguise, afforded him an opportunity to attend the Hillsdale High school, by working evenings and mornings at his home for his board. The excellent course of study in this school placed it on the university list, so that its graduates were admitted, without examination, to the academic department of the State University at Ann Arbor. By close and faithful application he completed the three years course in this institution in two years, and taught school during the winters.

In the fall of 1888, being under the necessity of replenishing his treasury and assisting some relatives, he nego-

tiated a small loan to pay traveling expenses, packed his grip and came west, stopping at Rock Valley, Sioux county, Iowa. Here he found employment in the harvest fields and later "struck a job" on an elevator in process of erection. After its completion he worked for the grain buyer a short time and then became manager of an elevator at Inwood, Lyon county. While thus engaged he was offered and accepted a position as bookkeeper in the State bank of Hull, and seven months later became assistant cashier of the State bank of Rock Valley, where he remained eighteen months. Through the favorable mention of the state bank examiner, who was greatly pleased with the thoroughness of his work, he was offered several good positions and at the end of eighteen months became cashier of the Savings bank at Marathon. In 1895, at the end of four years of service, he formed a partnership with A. J. Wilson, president of the bank, and engaged in the grain business at Laurens, under the name of Wilson & DeWolf, with the principal office at Laurens. During the seven years of their partnership he enlarged the field of their operations so that on Oct. 1, 1902, when Hon. A. J. Wilson sold his interests to Anson E. Wells, they were operating seven elevators and one bank. In the spring of 1902 a new elevator was built at Laurens having a capacity for 60,000 bushels, modern hopper bins, conveniences for elevating corn in the ear and a sheller that can shell 500 bushels in an hour. The new firm of DeWolf & Wells has its principal office at Laurens. It has other elevators at Havelock, Marathon, Varina, Albert City, Webb and Curlew.

He has been accustomed to attend the county conventions of the republican party since he became of age, and had the good fortune to be elected to the first office to which he aspired

representative in the General Assembly of Iowa. He had the honor to represent the 76th district, composed of Pocahontas and Humboldt counties in the 27th assembly of Iowa during the years 1898-99; and in 1900 was a formidable candidate for congress in this district.

He early learned the importance of performing every duty in the very best manner and always enjoyed the utmost confidence of his employers. In the management of business activities he has discovered the possession of that sagacity and executive ability that insures successful achievement.

He is a man whose hands are clean whose ambitions have been noble and praiseworthy and whose sense of honor and uprightness has been manifest in the good record he has made.

During his service in the legislature he received considerable notice from the public press of the state as a man "whose pleasing yet forceful personality and strong, vigorous style of debate raise him above the level of legislators, as a towering peak lifts itself above a plain. He is not only potent and graceful in debate, but there is an atmosphere of cleanliness, method and goodness of purpose, that even those, who differ with him in his views, accord him the recognition of sincerity. His argument on the building and loan bill was conceded to be the strongest, most lucid and well arranged of any during the discussion that preceded the passage of that bill."—Register, March 8, 1898.

His rapid rise from an humble and contented farm hand to successful achievement in business, and to the honor of occupying a seat in the legislature of Iowa at thirty, is a good practical illustration of the possibilities before our American youth in this section of our beloved country.

In 1891, during his residence at Rock Valley, he married Elizabeth Prentice,

a classmate of his high school days, and his family consists of four children, Maris, Hester, Mabel and Gail.

**Dubbert**, Fred (b. 1856) is a native of Germany. In 1872 he came to America and located in Wisconsin, where he married Lottie Roewe. In 1883 he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, Swan Lake township. He was the first to occupy this farm. He has improved it with large and well constructed buildings, and surrounded them with a large grove. In 1889 he increased the farm to 320 acres. He served as assessor four years and has been secretary of the school board since 1896. He is a member of the M. E. church and has a family of four children, Louisa, Bernhard, Ulrich and Frederic.

**Farson**, John H. (b. 1837-1895), doctor, Laurens, was a native of West Virginia, the son of William and Susan C. Farson. At eighteen he moved with his parents to Madison county, Iowa. After completing the common school course he pursued his education as a private student. In 1863 he was drafted and served until the close of the civil war, as a member of Co. I, 15th Iowa. During this period he served considerable time as a nurse and often performed the duties of the chaplain. He possessed considerable natural ability, and, after the war, engaged in the practice of medicine in Madison county. In 1884 he located in the new town of Laurens and continued the practice of medicine until his death at 58 in 1895. He was affable and pleasing in his manners and was highly esteemed by those who knew him.

In 1859 he married Susan Kesler, who died leaving two children, John Wesley, a carpenter, who in 1884 married Nancy O. Clanton, and lives at Laurens; and Elizabeth Ann, who in 1880 married Stephen Clanton, a farmer, Laurens. In 1892, Dr. Farson

married Louisa Bradshaw, who, with one daughter, Florence, survives him and lives at Laurens.

**Frost**, Rachel D., wife of Robert S. Frost and widow of John Pettit, was a native of New Jersey. At thirteen she moved to Saratoga county, N. Y. where in 1835 she married John Pettit who died in 1874. Their family consisted of ten children and six of them are settled in this county. In 1878 she married Robert S. Frost, a veteran of the civil war, and located in Swan Lake township. She died at 72 in 1890. She was one of nature's noble women whose heart beat in sympathy with the sorrows of mankind and her hand was ready to relieve them. She exerted an angelic influence and the world was made better by her humble and kind ministries.

John Pettit, a son, who in 1879 located on sec. 19, was a trustee of the township in 1880—83, and R. S. Frost was president of the school board '85—87 and 90. He was the last mail carrier on the route from Pocahontas to Sioux Rapids, 1880—82.

**Hakes**, Montague (b. 1858) senior member of the firm of Hakes Bros., Laurens, is a native of Jones county, Iowa, where he was raised on a farm. In 1880 he graduated from the scientific department of the State Agricultural College at Ames. During the next four years he was in the employ of a railroad construction company and worked on the Oregon Short Line in Idaho, the Denver, South Park & Pacific in Colorado, and the extension of the B. C. R. & N. Ry. to Watertown, S. D.

In December 1884 he married Hattie L. Arnold of Marion, Iowa, and in January 1885 located at Laurens, where he has since been engaged as a dealer in general merchandise and poultry.

G. J. Hakes, his father, was first associated with him in the business un-

der the name of G. J. Hakes & Son. Jan. 1, 1890 his brother, James R. Hakes, became a member of the firm in place of his father, and the name of the firm was changed to Hakes Bros. They have continued in the mercantile business until the present time save the brief period required to rebuild after the great fire in 1898. They sustained a loss on that occasion of \$20,000. This was a serious discouragement. They wasted no time, however, whining over their sad loss, but, rebuilding, they resumed with renewed vigor, the struggle for commercial supremacy. Their efforts have been handsomely rewarded. The volume of their merchant trade, that ranged annually from \$25,000 to \$30,000 before the fire, has since increased to as high as \$85,000 in a single year.

In the fall of 1885 they began to handle poultry, but only on a small scale. In 1894 they secured the services of Alva Marshall, an expert caponizer, (p.763) as an experiment. Not yet being familiar with the best methods of dressing and handling all kinds of poultry, they employed that year, to manage this part of the work, A. R. Loomas of Fort Dodge. During that and the next two years they made no effort to secure any trade outside of Laurens and vicinity, and they shipped annually about three carloads of dressed fowls.

Previous to 1897 their poultry trade was managed as a sort of necessary adjunct to their mercantile business. During that year, however, they decided to greatly enlarge its scope, as a means of benefiting the farmers and for profit, and began to solicit patronage in other communities. In 1900 they had extended their trade to all the towns on the C. & N. W. Ry. from Humboldt to Hawarden and to many of the new towns along the C. R. I. & P. railway. They built that year, along the Northwestern track, a large

establishment for handling and dressing poultry, that has a storage capacity sufficient to hold twenty car loads of dressed poultry and sheds for many thousands of live fowls. Since 1897 they have dealt extensively during the summer seasons in live poultry and their annual shipments of this product have ranged from fifteen to fifty car loads. Their poultry trade gives constant employment to ten men and to thirty-five during the busy periods of the year. The value of the poultry product handled annually ranges now from \$75,000 to \$100,000. These results serve to illustrate what may be achieved by intelligent effort. The enterprise of these men has made the town of Laurens the attractive center of the poultry trade in a large section of country.

Montague Hakes was associated with Charles J. Bovee in the lumber and coal business at Laurens from 1892 to 1900. He was one of the first councilmen at Laurens and served as a member of that body five years, 1890-94. In 1891 he was the democratic nominee for representative from this 76th district.

His family consists of four children, Byron G. A., Karl M., Ledgard B., and Leland Paul.

**Hakes**, James R. (b. 1868) junior member of the firm of Hakes Bros., is a native of Jones county, Iowa, where he received a good common school education. In May 1885 he located at Laurens and worked for his father in the store until Jan. 1, 1890 when he became his successor as a partner in the store, since known as Hakes' Bros. He was treasurer of the Laurens school board in 1896 and has been a member of the town council during the last four years, 1899-02.

In 1889 he married Gertrude E. Arnold of Marion, Iowa, and has three children, James Russell L. Catherine M. and Nona Caroline.

**Herrick**, Alpha (b. 1823; d. 1898), who in 1870 located just across the line in Buena Vista county, was a native of Allegany county, N. Y. At an early age he moved with his parents to Massachusetts and at nineteen located in Chautauqua county, N. Y. Here in 1847 he married Ruth, daughter of Asa and Eliza Comstock. He located in Houston county, Minn., in 1858, in eastern Iowa in 1868, and on a homestead, just across the line in Buena Vista county in 1870. The large grove he planted was the first one in a large section of the country and became a well known land mark. His commodious and comfortable home was famed far and wide for its ever open portals, where the weary traveler always received a friendly greeting and cordial hospitality. He was an honest, honorable and conscientious man, a thorough and successful farmer. After a residence of twenty-five years on the farm Mr. and Mrs. Herrick moved to Laurens. He died at 75 in 1898 at Humboldt.

His family consisted of four sons and three daughters. Charles E., in 1880 located in Washington township and is now a resident of Marathon. Frederic G. and Alonzo L. live at Humboldt. Nettie married J. E. Metcalf and lives at Storm Lake, Ida a teacher, married Eri D. Anderson, Laurens. Naomi, a teacher, who became the wife of Frank G. Thornton, and Florence E. are both dead.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Herrick was celebrated at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Eri D. Anderson, Laurens, Sept. 18, 1897.

**Hughes**, Jared (b. 1843), carpenter and mail carrier, Laurens, is a native of Ontario, Canada. In 1852 he came with his parents to Cedar county, Iowa, and in 1861 to Marshall county, where on Aug. 16, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Co. D. 33rd Iowa, and continued in the service until the



close of the war, serving under Generals Grant and Sherman in the 14th Army Corps, and passing through Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Alabama. In 1866 he married Mary C. Williams and worked at carpentering. In 1880 he located on the Pease homestead on sec. 30, Swan Lake township, and occupied it until 1888, when he became a resident of Laurens. He has made bee culture a subject of special study and in 1898 had a fine apiary containing 48 colonies.

Feb. 1, 1902 he became the mail carrier on rural route No. 1, south of Laurens, at a salary of \$500.

His family consisted of six children.

Ralph E., a pharmacist, after graduating from the chemical department of Highland Park College, Des Moines, in 1889 graduated from the College of Pharmacy, Chicago, and has since filled a position in Dr. Carroll's drug store, Laurens.

Ross C. is a carpenter and Carl a telegraph operator. The others are Leona, a Laurens graduate in 1899, Roy and Logan E.

**Johnson**, George T. (b. 1859) merchant, Laurens, is a native of Muscatine county, Iowa, the son of Alexander and Nancy Ann Johnson, who were natives of Ireland and Indiana, respectively. He remained at home on the farm until he was of age and completed his education at Wilton Academy. In 1882 he went to Holstein, Ida county, and engaged in the lumber business. In 1886 he located at Laurens and engaged in the sale of general merchandise. He rebuilt after the great fire of 1898 and continued in the mercantile business until the close of the year 1901,

He was a member of the Laurens town council from the time of its incorporation in 1890 until 1898 and has served many years as a member of the board of education. He has been an

official member of the Christian church and served three years—Jan. 1 1890 to May 31, 1893—under Harrison's administration, as postmaster at Laurens.

In 1883, during his residence at Holstein, he married Mary C. Venard of Muscatine county, and his family consists of three children, Roy A., Milo L., and Coral Amanda.

Stephen D. Johnson, his brother, who was associated with him in business became proprietor of the Adams Hotel and restaurant in 1901.

**Kreul**, Christian Fred (b. 1858) senior member of the firm of Kreul Bros., Laurens, is a native of Wisconsin, the son of J. F. and Margaret (Schmahlenberger) Kreul. In 1883 he married Emma Munns and continued to work at his trade as a blacksmith. In 1884 he came to Laurens and by the erection of a small blacksmith shop laid the foundation for the large establishment now occupied by the Kreul Bros (p. 765). He is the owner of a fine residence at Laurens and has taken an active part in the management of municipal affairs, having served eight years as a member of the town council and two years, 1898-99, as president of the board of education.

His family consists of four children, Albert A., Mattie L. Elgin A. and Mary C.

**Kreul**, Henry August (b. Wis. 1860) came to Laurens in 1885 and three years later became a partner with his brother Christian. He is an excellent workman and has contributed much toward effecting the enlargement and promoting the efficiency of their large smithing and manufacturing establishment.

**Kreul**, George R. a younger brother of C. F. came to Laurens in 1888 and learned the smithing trade with his brothers. In 1895 he became a member of the firm of Winsor &

Kreul, blacksmiths, Laurens, and in the fall of 1900 moved to Pocahontas where he is still engaged in the smithing business.

In the fall of 1894 he married Rosanna F. Fuller, a teacher. She has been for several years the secretary of the Pocahontas County Sunday School Association.

**Lange, Louie E.** (b. 1861), founder and editor of the Pocahontas County Sun, 1885 to 1900, spent fifteen of the best years of his early life at Laurens. He came to the town when it was new and connected it with the reading public by establishing the Pocahontas County Sun, (p. 768) May 15, 1885. Finding that the patronage at first was not sufficient to support the paper he taught the Laurens public school four years, 1886 to 1889; and served as postmaster from Jan. 1, 1893. to Oct. 1, 1897. As a candidate for the postoffice during the last administration of President Cleveland, he received the unanimous endorsement of the people and a cordial recognition on the part of those who stood nearest the throne. In the fall of 1895 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors, but resigned after serving one year.

He was well qualified for the work of teaching and rendered acceptable and efficient service as postmaster and supervisor, but it was as editor of the Sun that he became most widely known, exerted the strongest influence and will be longest remembered. He was not discouraged in the day of small things, when a contemporary jokingly suggested that an appropriate name for the paper would be "The Laurens Lantern," because it was a little light that shined in a barn; and when after fifteen years he relinquished it, he had the satisfaction of seeing it occupy a large sunshiny office, supplied with a complete modern printing equipment and re-

ceiving the official patronage of Pocahontas county. He endeavored to give to the paper a high moral tone and did not hesitate to rebuke local evils with considerable severity. He strongly opposed the saloon, and on that issue was elected mayor of Laurens four successive terms.

In 1900 he entered the law department of the Iowa State University and, graduating from it in 1902, located at Apache, and in 1903 at Anadarko, Oklahoma, where he is now engaged in the practice of law.

In December 1885 he married Lillie Olive Jennings, a native of Illinois and then teaching school in Clay county. She died at 27 in 1890, having previously sustained the loss of two little children.

**McNee, William Alexander** (b. 1861) cashier of the First National Bank, Laurens, is a native of Benton county where he received his early education in the public schools. Later he attended the academies at Vinton and Blairstown. He left the farm at twenty-one and, becoming a telegraph operator for the C. & N. W. Ry. Company, served as an agent for that company at several of the stations from Tama to Hawarden on the Toledo and Northwestern Branch of their road. In 1887 he was transferred to the station at Laurens. In 1889 he resigned this position in order that he might become an assistant in the bank then established of which he has been the cashier since its organization as a national bank in 1891. He has served as clerk of Swan Lake township and treasurer of Laurens several years, and as the first recorder of Laurens thirteen years, 1890—1902.

In 1899 he married Emma Wiss of Laurens and his family consists of one son, Lawrence W.

**Metcalf, Abraham** (b. 1843; d. 1902), was a native of Belmont county,

O., and at seven came with his parents to Illinois. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in an Illinois regiment, but was soon afterwards transferred to Co. I. 8th Kansas, and served four years and four months.

In 1864, while home on a furlough, he married Martha Sturdivan of Illinois, and in 1870 located in Poweshiek county, where he remained eight years. He then lived five years in Missouri, five years in Nebraska, and 1888 located in Swan Lake township, where he died at 58 in 1902. He was a member of the M. E. church and left a family of six children, Frank C., William B., Albert I., Nettie E. (Mrs. Sparks), Charles S., and Mary P. (Mrs. Ashmore).

**Murphey**, Otto Maynard, (b. 1855.) general merchant, Laurens, is a native of Indiana. In his boyhood he moved with his parents to Des Moines, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. He then located at Stuart, where he became a clerk in a store, and in 1880 married Mary E. Wells. He spent five years in the state of Washington. In 1895 he located in Laurens, where he has since been engaged in the sale of general merchandise. He carries a large and varied assortment of goods and his store-room always presents a bright and an attractive appearance. He is a liberal supporter of his home paper, by making generous use of its columns to announce to the public the arrival of new or special goods in anticipation of approaching seasons. He is a member of the city school board and an elder in the church of Christ. He has become widely and favorably known over the county by his active interest in the Pocahontas County Sunday School Association, having served as secretary of it one year and president of it two years.

His family consists of two children, Charles A. and Nellie; Francis, the

youngest, having died at fifteen, in 1902.

**Noah**, Milton M., (b. 1861), mayor of Laurens in 1902, is a native of Rock Island county, Ill., the son of Peter and Mary A. (Sturdivan) Noah. In 1865 he moved with his parents to Poweshiek county, Iowa, and lived there the next twenty-two years. After receiving a good common school course he attended Iowa college at Grinnell and later completed a commercial course at Iowa City. In 1887 he located at Laurens and was engaged as a dealer in stock and proprietor of a meat market until 1902 when he became a dealer in general merchandise. He has acquired the reputation of being a good judge of live stock and the possessor of many of the qualifications of a good business man. There has been accorded to him the honor of serving as president of the Laurens school board six years, 1893-96 and 1901-02, and of serving as mayor of the city five years, 1896-99 and 1902.

In 1890 he married Emma M. Hammer. She died in 1901 leaving one son, Muriel.

**Shoemaker**, Jacob P. (b. 1855.), hardwareman, Laurens, is a native of Muncy, Pa. In 1866 he came with his parents to Cedar county, Iowa. In May, 1882, accompanied by his brother, H. P. Shoemaker, both single, he came to Laurens, where they bought lots, built the fourth business house in the town and opened a hardware store. His brother in 1885 married Mattie Bellinger and in 1888 moved to Nebraska. In 1891 Mr. Shoemaker took in Eri D. Anderson as a partner, another building was erected on an adjoining lot and it was supplied with a stock of furniture. Both of these buildings and their stocks of goods were destroyed by the fire of 1898. Later that year they were replaced by brick buildings and Messrs. Shoemaker & Anderson continued in the

furniture and hardware business until 1901 when E. D. Anderson withdrew and the furniture business was sold to T. D. Landon. The hardware store of Mr. J. P. Shoemaker is one of the oldest business enterprises in Laurens and he carries a stock of goods so large and well assorted that every customer finds here just what he wants.

Mr. Shoemaker is a republican and has rendered efficient service as a member of the town council a number of years. In 1883 he married Mollie S. Fisher, now occupies one of the good residences in Laurens and has one son, Horatio N.

His mother, Elizabeth P., wife of Horatio N. Shoemaker died at his home, December 12, 1902, at the age of 76 years. She was a native of Pennsylvania and was married in 1848. In 1866 the family moved to Cedar county, Iowa, where her husband died in June 1900. Their family consisted of Maggie, Ella, Jacob, Harry, Anna and Lizzie.

**Southworth**, Joseph (b. 1832.), Laurens, is a native of new Jersey. In 1856 he came with his parents to Buchanan county, Iowa, where in 1858 he married Augusta Hayes (b. 1834.), a native of New Brunswick, and engaged in farming. In 1876 with a family of three children, he came to Pocahontas county and located on the Osborn homestead, on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 18, Dover township. He improved and occupied this farm until 1888, when he moved to Fonda and four years later to Laurens. He has frequently supported the candidates of the prohibition party, but in recent years has been a republican. He has been a life-long worker in the M. E. church and respect for his excellent judgment has enabled him to exert a potent influence in every community in which he has lived. The amiable companion of his wedded life died at 66 in 1901 at Pocahontas. Her life

was one of beautiful trust in God and she exemplified in a happy manner the Christian graces of patience, kindness and love.

His family consisted of three children:

Jessie F. (b. 1859) in 1882 married W. H. English, a traveling salesman, lives at Fremont, Neb., and has four children, Grace, Wallace, Nellie and Willard.

Edwin H. (b. 1862) a harness maker, in 1886 married Bertha B. Burnett and located at Laurens, where he still works at his trade. He is the owner of several properties at Laurens and a farm of 80 acres in Dover township. He has two children, Vincent and Arckie B.

Fred J. (b. 1870), also a harness maker located at Pocahontas, where he acquired considerable prominence by serving several terms as a justice of the peace. He married Bessie G. Wallace and has two children, Mabel and Verne.

In 1902 Fred and family and his father, Joseph Southworth, moved to Boden, North Dakota.

**Strouse**, John, (b. 1803; d. 1886.) one of the early pioneers of Swan Lake township, was a native of Pennsylvania. In 1826 at Terre Haute, Ind., he married Mary Reed (b. 1806; d. 1881.) and locating on a farm lived there until 1844, when he moved to Milford, Iroquois county, Ill. In 1865, accompanied by his two sons, Alpheus and John B. and their families, he moved to Drakesville, Davis county Iowa. In the fall of 1875 he bought and located on 204 acres of land on sec. 16, south and west of Swan Lake in Swan Lake township, on which Alexander McEwen had erected new buildings that spring. After a few years he gave his farm to his son, Alpheus. In 1876 he built a new house near the residence of his son, John B. Strouse, with whom he had previously

lived, and occupied it until his decease at 83 in 1886. In 1890 his wife moved to the home of her son, John B., at Madrid and died there the next year at 85.

**Strouse**, John B. (b. 1837.), younger son of John Strouse, and first settler of Swan Lake township, was a native of Indiana. In 1863 he married Cynthia J. Peed, at Milford, Ill., and remained there one year. He then moved to Davis county, Iowa. In May 1869, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Isaac W. Peed, he set out in a lumber wagon to find a home in the northwest territory. On June 14th following he camped on the shores of Swan Lake. A beautiful skirting of timber, on the east and south banks of Swan Lake made its shores an attractive resting place and favorite camping ground to those who journeyed east and west. Here he found a little log cabin called "Trappers' Hotel," and he and Peed began to occupy it, as it was vacant at that season of the year. Here they met two prospective settlers, Church and Collins, who went with Peed to the land office at Sioux City, to secure their claims while Strouse went to Fort Dodge for provisions. When they returned from these long journeys it was found that only two claims were available. Peed secured a homestead on sec. 14, Strouse the next sec. 16, which included the hotel, and the other men left for the eastern part of the state.

A few days later Strouse left his goods consisting of a cook stove, a table, some flour, meat and potatoes in the hotel, and returned with Peed to Warren county. Returning with his family and other household goods he arrived at his frontier home on the east bank of Swan Lake, July 7, 1869, and thus became the first settler in Swan Lake township.

The entire country in that section was then an uninhabited waste, the

nearest house being that of Samuel Booth in Powhatan, thirteen miles east. The trapper's hotel, which he first occupied as a dwelling place for his family, had been built of logs 11x12 feet and five feet high at the eaves. The roof was covered with clapboards and dirt, and the weeds grew upon it four feet high. It had no windows, the floor was the soil of Mother Earth and the entrance was closed with a blanket. On his return from Warren county he was pleasantly surprised to find that, though others had enjoyed it during his absence, his provisions had been left undisturbed and a note was left on the table that read, "We are much obliged for the improvement, all is well."

Having frequent occasion to share the hospitality of this humble log cabin with those who were constantly passing, later that season he erected a frame house 14x16 feet and 6 feet high at the eaves. The frame lumber for this building was obtained from logs hauled from the banks of Swan Lake to the mill at Sioux Rapids, and the other materials were hauled from Fort Dodge. In this building he furnished hotel accommodations as good as he could to the throngs of people that were constantly passing east and west on the mail route to Sioux Rapids. This humble hostelry was located about midway between the settlements along the Des Moines and Little Sioux rivers and as many as sixty wagons camped at the same time in his grove.

July 5, 1872 his house and its contents were entirely consumed by a fire that originated from a defective flue. It was immediately replaced by a larger and better one that was consumed by an incendiary fire in April 1877, when he was on a trip to the grist mill at Rutland. This fire occurred at midnight and consumed also his barn and other outbuildings.

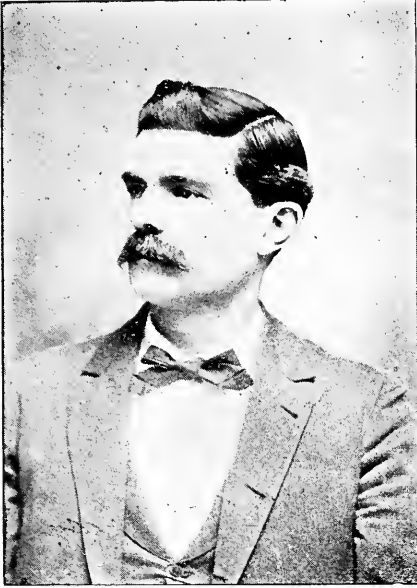
These repeated and serious losses

by fire and the slow progress of the settlement led him to seek an older community, and in November that year he moved to Madrid, and in 1900 to Luther, Iowa.

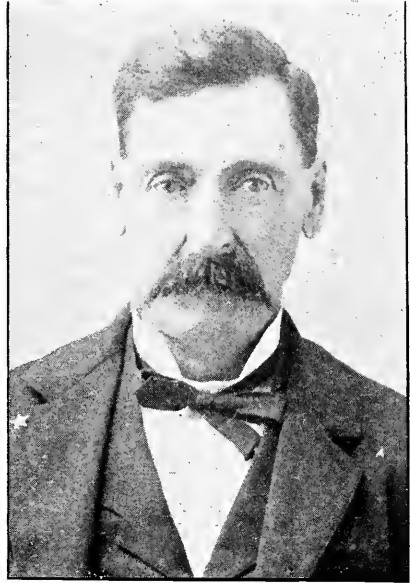
His family consisted of eight children, Lee (b. Ill., 1863), Mary (b. Davis Co. Ia., 1865), John W. (b. Cal- low, Mo., 1867), Montgomery C. (b.

Indianola. Ia., 1868), Frank (b. Dec. 31 1870), the first child born in Swan Lake township, Noah M., Ann and Wilbur M. Lee in 1887 graduated from the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati, O., and has since been engaged in the practice of medicine at Covington, Ky.





SAMUEL H. GILL.



DR. DAVID NOWLAN.



JAMES C. STRONG AND FAMILY, HAVELOCK.  
MARY E., ALVA A., JASON F., MYRTLE L., MRS. STRONG, MR. STRONG, WILLIAM A.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, HAVELOCK.



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL H. GILL. HAVELOCK, (MRS. GILL IS ON THE STEPS.)



## XXVII.

### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

“Tis splendid to live so grandly,  
That long after you are gone,  
The things you did are remembered,  
And recounted under the sun;  
To live so bravely and so purely,  
That a nation stops on its way,  
And once a year, with banner and drum,  
Keeps its thoughts of your natal day.”

—MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

Talent develops itself in solitude; character in the stream of life.—GOETHE.

#### GENERAL FEATURES.



WASHINGTON township (93-33) is the third from the east, in the north row of the county. It is throughout a gently rolling prairie and the soil is splendid both for raising stock and agricultural purposes. It is traversed in a south easterly direction by three streams of water, of which the principal one, Lizard Creek, passes through the center of it and only a few rods west of Havelock. A part of Herman lake, that has its outlet through Pilot creek in the north east, extends a short distance southward on section

one. These streams furnish a good supply of running water.

The territory now included in Washington formed a part of Des Moines township from the organization of the county in 1859 to Sept. 3, 1866, when it became a part of Powhatan, then called "Nunda." Washington township was established Sept. 5, 1876, and the territory now included in Sherman was attached to it until April 5, 1880.

The first sales of land in Washington township were made Aug. 13, 1858 to non-resident purchasers. A large part of the township was disposed of in that way during the remainder of

1858 and 1859. On July 19, 1867, the unsold portions of the odd numbered sections were given as a grant to the McGregor and Sioux City R. R. Co.

No homesteads were taken and no sodhouses were built in Washington township.

During the year 1869 James C. Strong, a resident of Dubuque county, effected the purchase of 2,200 acres in the vicinity of section 32, Washington township, at \$4.00 an acre for himself and friends as follows:

James C. Strong, 560 on sec. 32; Jonathan L. Clark, 320 on sec. 30; Benjamin Mather, 240 on sec. 30; John E. Russell, 560 on sec. 28, all in Washington township; and for Jason N. Russell, 106 on sec. 4; Harvey S. Russell, 103 on sec. 4; Morah F. Russell, 80 on sec. 4; Ephraim Smith, 80 on sec. 6; Lewis Foland, 120 on sec. 6, in Sherman township. He purchased all of these lands from John E. Owens, a resident of Parkersburg and a bridge-builder for Butler county. Butler county had received them from the state of Iowa, in lieu of swamp lands in it, and then transferred them to Owens for bridges that he had built.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The early settlement of Washington township begins with the month of May 1870 when James C. Strong of Dubuque county located on 560 acres on section 32, that he had bought the previous year. There came with him on wagons, Jason N. Russell, a brother-in-law, who had secured land on an adjoining section in Sherman township, and Jonathan L. Clark, who located on the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 30, Washington. Strong and Russell assisted Clark to build the first house in the township and then lived with him during that season. Mrs. Clark and three children arrived by rail as soon as the house was ready for occupancy.

These persons formed the nucleus of the first settlements in the two

townships of Washington and Sherman. They were separated many miles from any neighbors, and, during the next twelve years, their nearest markets were at Fonda and Sioux Rapids, about twenty miles distant.

1871. In the spring of 1871 J. C. Strong built the second house and planted the first grove in the township. His wife and family of four children then joined him.

A little later that year M. D. Herrington and family located on sec. 4, in the north part of the township; and Harvey S. Russell joined his brother Jason on the latter's farm.

1872. In 1872 the only new family in this locality was that of Morah F. Russell, who had married Jemima, daughter of Benjamin Mather, and he located on sec. 4, Sherman.

1873. In the spring of 1873 Philip Hamble, wife, son and daughter located on the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 33; his daughter, Maggie, having become the wife of Jason N. Russell.

1875-80. The grasshopper period made hard times on the frontier and Benjamin Mather and family, who located on sec. 30 in 1875, were the only new comers. In 1879 they were followed by J. A. Saddler on sec. 9, in 1880 by J. W. Logan on sec. 13 and D. C. Williams on 31. Others that voted in 1880 were C. E. Herrick, J. Crone, G. H. Hinckley, F. H. Merchant, J. C. Percing, A. T. Hark, J. T. Kinkead, David Miller, F. Miller and C. E. Duer.

1881. An era of better times and the survey of two new railroads through the county, one of them, the Toledo and North Western, through Washington township, gave a new impetus to the work of improvement and the prairies were dotted with a number of new buildings. Among the new arrivals this year were B. C. Bohn (b. Ohio, 1845) on 5, H. E. Buck (b. Ill., 1853) on 21, Sam-

uel L. Horsman (b. Ohio, 1852) on 36 Elijah Chase on 12, Elijah Veazie (b. Mass., 1856) on 14 and E. S. Hulse.

1882. In 1882 the railroad came and the town of Havelock was founded on sec. 35. Among the new settlers that year were Samuel H. and Osborne W. Gill, M. B. Parks, H. E. Spurrier, Charles Talbot, C. L. Flint, David Nowlan, M. D., J. B. Miller, John C. Potter on 2, E. P. Edmundson on 17, Col. James Dickey and A. E. Fish.

1883-1885. Others that came soon afterward were Henry Goodchild on 27, W. Vanderhoof on 31, Peter Willson on 11, John A. Ryon on 19, H. W. Wilcox, E. A. Donahoe, Amos Baker, (b. N. Y. 1824) on 22, David Miller (b. O. 1831) on 11, G. H. Miller (b. Ill. 1854) on 29, Geo. W. Hathaway (b. O. 1844) on 29, C. F. Gegenheimer (b. Pa. 1836) on 36, Geo. O. Spratt (b. Pa. 1847) on 24, C. H. Collins, T. G. Demaray, S. P. Thomas, A. E. Wells, J. W. O'Brien, Charles J. Gill, L. M. Eaton, E. W. Clinton, Wm. Steer and W. G. Runyon.

Luella postoffice was established at the home of J. C. Strong in 1877 and it was continued until 1882.

#### ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS.

The petition for the establishment of the township was circulated and presented to the board of county supervisors by James C. Strong, who suggested the name of Washington, "the father of our country," "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The first election was held Nov. 7, 1876. The first officers elected were J. C. Strong, Benjamin Mather and Jason N. Russell, trustees; Philip Hamble, clerk; M. F. Russell, assessor; J. C. Strong and M. D. Herrington, justices. J. C. Strong was then serving his second year as a member of the board of county supervisors.

The succession of officers has been as follows:

TRUSTEES: B. Mather, J. C. Strong 1877-'78; Philip Hamble, '78, 80-82; J. N. Russell, '77-80; Harvey S. Russell, Alva A. Strong, Charles L. Flint, F. H. Merchant, '82-83; H. E. Spurrier, Charles W. Baker, '82-85; W. Vanderhoof, '84-87; J. C. Potter, '83-88; J. A. Ryon, '86-90; E. A. Donahoe, C. A. Clinton, C. H. Collins, '88-99; E. P. Edmundson, '91-94; J. W. Logan, '90-92; C. J. Drechsel, '95-97; Henry Goodchild, '93-95; O. F. Oleson, '98-1902; J. B. Madden, '96-98; J. S. Cole, 1900-'02; W. E. Pirie, '99-1901; H. E. Buck '02-03; C. A. Clinton, '01; S. H. Gill, 1903.

CLERKS: Philip Hamble, '77; M. D. Herrington, M. F. Russell, '79-80; C. E. Herrick, '81-82; D. C. Williams, H. E. Buck, '83-87; S. H. Gill, '88-90; E. W. Clinton, '91-92; W. O. Sidwell, '93-96; J. B. Sheldon, '97-98; U. S. Vance, T. G. Demaray, 1900-'03.

JUSTICES: J. C. Strong, '77-82; M. D. Herrington, D. Harvey, G. W. Hathaway, '83-84; David Nowlan, '84-87; E. A. Donahoe, '88-92; C. J. Drechsel, '93-98; C. J. Gill, '99; G. J. Peterson, 1900-'03; A. J. Scott 1900-'01; C. H. Collins, '03.

ASSESSORS: M. F. Russell, '77-78; J. N. Russell, J. W. Carson, '80-82; C. L. Flint, '83-84; S. H. Gill, '85-88; J. B. Madden, '89-94; H. E. Buck, '95-98; Edwin Meredith, '98-1903.

In 1889 the board of health was organized and suitable regulations adopted.

In 1890 the cemetery on the se corner of the sw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 26, five acres, was purchased for \$200.

In 1893 a Western Reversible Road machine was tried and purchased for \$225.

The early history of Washington township was not marred by any act of defalcation, misappropriation of the public funds or sudden departure of leading citizens for parts unknown,-

unfortunate experiences that happened to some of their neighbors. The men who participated in the management of the public affairs of this township have bequeathed a clean escutcheon and a noble heritage to the present generation. The debt of gratitude due to those who braved the hardships and endured the privations incident to pioneer life, while they established and nurtured happy homes, schools, churches and other important institutions on the frontier,—the rich heritage of the present generation,—is manifested in the best manner, by treating them while they live with all the respect that is due to their age and worth, and by manifesting the same spirit of fidelity in the further development of the institutions they have so prudently and faithfully planted. In this township it may be said,

“Each loyal son  
Holds as a birthright from true sires  
Treasures of honor, nobly won,  
And freedom’s never-dying fires.”

The first marriage ceremony in this township was performed by Justice J. C. Strong in 1880 for Clayton Herrington and Maggie Armstrong.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

Washington township has furnished the following county officials.

**SUPERVISOR:** James C. Strong, 1875-’83.

**SUPERINTENDENT:** U. S. Vance, the present incumbent, since 1900.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school house was built in the J. C. Strong neighborhood in the fall of 1871 when there were only two families to attend it, those of Mr. Strong and Jonathan L. Clark. It was located midway between these two families and Mary E. Barnes (Frost) was the first teacher in it. After the removal of Clark in 1873 and the arrival of other families it was

placed in its present location in the center of district No. 8.

April 16, 1888, when the township was divided into sub-districts a special election was held in each of them for the purpose of electing a new school board, the old one having resigned.

The succession of the school officers of the township has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** Philip Hamble, 1877; M. F. Russell, ’78-79; M. D. Herrington, ’82, David Miller, H. E. Spurrier, C. L. Flint, C. Gegenheimer, Thomas Yerkes, C. J. Harvey, W. H. Jarvis, C. J. Gill, ’90; C. A. Clinton, S. G. Peterson, A. T. Hakes, M. K. Butcher, Thos. Phelps, ’95-96; O. F. Oleson, ’97-98; H. E. Buck, Edwin Meredith, 1900; W. E. Craig. W. F. Hamble.

**SECRETARIES:** Alva A. Strong, ’77-84; Wm. Vanderhoof, ’84-86, E. A. Donaboe, ’87-89; L. M. Eaton, ’90-92; H. E. Buck, E. Wilson, Wm. Steen, ’95-1903.

**TREASURERS:** J. C. Strong, ’77-85; H. W. Wilcox, S. P. Thomas, David Nowlan, M. D., C. A. Clinton, C. H. Collins, ’90-93; E. W. Clinton, W. G. Runyon, ’96-1903;

In 1902 the board of directors, according to the number of their district consisted of Wm. Goodchild, E. R. Barber, P. Keck, F. A. Leander, H. E. Buck, Ed. A. Meredith, T. C. Ward, W. E. Craig, and W. F. Hamble.

Some of the early teachers were Mary E. and Anna C. Barnes, Alexander McEwen, Amanda Fancher, Delilah Hamble, Maggie Hamble Russell, Geo. W. Hathaway, Edward L. Strong, Benjamin Samuels, L. M. Strong, Mrs. Chapel, S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Herrick, Fannie Thornton and Mary Sanders.

Among recent teachers were Mary Seright, Blanch Marquart, Annie Madden, Myrtle Logan, Estella and L. E. Smith, Luella O’Malley, Mary

T. Grey, Ina Jolliffe, Mary Keck, W. J. Rodda and Andrew Olkjer.

During the school year ending Sept. 1, 1901, several of the schools in Washington township received large donations from Hon. Geo. W. Schee of Primgar to their library fund, having secured the three highest prizes offered by him for that year, namely, district No. 1, \$35; No. 6, \$30, and No. 2, \$25. Mr. Schee had offered to the public schools of this county, that year, \$200 to be divided into 17 prizes for raising library funds. 80 of the 130 schools that were eligible entered the contest and raised \$1,335.44 for library purposes. 18 schools raised over \$20 each, and 39 from \$10 to \$20. Mr. Schee gave an extra \$10 to each of the three schools named above in Washington township. For the year ending Oct. 1, 1902, he increased the amount to be given to the rural schools of this county to \$250 to be divided into 22 prizes.

#### HAVELOCK.

The town of Havelock is located on the north east quarter of sec. 35, along the line of the C. & N. W. Ry. It was surveyed and platted Nov. 23, 1881 by P. Folsom for the Western Town Lot Company, consisting of Albert Keep, president; J. B. Redfield, secretary; Gilford F. and Elmada Greene. It was named after the British general, Sir Henry Havelock (1795-1857), the hero of the Indian Mutiny, who relieved Lucknow and was then besieged there until rescued by Colin Campbell.

May 15, 1891, William H. and Mary J. Jarvis platted the Jarvis addition, containing blocks 1 to 13 on the s½ sec. 26. Sept 26, 1892, C. W. and Nellie Green platted the Green addition consisting of blocks 7 and 8 between Clay and Wood streets. The first addition by the Town Lot Co. was made June 2, 1892.

Havelock has a pretty location in the center of an agricultural region,

that is favorable for the most successful farming and stock raising. It is midway between the east and west lines of the county, and seven and a half miles from Pocahontas, the county seat. The population, which is American and numbered 365 in 1895, was about 600 in 1902. It has good railway facilities, two banks, two churches, a good school building, a creamery and a number of good general stores. The business men are thrifty and progressive. They are united and take pride in maintaining that high moral character and reputation that was characteristic of the noble hero after whom the town was named. The town has never had a saloon, a fact the citizens note with commendable pride. They have shown a preference for putting their earnings and savings in beautiful homes and comforts therein. The town has no bonded indebtedness and the people are happy and prosperous. The growth of the town has been steady and substantial.

In the country around Havelock more apples are grown than in any other section of this county. There are several fine orchards in the vicinity that are now in good bearing condition. An abundance of good water is found at a reasonable depth, the soil is unsurpassed in richness and fertility, and year after year produces great crops of Indian corn,

“God’s gift to the new world’s great need,

That helped to build the nation’s strength,

Up through beginnings rude, to lead A higher race of men at length.

How straight and tall and stately grand,

Its scerried stalks upright and strong! How nobly are its outlines planned,

What grace and charm to it belong! What splendor in its rustling leaves!

What richness in its close-set gold! What largess in its clustering sheaves,

New every year, though ages old!”

—CELLA THAXTER.

## GREAT LONGEVITY.

The climate of this section is as conducive to health and long life as any that can be found anywhere. The proof of this statement appears, not only in the general health of the people, which has been uniformly good, but in the great longevity attained by so many of them. Although the country is comparatively new the following instances may be noted.

Mary Swenson, after a residence of fifteen years in this section, died at Fonda, Oct. 10, 1897, at 89. J. W. Harrington died at Fonda, March 26, 1901, at 93. John G. Lampe one of the pioneers of Bellville township died at his home Nov. 27, 1900, at 92. Mrs. Fannie N. Strong, an early pioneer of Powhatan township is 86, and Mrs. Eliza Ann Stone, a resident of the same township since 1866, passed her 93rd birthday Feb. 27, 1903. Joseph Chapman, a long-time resident of the vicinity of Fonda, passed his 94th birthday Nov. 3, 1902. Mrs. Lydia Woolman attained the great age of 103 at Gilmore City in 1900, and died the next year at Denison.

“He liveth long, who liveth well;

All else is life but flung away.

He liveth longest, who can tell

Of true things truly done each day.

—BONAR.

## HAVELOCK IN 1882.

The track was laid and the first construction train on the Toledo (now Chicago) & Northwestern rail road arrived at Havelock Jan. 16, 1882. The trains began to carry freight in March, when J. B. Miller, agent, arrived, and the depot was completed in May, 1882.

The first building in Havelock was a frame house built by M. B. Parks, druggist, in February, 1882. The second one was the store building of S. H. and O. W. Gill and the third one the hardware and grocery store of W. and H. E. Spurrier. The first freight train brought several cars of lumber and two lumber yards were

started, one by John H. Queal & Co., Charles Talbot, manager, and the other by Burnside and Flint, C. L. Flint manager. Among the other store buildings built that spring were a general store by Col. James Dickey and A. E. Fish, a grocery by E. S. Hulse and a drug store by M. B. Parks. Dr. David Nowlan arrived and began the practice of medicine.

Samuel H. Gill was appointed postmaster March 1, 1882, and, during the first two and a half months of his term, carried the mail on horseback twice a week from Pocahontas. This carrying of the mail was a matter of public spirit and it was discontinued as soon as the trains began to carry it.

The first patriotic celebration at Havelock was held July 4, 1882. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and it was pronounced a “grand success.”

The first school house, a temporary building, was completed in July, 1882, and Ursula Goodchild (Overholt) taught the first term in it that summer.

Mr. W. H. Wilcox held the first religious services in the school house July 16, 1882.

The first election held in Havelock was on June 27, 1882, when 37 out of the 41 votes in the township were cast for the prohibitory amendment. At this election D. C. Williams served as clerk and M. D. Herrington, F. H. Merchant and G. H. Hinckley as judges. The general election on Nov. 6th following was held in the depot.

## HAVELOCK OFFICIALS.

The petition of the citizens of Havelock to become an incorporated town was approved by the district court March 22, 1892, and the first election was held May 9th following. On that day the following officers were elected.

Mayor, C. H. Collins; recorder, E. A.

Donahoe; councilmen, J. C. Strong, S. H. Gill, J. W. O'Brien, C. J. Harvey David Nowlan, M. D., Edward Meredith; treasurer, S. P. Thomas; Marshall, J. C. Potter; commissioner, J. S. Cole.

The succession of the town officers has been as follows:

MAYORS: C. H. Collins, 1892-93; A. E. Wells, J. C. Strong, T. G. Demaray, '96-97; S. H. Gill, '98-1901; O. W. Gill, 1902.

RECORDERS: E. A. Donahoe, '92-93; T. G. Demaray, '94-95; A. F. Clarke, '96-97; W. H. Harris, '98-99; C. M. Madden, 1900-1901; J. H. Adams.

TREASURERS: S. P. Thomas, '92, 94-99; J. C. Potter, '93-1901; J. E. Allison 99-1900; A. F. Clarke.

ASSESSORS: A. A. Wells, '92-94; G. W. Proctor, C. H. Collins, '96-1901; W. J. Tumbleson.

COUNCILMEN: J. C. Strong, '92-94; S. H. Gill, '92-96; C. J. Harvey, '92-95; Edward Meredith, '92-95; J. W. O'Brien, '92-93; Dr. D. Nowlan, '92; E. S. Hulse, '93-96; G. O. Spratt, '94-99; J. C. Potter, '95-97; A. E. Wells, '96-98; U. S. Vance, '96-98; P. L. Christopher, '97; C. W. Miller, '97-99; W. O. Sidwell, '98-1902; T. G. Demaray, '98-1902; J. B. Sheldon, '99-1902; L. D. Smith, '99-1901; J. C. Barth, 1900-'02; J. Pattersnn, 1900; J. W. O'Brien, 1901-'02, Dr. F. E. Heathman, 1902.

POSTMASTERS: S. H. Gill, March 1882-86; E. A. Donahoe, June '86--89; S. H. Gill, April, '89-93; E. A. Dona-

hoe, May 1, '93-97; David Nowlan, M. D., Oct. 13, '97 to date 1902.

AGENTS C. & N. W. RY: J. B. Miller the first agent opened the station in a box car on the side track in March, and began to occupy the depot May 19, 1882. He continued four years. His successors have been W. C. Foster, '86-88; A. F. Clarke, '88-99; J. E. Robinson, '99; A. W. Waldeck, Wm. Diesen.

The Havelock and Pocahontas mail route was discontinued Dec. 15, 1900, when two trains a day were running on the C., R. I. & P. Ry. but two days before they began to carry mail.

The first election held in Havelock was on June 27, 1882, when 37 out of the 41 votes in the township were cast for the prohibitory amendment. At this election D. C. Williams served as clerk and M. D. Herrington, F. H. Merchant and G. H. Hinckley as judges. The general election on Nov. 6th following was held in the depot.

#### HAVELOCK SCHOOLS.

The Independent District of Havelock was established April 30, 1891. The first board of education consisted of J. C. Potter, C. J. Gill, and W. H. Jarvis, who held their first meeting July 14, 1891, and elected C. J. Gill, president; L. M. Eaton, secretary; and C. H. Collins, treasurer. One week later it was decided to build a new school house costing \$3,000 but in March 1892 it was decided to sell the old property, and lots 1 and 2 in block 3, Jarvis addition were bought for \$250. A new four room building was

built that year by J. W. O'Brien, contractor, at a cost of \$4,000.

The succession of school officers has been as follows:

**PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD:** C. J. Gill, '91-92; E. A. Donahoe, '93-97; J. C. Potter, '98-1900; E. A. Donahoe, 1901-'02;

**SECRETARIES:** L. M. Eaton, '91-92 Anson E. Wells, '93-94; J. W. O'Brien '95-1902.

**TREASURERS:** C. H. Collins, 91-92; Edward Meredith, '93-94; J. B. Sheldon, '95-99; S. H. Gill, 1900-'01; J. B. Sheldon, 1902.

Others that served as members of the board were W. H. Jarvis, J. H. Adams, A. A. Wells, Edward A. Meredith, C. H. Collins, G. O. Spratt, J. S. Cole, M. P. Weston, T. G. Demaray, W. H. Pool.

The early teachers in the Havelock school were Ursula Goodchild, '82; Rufus A. Brownlee, Elizabeth O'Brien, Stella O'Brien, and Addie Newton, Kittie Coutant.

Since the organization of the independent district the succession of principals has been R. H. Bowman, 1892; M. P. Weston, '93; U. S. Vance, '94-97; M. P. Weston, '98-99 Frank Jarvis, 1900-1903.

The assistants have been Hattie Jolliffe '92-93, Laura E. Anderson, Anna B. Greensides, Ada Harvey, '94-96; Sue M. Merriam, '95-97; Mamie Hammond, Little Tumbleson, Cilena G. Mercer, Ella Johnson, Mrs. M. P. Weston, Ruth Seright, '99-1900; Mary Taylor, Kate Seright, Olive Wray, Stella Smith.

**GRADUATES:** The following classes have graduated from the Havelock High School.

**CLASS OF 1894:** Burt C. Nowlan.

1896. Lucy W. Potter, Ella Harmon, Myrtle L. Strong, Litta Tumbleson, Emma Gill, Grace Spear, Fay Thomas, Ray Tumbleson, Edward Nowlan, Ada Harvey.

1901. J. F. O'Brien, James Adams, Nina Seright.

1903. Blanch Spratt, Anna Goodchild, Mary Donahoe, Clara O'Brien, Lizzie Harmon.

#### HAVELOCK CHURCHES.

**METHODIST CHURCH**—The first service held in Washington twp. was a cottage prayer meeting which when instituted in the summer of 1871 was maintained on alternate Sabbaths in the home of the people in the Strong neighborhood. The first preaching service was held in the home of J. C. Strong in 1871 by Rev. John E. Rowen of the old Rolfe M. E. charge. On the occasion of his second visit a class was organized with J. C. Strong, leader, and Jonathan L. Clark, steward. After the erection of the Strong schoolhouse in the fall of 1871, the services were held in it. They continued to be held there until 1882 when they were transferred to Havelock.

Mr. H. W. Wilcox, a local preacher living on the farm of Frank Williams, now owned by John A. Ryon, on sec. 19 held religious services in Havelock in the schoolhouse July 16, 1882. They were then continued on alternate Sabbaths until autumn by Rev. Thomas J. Cuthbert of the old Rolfe charge. Then services continued to be held in the school house until 1890 when a church building costing \$4,000 and a parsonage costing \$1,000 were built.

Since that date the congregation has had a resident pastor and their succession has been as follows:

F. L. Moore Oct. 1. 1888-'91; L. F. Troutman '91-94; C. M. Phoenix '94-97; G. W. Shideler '97-1900; C. W. Coons, W. O. Tomkins 1901-'03.

The successors of Rev. T. J. Cuthbert were Rev. A. W. Richards '83-85; Mr. Doan '85-86; D. H. Fosburg '86-88.

Havelock was connected with the Rolfe charge until September 1885, and, including Plover and other classes, with the Curlew charge until



Sept. 23, 1890, when the Havelock and Plover charge was formed. The original members were James C. and Eliza M. Strong, William and Mary Alexander, Frank and Martha Beers, John, Betsy and Alice Barnes, L. M. Foland and others.

In 1902 the stewards were J. C. Strong, Minnie V. Gill, Viola Clark, and Onie Jarvis. The trustees, L. M. Foland, W. O. Sidwell, G. O. Spratt, S. H. Gill, L. D. Smith, J. B. Sheldon, and John Johnson. The class leaders, L. M. Foland and W. C. Ellis. President of the Epworth League, Leonard Sease. The Sunday school officers were, G. O. Spratt and W. H. Pool, superintendents; and Ina B. Smith, secretary and treasurer.

**BAPTIST:** The Havelock Baptist church was organized Feb. 10, 1893, with 21 constituent members, and it received formal recognition at a council held Dec. 2, 1893. The first officers were Rev. John A. Kees, P. S. Wilson, and Thomas Ward, trustees; Mrs. Cora (W. S.) Cox, clerk; Thomas Ward, treasurer; P. S. Wilson, deacon. In 1895 lots were purchased for a house of worship, but no building was erected.

The succession of pastors was as follows: John A. Kees, Feb. 10-Dec. 31, 1893; Charles G. Wright '94-95; Frank A. D. Keys '96-until his decease; Geo. Yule '96 and '97. The services were then discontinued.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** As a result of some evangelistic meetings held by Rev. G. W. Elliott, of South Dakota, the Havelock Christian church was organized March 29, 1896. The original members were John C. and Lucy C. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Butcher, Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grove, Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Vance, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Sly, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Merchant and other members of their families. The first officers were J. C. Potter, Jason

Smith, J. B. Smith, M. K. Butcher, and U. S. Vance, trustees; J. C. Potter, Jason Smith, S. T. Grove, and M. F. Sly, elders; I. L. Chandler, J. W. Groff, M. K. Butcher, and John Lucas, deacons; U. S. Vance, clerk.

In 1897 they bought the old school building and used it as a house of worship. Rev. S. T. Grove served as pastor during that year and in 1898 the services were discontinued.

#### HAVELOCK IN 1902.

**AGENT C. & N. W. RY.:** William Deesen.

**MAYOR:** O. W. Gill.

**POSTMASTER:** David Nowlan, M. D. Carrier R. F. D. Route No. 1, Charles Kerer; route No. 2, William J. O'Brien.

**COUNCILMEN:** T. G. Demaray, W. O. Sidwell, J. B. Sheldon, J. C. Barth, Dr. F. E. Heathman.

**RECORDER:** J. H. Adams.

**TREASURER:** A. F. Clarke.

**EDUCATIONAL BOARD:** E. A. Donahoe, Pres.; C. J. Gill, T. G. Demaray, J. S. Cole, W. H. Pool.

**TEACHERS:** Frank Jarvis, Prin., Olive Wray, Ruth and Kate Seright, Stella Smith.

**AUCTIONEER:** J. A. Wonderlich.

**BANKS:** Citizens: S. H. Gill & Co. proprietors; S. H. Gill, A. F. Clarke, and W. H. Harris, managers. Bank of Havelock, Farmer, Thompson & Helsell, proprietors; T. G. Demaray and W. H. Halverson, cashiers.

**BARBERS:** Geo. Dickerson and A. Holderness.

**BLACKSMITHS:** Joseph B. Smith and A. F. Kinkade; Fred Deidrick and Roy Lucas, in 1902 successors to C. J. Harvey.

**CHURCHES:** M. E., built 1890, Rev. W. O. Tompkins, pastor.

**CLOTHIERS:** Gill Bros., W. S. Cox.

**CREAMERY:** Hinn Bros., proprietors.

**DENTIST:** A. D. Johnson.

**DRAYMEN:** J. C. Barth, Al. Winegarten.

**DRESSMAKER:** Mable Lockie.

**DRUGGIST & JEWELER:** J. B. Sheldon.

**ELEVATORS:** DeWolf & Wells, J. A. Jameson, Mgr.; Wells-Hood Grain Co., John Dickerson, Mgr.

**GENERAL MERCHANTS:** Gill Bros. (Charles J. and Osborne W.); W. S. Cox; W. O. Sidwell; Mrs. G. H. and Mamie Hinckley have variety store.

**HARDWARE AND FURNITURE:** Smith Bros. (Lewis D and I. C.)

**HARNESS MAKER:** James A. Scott, in 1902 successor of W. O. Sidwell.

**HOTEL:** Hotel Ellis, built 1902, W. C. Ellis owner and proprietor, J. S. Lutz, Mgr.

**IMPLEMENTS:** John Dakin, in 1902 successors of E. M. Hamilton & E. A. Donahoe, Henry Murray, Mgr.

**JEWELER AND OPTICIAN:** J. B. Sheldon.

**LUMBER AND COAL:** Jenkins Hesla Lumber Co., Lewis McDermaid, Mgr, **LIVERY:** J. C. Barth.

**MASON AND PLASTERER:** A. K. Cleveland.

**MEAT MARKET:** J. Bradley Moore, Chauncey Cox, assistant.

**MILLINERS:** Mrs. Annie J. Rodgers; Ina Smith with dress making department by Mabel Lockie.

**NEWSPAPER:** The Havelock Item, Frank Jarvis editor and proprietor.

**PHYSICIANS:** David Nowlan, F. E. Heathman.

**POULTRY DEALERS:** Gill Bros., W. S. Cox.

**REAL ESTATE AGENTS:** S. H. Gill & Co; W. T. Kemp; John H. Adams; DeVaul Bros., F. T. Burdick.

**RESTAURANT:** Joseph B. Smith.

**TELEPHONE:** Havelock Telephone Co., established 1902; G. W. Smeltzer, president; Dr. F. E. Heathman, secretary and treasurer; Julia Fitzgerald, operator.

**WELL-DRILLER:** G. W. Smeltzer.

**HAVELOCK BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.**  
**THE CITIZENS BANK:** The Citizens Bank of Havelock was established in 1887 by Samuel H. Gill and John C.

Potter, two of the leading citizens of the community. It was the first bank in the town, and their aim was to supply a convenience that was greatly needed in the community. Its proprietors have been true to this aim, and the people of Havelock and vicinity have shown their appreciation of their endeavor by giving it a liberal patronage. In addition to the usual business transacted by such an institution, this bank handles a large amount of real estate and furnishes abstracts of title to all lands in Pocahontas county. Its proprietors have always performed a very prominent part in the management of the affairs of the town and none have done more than they to promote its growth and development. In 1899 J. C. Potter relinquished his interest in the bank. Its present proprietors are S. H. Gill & Co., and its officers are S. H. Gill, president; A. F. Clarke, vice-president and Wilbur H. Harris, cashier. In 1900 they erected a new brick building 25x40 feet, equipped with modern banking conveniences, including two vaults, one for their own use and the other for the use of their patrons.

**BANK OF HAVELOCK:** The Bank of Havelock, established by Farmer, Thompson & Hessel of Sioux Rapids, Iowa, was opened for business March 21st, 1891, with the following officers; J. P. Farmer, Pres., O. P. Thompson, vice-pres.; F. H. Hessel, Cashier; C. S. Gibbons and S. P. Thomas, Asst. Cashiers.

In 1892 they erected for it a two story bank building, the first brick building in the town, at the southwest corner of Main and Wood streets. Aug. 15, 1892, C. S. Gibbons was succeeded by T. G. Demaray as an assistant cashier. May 1, 1898, S. P. Thomas, an assistant cashier, was succeeded by J. E. Allison. Jan. 1, 1900, he was succeeded by W. H. Halvorson. Since the death of O. P.

Thompson, which occurred in 1902, the officers of the bank have been as follows: J. P. Farmer, Pres.; F. H. Helsell, vice-pres.; T. G. Demaray, cashier, and W. H. Halvorson, Asst. Cashier.

This bank was established for the accommodation of the merchants and farmers in the vicinity of Havelock, and has received a large and profitable patronage. The original plan of its founders has been conservatively pursued from year to year and it ranks as one of the solid financial institutions of Pocahontas county.

**HAVELOCK ITEM:** The Havelock Item (p. 319) is the only paper published in the town. It was established Aug. 1, 1893, by Fred J. Pratt, who conducted it about eight months and then sold it to E. A. Donahoe. Mr. Donahoe continued as its editor about four years and on Oct. 11, 1897, sold it to Prof. U. S. Vance, who had charge of it the next two years. Oct. 1, 1899, it was bought by Charles C. Johns. Prof. Frank Jarvis, his successor and the present proprietor of it, has published it since July 1, 1902. In November 1901 the office was equipped with a new press of modern mechanism, and the old Washington hand press, that had done trustworthy service during the previous years, was discarded.

The aim of its publishers has been to make it a good local rather than a political paper. In this respect they have succeeded admirably. A high moral tone has always been a characteristic of its editorial columns. It has been loyal to local interests and has been accorded a large and profitable advertising patronage.

**GILL BROS., MERCHANTS:** Charles J. and Osborne W., dealers in dry goods and groceries, Havelock, represent one of the oldest and most popular firms in the town. Gill Bros., S. H. and O. W., erected the first store building in the town in 1882, and put

in it the first stock of merchandise. They have been identified with the mercantile interests of the town ever since. In 1887, S. H. relinquished his interest in the firm and soon afterward his place was taken by his brother, Charles J. Gill. In 1891, they erected a new, two-story double brick building at the north end of Main street, where they have a splendid location. As an emporium of trade their store has held the fore-most place in the town and it has ranked high in the esteem of the citizens of the community. Here may be found an immense stock of dry goods, clothing, groceries, furniture, in fact every article included under the general classification of family supplies. The proprietors are conversant with every detail of their business and possess that sagacity that enables them to anticipate the wants of their patrons. They pay the highest market price for country produce, including poultry, and sell their goods on the principle of quick sales and small profits. They are old settlers, and by serving the interests of their patrons through a long series of years they have won the confidence and esteem of the community.

**HAVELOCK CREAMERY:** The Havelock creamery was established in 1892 by a cooperative association who organized by the election of S. H. Gill, president; S. P. Thomas, secretary, J. B. Potter, treasurer.

In 1898, owing to a lack of patronage, it suspended operations. It was then purchased by the Hinn Bros., of Laurens, who re-arranged the plan of its management by supplying each of its patrons with a hand cream-separator. The creamery continues to be operated under the new arrangement and receives a remunerative patronage.

#### RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

To the farmers of Washington township belongs the honor of taking the initiative and securing the first

rural free delivery route in Pocahontas county. In July 1901 W. E. Pirie mapped out a route, circulated a petition and forwarded it to the authorities at Washington. A few days later he and other residents of the township, including David Nowlan, M. D., post master at Havelock, attended a conference, at Rolfe, at which John T. Boylan, special agent for the rural free delivery routes, was present. Pirie prevailed on the latter to go home with him and the next day drove him over the proposed route. Later he secured the service of a carrier and became one of his bondsmen.

Route No. 1, extending northwest from Havelock, was established Nov. 1, 1901. Jesse C. Harriott was appointed carrier and Edward R. Nowlan, a substitute. The route is 25½ miles long, covers 41 square miles, and serves 105 families, representing a population of 325 persons. Charles Kezer has been the carrier on this route since March 15, 1902. Route No. 2, extending southward into Sherman township, was established Jan. 1, 1903, John F. O'Brien, carrier.

The growth of free rural delivery in Pocahontas county has been as follows:

Nov. 1, 1901, Havelock No. 1, Jesse C. Harriott, carrier.

Jan. 1, 1902, Rolfe No. 1, south in Clinton and Center townships, Patrick H. Hanlon (deceased) carrier till April 1, 1902, Edward E. Bruce his successor. Rolfe No. 2, north through Clinton and Des Moines townships, Walter Spence, Harry S. Fain and Jerome Hollenbeck, successively, carriers.

Feb. 1, 1902, Laurens, No. 1, south, Jared Hughes, carrier; Gilmore City, No. 1, south east through Weaver township, Humboldt county, J. C. Smith, carrier; No. 2, south through Lake and Lizard townships, D. A. Rice, carrier.

Aug. 1, 1902, Rolfe, No. 3, north west through Powhatan and Des Moines townships, Herbert E. Tubbs, carrier; No. 4, west from Rolfe through Powhatan and Center townships, Clarence U. Price, carrier.

Jan. 1, 1903, Havelock, route No. 2, John F. O'Brien, carrier.

At the close of 1902 Iowa has more rural free delivery routes than any state in the union, having 1,102, Illinois, 938 and Ohio, 885. In Iowa the work of establishing new routes has been more systematically prosecuted than in any other state. Those in charge of the work have pursued the policy of completing the service for an entire county at a time and nineteen counties are now fully supplied. The increase in the number of routes in this state during the last year was over 50 per cent more than in 1901. Nevada is the only state that had no rural route in 1902. Nearly 2,000 post offices, representing an annual expenditure of \$116,807.00, have been discontinued by reason of the rural free delivery service. The discontinuance of so many post offices encourages the belief that when the entire country is covered with rural routes the system will be self sustaining.

Robert J. Wynne, First Assistant Postmaster General, recently said, "I do not think that any development of recent years, not excluding irrigation and the opening of vast tracts by continental railroads, has done half so much for the farmer as rural free delivery." In his recent message President Roosevelt expressed his hearty approval of the rural free delivery system, because he sees in it more than the mere delivery of mail to the occupants of the farm. It is one of a number of modern conveniences, that tend to make life on the farm, away from the city, more pleasant and attractive; and the hope is expressed that some day the constant flow of young men and women from the farm

to the over-crowded city will be checked. There is a manifest need for more successful raisers of good stock and progressive tillers of the soil, but this want cannot be supplied while the sons of the farmer, craving the excitement of the busy city, walk not in the footsteps of their fathers. More men have achieved good fortunes on the farm than in the city, and in the soil is found the broad foundation of our national prosperity. Whatever science, invention and new laws can do to make life on the farm more attractive to the young people, will exert a favorable influence on the future welfare of this nation. Rural telephones, daily mails and electric railroads are bringing the best of city life to the farm and beneficial results will be sure to follow.

#### RURAL TELEPHONE.

In November 1902 some of the farmers of Washington township organized the Washington Center Telephone Co. by the election of Peter S. Shultz, president; J. D. Ward, secretary, and William Steen, treasurer.

They immediately purchased poles and apparatus and have for their own convenience an eight-mile line connecting with the Havelock Telephone Co.

#### THE WILLIAMS NURSERY.

In January 1881, D. C. Williams and family, of Cedar Falls, located on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 31, 160 acres, for the purpose of establishing a nursery, (p. 312), and Frank Williams, his son, coming from the Rocky Mountain region, located on sec. 19, 640 acres.

Inasmuch as their lands were unbroken and therefore unsuited for immediate planting. Mr. Williams leased for nursery purposes, five acres of cultivated land on the farm of James C. Strong, on sec. 32, and planted it in 1881. Three years later he planted ten acres on his own farm, now owned by Julia A. Edwards, and five acres on the farm of his son, Frank Williams,

which was sold later that year, 1884, subject to the nursery lease, to John A. Ryon, its present owner and occupant.

Previous to this date horticulture had received but very little attention in this county. There were only a few orchards in it. No general interest had been awakened or enthusiasm developed in the matter of raising fruit. The county had been annually canvassed by itinerant tree peddlers, who exhibited highly colored pictures of their high priced fruits, or carried in glass jars, large samples of them as grown in California, or some other fruit growing section. They invariably claimed that their fruits were raised successfully in neighboring townships or counties, and frequently showed samples that they claimed to have picked from the orchard of some prominent man, usually not very far distant but always inaccessible for immediate reference.

In the spring when the farmer found everything he had planted the previous fall was dead, he realized that a deception had probably been practiced upon him and frankly confessed he would never make a similar investment. But when the next oily-tongued tree peddler came along with new pictures and samples the new bait for the purchase of hardy, iron clad fruit trees was too tempting and again he would make an investment with the important stranger that promised a sure surprise to him and his neighbors, but ended in another complete disappointment.

After several repetitions of this sort of experience with the stranger-tree-peddler, many of the early settlers declared it was no use to try to raise fruit trees in this locality and even refused to purchase the well-known, low-priced, hardy varieties; but a few others who had acquired a knowledge of the hardy and profitable varieties and protected them from the

depredations of their own stock, met with good success. In 1886 it was estimated that nine-tenths of the fruit trees that had been planted in this county, had died before they came to maturity.

D. C. Williams was a practical horticulturist, having had thirty years' experience, and was not deterred from his purpose of establishing a nursery in this county, by reason of the misfortunes of others. He planted 60,000 seedlings in the spring of 1880, and had a considerable quantity of stock ready for sale the next year. In 1884, he had 20 acres planted with nursery stock, and, leasing the cultivated portions of his own farm to others, he gave his undivided attention to the care and sale of the trees.

The following varieties of apples, planted by him, have proved hardy and profitable in this county. The Duchess (summer), Wealthy (fall), Pewaukee's, Bailey's and Talman's Sweets (winter), and Martha and Whitney No. 20 (crabs). Whoever plants these varieties, and also the Longfield, a new and prolific winter apple, Tetofsky (summer), Haas (large, red, fall) Waldbridge (fall) and Plum Cider (winter), will surely have apples. The Willow Twig, Spice and Strawberry varieties are hardy and desirable but will yield only when sprayed. The Duchess may have to be replanted at the end of twenty years. The cost of the varieties of apples will not be expensive. Hardy apple trees and grape vines are not expensive, while the high-priced ones are worth little or nothing in this locality.

Through the columns of the Pocahontas Record he endeavored to give the farmers of this county the benefit of his long experience in raising fruit trees. We reproduce some of his suggestions in regard to the planting of fruit trees in this locality.

"Trees lifted in the fall and buried over winter, do better than those

lifted in the spring. When trees are received keep the roots moist with wet hay or straw. When you reach home, open the bundles, separate and heel the trees in the earth, wetting and banking them eighteen inches. Dig as many holes as you have trees 2½ feet square and 1½ feet deep. Dig another hole close to the trees, fill it with water and mix in it clay or dirt until it becomes as thick as pudding. Then, taking one tree at a time, when the sun is not shining, cut back the end of every root to the white wood and the top to suit. Immerse the roots of a sufficient number for one row, in this pudding, and lay them one at each hole. Fill the hole about six inches with well pulverized earth, locate the tree, straighten the roots to their natural position and complete the work by filling in the earth.

Plant between the trees any crop that requires cultivation such as potatoes, beans or corn, but do not plow so near or cultivate so deep as to injure the roots. About the middle of July mulch each tree six inches deep and three feet across with manure or straw as protection against drought. In the fall protect from rabbits by placing occasional bunches of hay among them, and from mice, by wrapping each, during the first three years, with a strip of tarred paper."

More recent experiments have demonstrated that mulching apple trees, or manuring the ground occupied by them, may determine whether they will bear fruit luxuriantly or even live many years. Those who do not frequently manure their orchards cannot expect to see their trees growing so thriftily or bearing so bountifully as those of their more thoughtful neighbors. In planting evergreens or large trees, it is a good plan to set at one side of the hole in a slanting position, a three inch tile, so that water poured into it the first season, may reach the roots of the tree.

In 1889, D. C. Williams died, and, in October of that year, the surplus nursery stock was sold at half price, by J. T. Knapp & Co., by their agent R. R. Taber. Fine orchards may be seen, however, on the grounds occupied by him for nursery purposes. Many other orchards of less size in the north part of this county, were planted with trees raised by him. His experience served to show that apple trees may be raised in this county as surely and easily as ash, walnut, butternut, catalpa and even maples; but that it is inadvisable to send south or even very far east for them. This is no doubt due to the high altitude of this section, it being near the summit of the divide between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Some varieties that did well in the same latitude but on a lower level farther east, proved a disappointment on this higher altitude. Small fruits in this section need a low wind break of willow or box elder on the south and west to protect them from the evaporating rake of the dry hot winds of summer. An orchard needs a similar protection and a northern slope is best for it, because its colder and later soil will retard the blossoming period and thus lessen the danger from spring frosts.

Later experience and observation has demonstrated that even hardy apple trees will not bear good fruit unless they are protected from apple scab, fungus, and the apple worm or codling moth; that cherries and plums must be kept free from rot; and the currant and goose berry bushes free from mildew and worms. This is successfully done by spraying the trees and bushes, at the proper times, with a solution of paris green to destroy the insects and of bordeaux mixture to destroy the fungus. The bordeaux mixture is made by mixing four pounds of unslacked lime and four pounds of copper sulphate with

fifty gallons of water. Four ounces of paris green added in this mixture will kill the codling moth as well as prevent fungus growth. The scab and codling moth make their appearance at, about the same time and both can be successfully treated at the same time by spraying the trees or bushes just before the blossoming buds expand and again just as the petals of the blossoms have fallen. It is often not unwise to make a third application two weeks later. To do this spraying the farmer needs a good barrel spray pump made entirely of brass except the head and handle, and having a large air cylinder within the tank, but no leather or rubber valves or iron screws.

Horticulture is now a special branch of learning in our State Agricultural College. A quarter of a century ago many acted as if they believed that all that was necessary to raise all sorts of fruits was to plant the seeds, vines or trees and let nature do the rest. Now the importance of good judgment in the selection of hardy varieties and their subsequent care, is recognized. Nature, however generous her promise, is a coy maiden, a coquette. Like any other maiden worth having, she has to be persistently wooed if her smiles are to be secured. The horticultural swain must know and attend to his business or he forfeits the harvest.

#### OLD SOLDIERS AND OLD SETTLERS REUNIONS.

The first large gathering at Havelock was the patriotic celebration of July 4, 1882. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and it was pronounced a "grand success."

Since 1896, Havelock's "big day" has usually been the annual reunions of the old soldiers and old settlers in the fall of the year.

For the first meeting, Aug. 21, 1896, the committee of arrangements, secured the big tent of Hon. J. P.

Dolliver that held 1,500 people. After a street parade in the forenoon it was filled to overflowing. Rev. C. M. Phoenix acted as president of the day and toastmaster. Addresses were made by editor Al Adams, of Humboldt, Hon. J. J. Bruce, Rev. C. W. Clifton and Rev. R. H. Dolliver, of Chicago. The music was furnished by the Havelock band, glee club, Grace Gilchrist, soloist, and the Pocahontas band. After the speaking, some time was devoted to sack races, apple races and other forms of amusement.

At six o'clock the town and tent were deluged by a heavy rain, hay was hauled into the tent and the large crowd listened to one of Dolliver's great political addresses on the gold standard and free silver.

At the meeting held Aug. 26-27 1897, J. C. Strong presided, and addresses were delivered by Swan Nelson, C. M. Saylor, James Henderson, J. W. Carson, Ex-Governor C. C. Carpenter of Fort Dodge and Major Bailey of Primgar. A large tent was secured for this occasion. Music was furnished by a drum corps and the Æolian Warblers of Humboldt. J. W. O'Brien superintended the barbecue and even the neck of the ox was delicious. The sports arranged for the next day were prevented by the rain.

At the third annual meeting, Sept. 14, 1898, J. C. Strong presided, Mayor S. H. Gill delivered the address of welcome, and County Attorney, William Hazlett, the response. Rev. Jesse Cole delivered the principal address. Others that participated were J. W. Carson, James Rodda of Co. K. 52 Iowa (just returned from Chicamauga) A. H. Hancher and Frank L. MacVay. The last speaker, as a barefooted boy had herded cattle on the prairies now occupied by the towns of Havelock, Rolfe, Plover, and Curlew, remembered when the ox teams in Powhatan out-numbered the horses, when John

Fraser got the first spring seat in the township, and W. H. Halt the first carriage in the north part of the county.

Aug. 22, 1899, the fourth annual meeting was another gala day at Havelock. The day was beautiful and the tent inadequate to admit the crowd. J. C. Strong presided, Rev. J. A. Kees as usual led in the invocation, Mayor S. H. Gill extended the welcome and Hon. M. F. Healy of Fort Dodge delivered the address. Others that participated were J. J. Jolliffe, J. W. Carson, Al Adams, A. H. Hancher, George Goodchild, and Lee Anderson, of Bradgate.

Previous to this occasion there had been no permanent organization to record events and preserve the minutes. A permanent organization was that day effected by the selection of the following officers: J. C. Strong, president, E. A. Donahoe, secretary, A. J. Stover, treasurer, and a vice-president from each township. In the evening a camp fire was conducted by Dr. David Nowlan, commander. The barbecue was prepared and served by Frank Stott, assisted by J. W. Carson and W. J. O'Brien.

One cannot but admire the courage and perseverance of those who settled in the north part of this county in the early days of long distances and of exposure to hard winters and stormy blizzards. When looking across the prairie they saw the smoke and heard the whistle of the locomotive, their loneliness departed and a new impetus was given the work of improvement. Their perseverance during the period, when they had to make bricks without straw, was the harbinger of their greater success after the dawn of the new era.

The grateful sentiment prompting these reunions was neatly expressed in an address of welcome by S. H. Gill

"The younger generations realize



what they owe to the pioneers whose endurance of hardships opened the way for the grand possibilities that have been abundantly improved. We also recognize the debt of gratitude we owe the old soldiers whose valor on the battlefield made the blessings of freedom and the continuance of an undivided county, the best on the globe. On behalf of the citizens of Havelock, we greet all who have assembled to keep green the memory of those who have done so much for the country and extend to you all a hearty welcome."

In a response William Hazlett Esq. said:

"The old settlers and old soldiers find added pleasures each year in these reunions and I have the honor of expressing to the people of Havelock the hearty thanks of the pioneers and veterans for your welcome and the freedom of your city. I speak also for others, the newer settlers and the younger generation—those who have never gone to war or made a county. We take great pleasure in this day, because we honor the men who saved the freedom and liberty of this country and the men and women who wrestled this beautiful country from the wilds of nature. We like to sit at their feet and learn the wisdom of the past. The old settlers tell us of the hardships of leaving the old home, their aged fathers and mothers; their coming to a new country far from a railroad, crossing unbridged streams and undrained swamps, taming the wild soil through years of privations and how they made Pocahontas county productive and prosperous—an Eden with rapidly growing towns, valuable farms, beautiful groves and comfortable homes

"When we, the younger generation, see what has been done for us, and hear of the hardships endured to do it, we say, 'All honor to the old settlers who wrought and made a county for themselves, their children, their children's children, and the stranger within their gates.' It is well to meet with them and hear their stories, that with them we may appreciate the fruits of their labors."

#### LEADING CITIZENS.

**Cox**, Willett S. (b. 1862), merchant, Havelock, is a native of Oquawka, Henderson county, Ill., the son of

Chapman and Rebecca Cox, with whom at eleven, he moved to Wapello, Iowa. After completing his studies in the high school in 1878, he learned the tinner's trade. In 1882, he engaged in the hardware business at Humboldt and remained until 1889, when he located at Havelock. Here he established a large hardware store and soon afterwards began to maintain branch stores at Plover and Mallard. In 1896, he disposed of all his interest in the hardware business and in 1897, resumed business at Havelock as dealer in general merchandise. In the fall of 1900, he erected the first building and opened a store in the new town of Ware. He was appointed and served as the first postmaster at Ware, from Oct. 7, 1900, to Dec. 1, 1901, when he relinquished his interests there and built a large brick store room at Havelock to meet the demands of his growing business at that place. This new building is one of the best store rooms in the county; it contains 8,200 feet of floor space, is finished in oak and heated with steam. The stock includes dry-goods, groceries, shoes, hardware, furniture and undertaker's supplies. He is the owner of considerable land in Iowa and Minnesota, and a leading stockholder in the Havelock Telephone Company. He is an enterprising and successful business man and stands ready to promote any enterprise that will prove a permanent benefit to the town of his adoption.

In 1886 he married Cora M. Potter, of Rolfe, and his family consists of four children, Eva, Warren P., Samuel W. and Eldon.

**Demaray**, Theron G. (b. 1866), cashier of the Bank of Havelock, is a native of Niagara, Co., N. Y. In 1870, he came to Mitchell county, Iowa, where he lived on a farm till 1885, when he commenced working for Morgan & Faneghill and was with them till 1892, when he came to Have-

lock. After serving nine years as assistant, in 1897, he was appointed cashier of the Bank of Havelock. He is a republican and has served as chairman of the county central committee. In Havelock he has served as recorder and mayor, each two years, as a member of the council five years, and is now serving his third year as clerk of Washington township. He is also a member of the Havelock school board.

In 1894 he married Mattie, daughter of Charles J. Gill, and has two children, Ruth and Richard.

**Gill**, Samuel Henry (b. 1850), banker, Havelock, is a native of Ogle county, Ill., the son of Thomas and Charlotte Plane Gill. His father (b. 1809; d. 1890), was a native of Norfolk, England, and in 1833, emigrated to Nova Scotia, where, later that year he married Charlotte Plane, (b. 1820; d. 1899), who was also a native of Norfolk. They located first at Geneseo, N. Y., and in 1842, at Byron, Ogle county, Ill., where they remained until 1870, when they came to Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1882, they accompanied their sons, Samuel and Osborne W., to the new town of Havelock, where he died at 81 in 1890. After his decease, Charlotte, his wife, lived with her sister, Sarah, widow of Benjamin Gill, who died at Havelock, in 1891. She died at 79 in 1889, and was buried beside her husband at Fort Dodge. Their family consisted of fourteen children, ten of whom are still living, namely, Mrs. W. B. Harris, Jolle.; J. B. Gill, Fort Dodge; Mrs. H. A. Schoonmaker, Vincent; T. B. Gill, Byron, Ill.; R. P. Gill, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. J. W. Donald Fort Dodge; Mrs. Charlotte (Wright) Wolrod, Callender; Samuel H., Charles J., and Osborne W. Gill, Havelock.

Three children died in infancy and one son at sixteen at Fort Dodge. They encouraged, with unflinching

Norman heroism, their three oldest sons to go forth and battle for the home of their adoption, during the war of the Rebellion; and under the good providence of God, all returned home; but one of them contracted seeds of disease that have made his subsequent life one of constant suffering. Their three youngest sons have been prominently identified with the business interests and history of Havelock, since that town was founded.

"He builds the state who to that task

Brings strong, clean hands and purpose pure,

Who wears not virtue as a mask;

He builds the state that shall endure."

Samuel H. Gill was born and raised near Byron, Ogle county, Illinois. In 1869, he came to Fort Dodge, preceding his father one year. In February 1872, having spent most of the previous year in Pocahontas county, he located, temporarily, on sec. 24, Colfax township. That fall he married Ida D., daughter of Gad C. Lowrey, and in 1874, secured the homestead of Wm. R. Owen, brother of Mrs. Wm. Brownlee, on the n<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> s<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> sec. 18, Bellville township. He occupied this farm three years, spent two in Pomeroy, and then returned to the farm. When the tornado of April 21, 1878, came one year later, destroying his house and causing the death of his wife (p. 359), he returned to Pomeroy. During 1879, he was engaged at Fonda and the next two years at Fort Dodge.

In January 1882, soon after its survey, he came to the new town of Havelock, and, in partnership with his brother, Osborne W., erected a building and established the first store in the town. He continued a partner in the store until 1887, when, in partnership with John C. Potter, he founded the Citizen's Bank of Havelock, an institution with which he is

still identified as president and principal proprietor. He is the owner of a fine farm of 360 acres adjoining Havelock.

He has taken the lead in the development of other important interests at Havelock. He has been principal shipper of live stock and in 1892, when the Havelock co-operative creamery was established, he was chosen president of it. He was the first postmaster of Havelock, March 1, 1882, to June 1886, and served a second term, March 1, 1889, to May 1, 1893. He was assessor of Washington township 1885-'88, four years, served five years as a member of the first council in Havelock and four years as mayor of the town, 1898 to 1901. In 1883, as an independent republican candidate he lacked only five votes of being elected sheriff of this county. He has discovered himself to be a broad minded, public spirited citizen, and has met with good success in his business enterprises.

In 1884, he married Minnie Perry, of Marshalltown. His family consisted of two children, both by his first marriage.

Viola C. in 1890, married Arthur F. Clarke, eleven years station agent at Havelock and vice-president of the Citizen's bank since 1899. They have two children, Maud and Beth.

Etta J. in 1892, married John C. Barth, a livery man, Havelock, and has one child, Carl S.

**Gill**, Charles J. (b. Ill., 1854), senior member of the firm of Gill Bros., came to Iowa in 1873, and located at Fort Dodge where he found employment with the Fort Dodge Coal Company five years, and then in the transfer business. In 1890, he and his younger brother, O. W., became dealers in general merchandise, occupying the first year their mother's building, on the west side of Main street. In 1891, at the north end of Main street, they erected a two story frame

building, the upper story of which is used as a town hall. Here they have a splendid location and one of the best department stores in the county. He served as president of the Washington township school board in 1890 and the next two years as the first president of the Havelock school board.

During his residence at Fort Dodge he married Anna, (b. 1854), daughter of A. W. and Cornelia Kingsley, and his family consisted of four children.

Mattie (b. 1874) in 1894, married Theron G. Demaray, (see Demaray.)

William (b. 1873), a druggist, in 1900, married Bertha Geise, lives at Terrel and has one child, Foster.

Emma, a Havelock graduate in 1897, and a teacher, in 1899, married Clarence Lighter and lives at Rolfe.

Carl, a druggist, lives at Terrell.

**Gill**, Osborne W. (b. Ill., 1855) junior member of the firm of Gill Bros., in the spring of 1882, came to Havelock and at once became a member of the firm of Gill Bros., general merchants, his older brother, Samuel H., being the other member of the firm during the first six years or until 1888. He then engaged with his brother, Charles J., two years in the hay business, and then, resuming with him his place and interest in the store, has continued in it until the present time.

In 1883, he married Mary Jane Portz, of Fort Dodge, and has two sons, Earl and Brooks.

He was mayor of Havelock in 1902. The other children of Thomas and Charlotte Gill were John B., who married Mary J. McClain, merchant, Fort Dodge; Thomas B., who married Agnes Barry and is engaged in the furniture business at Barron, Ill.; Robert P. at Portland, Oregon, married Maggie McClain; Kate married Wm. B. Harris and lives at Jolley; Sarah E. married Henry Schoonmaker and lives in Webster county; Ida M.

married Joseph Donald, Fort Dodge; Charlotte married S. P. Wright, who served as railroad agent at Tara eighteen years and afterwards died at Callender. In 1899 she married Jesse Wolrod, a farmer, and still lives at Callender.

**Hamble**, Philip (b. 1832), one of the early pioneers of Washington township, is a native of Hamilton county, Ind., the son of Anthony and Elizabeth (McPeck) Hamble; who were natives of Virginia and New Jersey respectively. In 1854 he married Amanda Jane Burns and located on a farm.

His father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and Philip, enlisting in 1862 at Nashville, as a member of company A. 5th Ind. Cavalry, served in the Civil war until its close, June 29, 1865. His first engagement was with Morgan's raiders at Buffington Bar, Ohio, and the next were Blountville and Rheatown, Tenn. At Knoxville the regiment was dismounted and sent back across the mountains afoot through Cumberland Gap to Mount Sterling, Ky., where it was remounted. It then passed with Sherman's army to Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, where it was surrounded and captured. After their return a number of the men, including Philip, were dismounted and sent to the command of Gen. Thomas at Nashville. He spent the remainder of his time in the vicinity of that place, Ptouaski and Louisville.

At the close of the war he returned to his farm in Hamilton county, Ind. In 1868, he located in Dubuque county, Iowa, and in 1873, on the southwest sec. 33, Washington township. At this date there were only three other families in the territory now included in Washington township. He and his family lived in their wagons and among their neighbors until their house was completed. He improved his farm with good buildings and occupied it until 1901, when he moved to

Havelock and in 1902, to Long Beach near Los Angeles, Cal.

He was a very highly respected citizen and participated in the organization of Washington township. He served as the first clerk of the township, as the first president of the school board in 1877, and later four years as a trustee. He rendered cordial cooperation in the maintenance of public worship and in efforts to promote the moral and educational interests of the community.

His family consisted of three children all of whom were born during his residence in Indiana and came with him to the frontier in 1873.

Margaret Elizabeth, Dec. 18, 1872, in Dubuque county, married Jason N. Russell, (see Russell).

Delliah, a teacher, married Alexander McEwen, (see McEwen).

William Franklin, a carpenter, in 1883, married Lulu C. Blake and located on a farm of 120 acres on sec. 33. In 1892, he moved to Havelock. His family consists of four children, Earl, Philip W., Medorah Vashti, and Amanda Eleanor.

**Masters**, William Elmers (b. 1862), owner and occupant of northwest sec. 33, 1890 to 1902, is a native of Buchanan county, the son of David and Ellen Gates Masters. In 1890, he married Lucy R. Hovey, and located in Pocahontas county. He was very successful in raising hogs and succeeded finely on the farm. He was an active member of the M. E. church and enjoyed the good esteem of the community. In 1902, he moved to Buchanan county.

His family consists of four children, Charles Roy, Nellie F., Fannie E., Lewis David.

**Mather**, Benjamin (b. 1820; d. 1888), a pioneer, Washington township, was a native of Darbyshire, England. He was bereft of his mother in infancy and of his father in childhood. At 15 he came to Dubuque county, Iowa,

with an uncle and aunt. In 1845, he married Mary Spensley (b. Eng. 1829; d. 1888) and located on a farm. All the members of his large family were born and raised in Dubuque county. In 1875, he located on sec. 30, Washington township, Pocahontas county. Here he spent the remainder of his days. He died at 68 in 1888 and his wife at 59 one month later. He participated in the organization of Washington township in 1876, and served as one of its first trustees.

His family consisted of thirteen children, four of whom died in childhood.

Jemima, in 1869, in Dubuque county, married Morah F. Russell (p. 744). Richard S. (b. 1849), in 1878, married Ellen Watson, daughter of Robert Struthers, and located on a farm near Rolfe. His family consists of seven children, William, Susan E., Mary C., Robert B., James A., Margaret J., and Helen Jemima. James Thomas (b. 1851), in 1892, married Louise Ludwig. He is engaged in the livery business at Laurens and has two children, Edith and Clarion. William R. (b. 1860), in 1886, married Emma Bohn. He owns and occupies a farm of 160 acres near Laurens and has three children, Ray, Benjamin and Elva May. John (b. 1862), lives at Laurens. Emma K. (b. 1864), in 1897, married Dena Siemring. He is engaged in the livery business at Laurens and has two children, Helen and Rex. Frank B. (b. 1866), in 1892, married Florence Wells and lives at Laurens. Walter M. (b. 1869), in 1890, married Pearl Ellis, lives at Laurens, and has two children, Grace and Laurel.

**Nowlan,** David, M. D. (b. 1842), post master at Havelock, is a native of Toulon, Stark county, Ill., the son of Michael and Florence Nowlan, who raised a family of ten sons. He grew to manhood on the farm and at nineteen, in 1861, he enlisted as a member of Co. B. 37th Ill., Inf., and spent

three years and three months in the army on the frontier, along the Mississippi, under Gen. John C. Black. He participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg, and the battles at Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge. He was a member of the first G. A. R. Post, which was organized at Galva, Ill., in 1866, and on coming to this county, became a member of the Andrew Mills Post at Rolfe.

In 1867, he married Mary C. (b. Ohio 1849), daughter of Alonzo Smead, M. D., of Fon du Lac, Wis., and located at La Fayette, Ill. In 1873, he located at Pomeroy, Iowa, and two years later in Jasper county, where he completed a course in medicine under Dr. C. C. Smead, his brother-in-law. In the spring of 1876, he received a medical diploma from the State Board of Examiners and began the practice of medicine at Rensnor, Jasper county. In June, 1882, he located in the new town of Havelock and very soon secured a lucrative practice. He has served as a member of the town council of Havelock, and has been in charge of the post office there since Oct. 13, 1897. There are few men in the town or township that have lived so long in it or become so widely and favorably known. He received a good education in his youth, and heartily supports the principles of the republican party. He is also an advocate of total abstinence and woman suffrage.

His family consisted of two children:

Brete Cassius (b. 1878), after graduating from the Havelock high school in 1894, and teaching five terms of school, in 1900, graduated from the Electrical Engineering department of the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames. Since that date he has been in the employ of the Western Electric Company of Chicago, and is now at Fargo, N. D.

Edward R. (b. 1881), a Havelock

graduate in 1898, after completing the course in Electrical Engineering at Ames in 1902, also entered the employ of the Western Electric Co., and is now at Denver, Colorado.

**O'Brien**, John W. (b. 1848), Havelock, is a native of White Oak Springs, Wis. His father died when he was fifteen. This event caused an unusual responsibility to fall on his youthful shoulders, that of providing a home and support for his mother, eight sisters and one brother. His mother died when she was 74. In 1879 he married Alice Noonan and lived two years on a farm near Shullsburg, Wis. In 1881, he came to Pocahontas county, and located on the ne<sup>1</sup> sec. 9, Sherman township, which he improved and occupied until 1890, when he moved to Havelock, where he has since been engaged, first as a coal dealer, and then as a contractor and builder. He built many of the fine residences and store buildings in Havelock and others in its vicinity.

He has taught school many winters, and is now serving his eighth year as secretary of the Havelock school board and fourth year as a member of the town council. During his residence in Sherman township he served three years as a member of the board of county supervisors, 1884-'86, one year as assessor, and several terms as a justice, and also as treasurer of the school board. In 1886, he was the democratic nominee for the office of county recorder.

His family consisted of seven children, two of whom died in childhood. Michael S. (b. 1880), a teacher, is clerking in a general store at Pocahontas. John F., Clara, Neal, and Mary Theresa are at home. John F. has been the carrier on the Havelock R. F. D. No. 2 since its establishment Jan. 1, 1903.

**Potter**, John Calvin (b. 1855), banker and farmer. Havelock, is a native of New York, son of Rev. W. A. Pot-

ter, who served fifteen years as pastor of the Baptist church at Monticello, Wisconsin. He moved with his parents to Ohio and later to Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood on the frontier. In 1880, he married Lucy C. Marshall and located on a farm near Albany, Wis. In 1882, he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on a farm of 200 acres on sec. 3, Washington township, that he was the first to occupy and improve.

#### CLINTON FARM.

At the time of his arrival he had formed a partnership with James Campbell (called R. R. Tim) of Madison, Wis., owner of 280 acres on sec. 3, for the purpose of raising stock on these lands. In 1883, Mr. Campbell died and his interest passed to his daughter, Charlotte, wife of G. O. Clinton, formerly a superintendent of the C., M. & St. P. Ry., and now a resident of Joliet, Ill. The partnership was continued and J. C. Potter continued in charge of it six years. During this period the farm was increased to 1,000 acres, splendid buildings were erected and the Clinton stock farm became the most prominent one in the township. During the next seven years it was managed by Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Clinton, who were represented on the farm by their son, C. A. Clinton, in 1888-'89. In 1890, they located on it. In 1895, it was divided into four farms and three other sets of farm buildings were erected.

In 1887, J. C. Potter moved to Havelock and became associated with S. H. Gill in establishing the Citizens Bank. He continued in the banking and real estate business until 1899, when he relinquished his interest in the bank to engage again in raising stock on his own farm east of Havelock.

He served six years as a trustee of the township, '83-'88, and in Havelock three, each as a member of the town

council, treasurer of the school fund and president of the school board.

His family consists of six children, one of whom, LaVerne, was born and raised in Wisconsin, the others, Winifred, Pearl, Lona, John C., and Marshall, in Pocahontas county.

After the death of his father in 1880, his mother, Mrs. Harriet Capon Potter, came to this county and lived several years in Havelock. She then returned to Wisconsin and died in 1894, leaving one son, Elmer, who located at Monticello, Wis.; and three sons and two daughters, who are located in Pocahontas county, namely, John C., Havelock; Juliette, who married Ross Dennis, a painter, Rolfe; Cora, married W. S. Cox, a general merchant, Havelock; Frank A., who is in the grain business, Rolfe; and William A., the deputy sheriff of this county, Havelock.

**Ryon, John A.** (b. 1836), owner and occupant of sec. 19, 640 acres, is a native of Wayne county, Pa., the son of William and Eleanor (Roberts) Ryon. His mother was a descendant of Rev. Hugh Roberts, the first Quaker preacher in Philadelphia. His grandfather, William, was a native of Wyoming, Pa., and his great-grandfather came from Connecticut to Wyoming a short time previous to the massacre by the Indians of that place. A family bible, that his father purchased about the time of his marriage, while on a rafting expedition and carried home on foot, a distance of 100 miles, may be seen at his home.

At the age of two years he came with his parents to Kendall county, Ill., where he grew to manhood. In 1861 he engaged in farming in DeKalb county, where in 1863 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Dunbar. After his marriage he sold his farm and served in the army as a member of Co. K, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, from Oct. 4, 1864, to July 22, 1865. His regiment, under

Col. Clendenning, was assigned to the work of guarding Washington City and watching the movements of the guerrilla forces under Moseby and White.

After the war he returned to DeKalb county, Illinois, and in 1884 located on his present farm on section 19, 640 acres, which he purchased from Frank, a son of D. C. Williams, the nurseryman. The small house and barn that had been erected on this farm have been greatly enlarged, so that they are now among the largest in the township.

In the spring of 1883, D. C. Williams started a nursery of five acres and an orchard of 200 apple trees on this farm. Many of the apple trees have been bearing during the last ten years. The varieties that have done best are the Duchess (summer), Wealthy (fall), Pewaukee's, Bailey's and Talman's Sweets (winter), Martha and Whitney No. 20 (crab). The apple crop in 1896 was about 100 bushels, and much larger crops have been gathered since that date.

Mr. Ryon has been very successful in raising stock, both hogs and cattle, and is now in very comfortable circumstances. He is a fine looking man, wears a full beard, takes little interest in politics and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. He has secured a good heritage for his children.

His family consists of four children:

Lizzie in 1892 married Wilbur E. Craig (p. 684) and located on the nw  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30, where they occupied the first house built in Washington township, by J. L. Clark in 1870. Her family consists of two children, Hattie and Alice.

Andrew D., (b. 1868) in 1893 married Grace, daughter of William and Julia Edwards. He occupies the sw  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19. His wife died in 1894, leaving one child, Grace. In 1898 he married

**Mary Pooler** (b. 1873) and has one son, John.

**Hugh L.** (b. 1870) in 1898 married Alice Gertrude Moore. He occupies the nw  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19, and has two children, Bertha and Julia Etta.

**Jay** (b. 1872) in 1900 married Lizzie M. Aschenbrenner, and is located on section 19.

**Sheldon**, John Burton (b. 1867), druggist and optician, Havelock, is a native of Illinois, the son of William A. and Sarah A. (Loverin) Sheldon. After completing a course in pharmacy at the Iowa State University in 1889, he became a member of the firm of C. D. Baker & Co., druggists, Toledo, Iowa. In 1891 he married Myrtle Stauffer of Gladbrook and located at Havelock, where he has since been proprietor of a drug store and jewelry business. There is no occupation in which care, knowledge and experience are more essential than in that of the druggist, and the establishment conducted by Mr. Sheldon is one of the most reliable in the county. He has had many years of profitable experience and carries a large stock of fresh drugs, medicines, oils, paints, school books and stationery. He is also an optician, having completed a course in optics at the college at South Bend, Ind., in 1901, and carries a carefully selected stock of jewelry.

He is serving his fourth year as a member of the Havelock council and sixth year as treasurer of the school funds.

His family consists of two children, Olive B. and Lawrence Burton, one child having died at the age of two in 1895.

**Sidwell**, William Onides (b. 1867) is a native of West Virginia. In 1873 he came with his parents to Marshalltown, Iowa, where two years later his mother died. Later he accompanied his father to Benton and also Grundy county. In 1886 he located at Havelock and three years later established

there a harness shop, which he maintained during the next thirteen years. During this period he was industrious and earnest, and by close attention to business built up a good trade. He was a good workman and carried a large and varied stock of harness and other horse furnishings. His shop was the only one in the town and by employing skillful workmen and using only good materials he was enabled to draw trade from long distances. In the spring of 1902 he disposed of his interest in the harness business and became a dealer in general merchandise. He has carried into this new and wider field of business operations the good-will he acquired during his long previous residence in Havelock. He served as clerk of Washington township four years, 1893-96, and has been a member of the Havelock Council five years, 1898-1902.

In 1892 he married Matie Webster of Havelock and has a family of three daughters, Zella, Madge and Benita.

**Strong**, James C. (b. 1834), a pioneer resident of Washington township and a county supervisor, 1875-83, is a native of Branch county, Michigan, the son of John and Eliza (Moore) Strong, both of whom were of Scotch descent. His father died when he was four years of age, and all of his brothers and sisters are also dead. In 1854 he married Ellen, sister of Morah and Jason Russell, and located on a farm. In 1858 they came to Dubuque county, Iowa, where he worked in the lead mines six years and engaged in farming the next five. In 1869 he came to Pocahontas county and made the purchase of 2,200 acres of land for himself (560 acres), Jonathan L. Clark, Benjamin Mather, Ephraim Smith, Lewis Foland, John, Harry, Morah and Jason Russell in Washington and Sherman townships. In May, 1870, accompanied by Jonathan L. Clark and Jason N. Russell, he began to occupy and improve his



farm on section 32, and the next year built on it the second house and planted the first grove in the township. He improved this farm with good buildings and orchard and occupied it until 1888, when he moved to Havelock and became the proprietor of a lumber yard. After a few years he relinquished his interest in the lumber business and has since been living in comparative retirement in the enjoyment of the well earned competency acquired during the early and prosperous years of his long, active and eminently useful life.

He performed a leading part at the time the township was organized, and served two years as one of the trustees, six years as the first justice, and nine years—1877-85—as the first treasurer of the school funds. He served nine years—1875-83—as a member of the board of county supervisors. He was mayor of Havelock in 1895 and served three years as a member of the first town council.

He is president of the Havelock Old Settlers' association and has presided at all of their annual gatherings since the second one, held in 1897. Ever since he located in Washington township he has been the most prominent citizen of it. His long period of service as a member of the board of county supervisors is suggestive of the public confidence reposed in him. He has always endeavored to do his duty conscientiously, and the integrity of his motives has never been assailed. During his long and active career he has exerted a potent influence in the township and county, and his memory will be cherished by his fellow citizens as that of an upright, honorable man. He is a good illustration of the adage that "Patient plodding persistently prosecuted produces permanent prosperity."

During the eighteen years spent on the farm he had his early experiences with the grasshoppers (p. 258) and

with marauding trappers (p. 274). When the era of better times began, about the year 1880, he spent much time in the work of improving his land, and has erected the second and third set of farm buildings. Two of his farms have wells 300 feet deep, operated by windmills. Two of them have orchards in good bearing condition, and one of them contains eight acres. The Wealthy, Duchess and a few other varieties of apples have stood this climate well, and since 1895 have yielded several crops of 200 bushels or more.

His family consisted of five children:

Alva A. (b. Mich. 1854), a teacher in the early days, in 1874 married Marilda Pilgrim and occupies the old home farm three miles southwest of Havelock. He served as a township trustee in 1879, and seven years as the first secretary of the school board. His family consists of eleven children, one having died in childhood: Etta May, James F., Elizabeth, Pearl W., Ida F., Elmer, John, Mary, Mildred, Wilbur and Archibald.

William A. (b. Mich. 1857) married Mary Pilgrim, a cousin of Marilda, lives at Alida, Ill., and has one daughter, Lucile.

Jason F. (b. Iowa., 1860) in 1889 married Amy Wilson and lives on a part of the old farm on section 32.

Mary Ellen (b. Iowa, 1866) in 1893 married Rev. Joseph Herrington, a minister of the M. E. church, lives now at Barnum and has a family of two children, Luella Grace and Lois Maud.

Myrta Luella (b. 1876), the only member of the family born in this county, in 1899 married George Dickerson, lives at Havelock and has two children, James Claude and Burton Clay. Luella postoffice, the first one in Washington township, was named in her honor.

**Thomas**, Sylvester P. (b. 1852), assistant cashier of the Bank of Have-

lock, 1891-98, is a native of Mahaska county, the son of James B. and Irene A. Thomas. In 1875 he married Ella M., daughter of William and Mary Perry, and located on a farm in Marshall county. In 1887 he located in Havelock and engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with C. H. Collins. In 1891, when the Bank of Havelock was established, he relinquished his interest in the store and becoming an assistant cashier in the bank, continued to fill that position until 1898, when he moved to Humboldt county and became cashier of the Bank of Rutland. In 1902 he located at Hunter, Oklahoma, and associated with Clark L. Thompson, his son-in-law, became proprietor of the Bank of Hunter. Clark L. Thompson became its vice-president and Fay C. Thomas, his son, its cashier. At the time of his removal from Havelock he owned several valuable town properties and about 780 acres of land in that vicinity. He served five years as treasurer of Havelock.

His family consisted of two children: Bertha M., a graduate of Mt. Vernon college, became the wife of Clark L. Thompson, banker, and lives at Hunter, Oklahoma. Fay C., a graduate of the Capital City Commercial college, and cashier of the Bank of Hunter, died at the age of twenty-four in 1903.

#### A SPRINGFIELD SURVIVOR.

It is of interest to note that S. P. Thomas was a survivor of the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857. His father and family, consisting of wife and six children—Frank, Albert, Emma, William, who was killed (p. 33), Sylvester and Mary, the baby—in 1855 had located at Springfield, Minn., wherethe Indians arrived with bloody intent about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of March 26, 1857, after the massacre at Spirit Lake. The log cabin of Mr. Thomas was located at the edge of some timber and 22 persons

had sought refuge in it at the time the Indians arrived. When the Indians came they hitched their ponies and secreted themselves in the timber some distance from the cabin. Then one of the chiefs came to the cabin dancing and singing to attract the family out of it. William, about ten years of age and being in the yard, was the first to see the chief approaching and called to those in the house to see the "old chief," whom he recognized, dance. This Indian had been at the Thomas home on several previous occasions to receive food and had smoked the "pipe of peace." As soon as the family was attracted outside the cabin the Indians rushed from the timber and as a result of their first volley William was shot in the head and instantly killed. Mr. Thomas received a severe wound in the right arm and two of the neighbor women were also wounded. After this onset the attention of the Indians was occupied for a short time in getting the horses from the stable. This gave the family time to get into the house and barricade the door and windows. Fortunately three hunters or trappers, who were well provided with arms and ammunition, were lodging with the family at this time, and Mr. Thomas had three rifles, though after his injury he could not use them. The fusilade of the hunters kept the Indians at bay until 11 o'clock at night when they withdrew, taking the horses but leaving about eight of their own number who had been killed by the hunters.

One hour later preparations were begun for the departure of the family and those that were with them to Ft. Dodge 75 miles distant. To make this journey some of the cattle that were left were hitched to a sled, the women and children were loaded on it and the trip was begun in the darkness of the night. In the haste of leaving, supplies of food were forgot-

ten and they were nearly famished from hunger when met by the relief expedition from Ft. Dodge. Mary, the baby, died from the exposure incident to the journey, about the time of their arrival at Fort Dodge.

Mr. Thomas had built the log cabin on his own homestead, but after this terrible experience, he never returned to occupy it. He engaged for a few years in the mercantile business at Nevada and then moved to Marshall county, where he died in 1866.

**Vance.** Ulysses Samuel (b. 1868) county superintendent, was born near Indianapolis and at three years of age moved to Benton county, Ind., where he grew to manhood on a farm. He received his education in the public school, Oxford Academy and Purdue University at La Fayette, Ind. He began to teach school at seventeen and, with the exception of two years, has been engaged in teaching or educational work ever since. In 1894 he located on a farm in Washington township, this county, intending to engage in farming, but in less than a month he was induced to become principal of the Havelock schools, and held this position from April 1, 1894 to July 1, 1898. He organized the high school and graduated the first class from it in 1898. In connection with his school work he served as editor of the Havelock Item from Oct. 11, 1897 to July 1, 1898, and then gave his entire time as a moulder of public opinion to the paper until Oct. 1, 1899. In 1897, as a candidate for the office of county superintendent, he gave his predecessor a close race for the nomination and became his logical successor, on the basis of skill as an educator and popularity among the teachers. In 1900 he began to perform the duties of the office of county superintendent and is now serving his second term. He became a leader in township institutes in Indiana and was an instructor in the county institutes in

this county each year of his residence in it until he became superintendent. He is a man well qualified by education, experience and good character to perform efficiently the duties of a teacher or superintendent.

Encouraged by the generosity of Hon. George Schee of Primgar, as superintendent of the schools of Pocahontas county, he has accomplished one thing for which he has often been congratulated and will be long remembered, namely, the development of an interest in libraries, that has placed an assortment of good books in the rural schools of this county. He believes that when a child is taught to read, he should be encouraged to read good books, and he has put forth an honest endeavor to place good reading, through the public schools, within the reach of every child in the county. All the rural schools of this county, with four exceptions, now have libraries of 10 to 375 volumes each, and the town schools have larger ones. The annual report for 1903 will show that there are over 10,000 volumes in the schools of this county, instead of 1,021 volumes in 1900 when he became superintendent. According to the last statistics issued by the state superintendent, Pocahontas county stands at the head of the list in reporting the largest increase in the number of library books for the public schools, and largest amount of money raised for that purpose. This is one of many evidences that he is laboring efficiently to promote the interests of our public schools. He is held in high esteem by the educators of the state.

In 1892 he married Ella Maud, oldest daughter of Geo. W. Kyle, who has been a resident of Washington township since 1893. Two of his family of four children are living: Emmet Lowell, the oldest, and Ulysses Samuel, the youngest. In 1901 he moved to Pocahontas.

**Ward, Thomas** (b. 1835) is a native of Canada, the son of Calvin and Margaret Ward. In 1862 he married Rosanna Dorman and four years later located on a farm in Clinton county, Iowa. In 1891 he located on his present farm, the se  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 28, Washington township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He has increased this farm to 400 acres and improved it with good buildings.

His family consisted of five children:

**Jeremiah D.** (b. Canada 1863) in 1887 married Nellie L. Hubbard and occupies the north part of sec 28. He has one daughter, Alice.

**Catherine** in 1883 married William Steen, owner and occupant of the se  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 16. He has been secretary of the School board since 1897. His family consists of seven children: Roy, Thomas, Arthur, William, Rose, Amber and Ellen.

**Margaret A.** in 1887 married John E. Moats, lives at Boone and has one daughter, Blanche.

**Sarah Jane** in 1887 married Mitchell E. Hoover, an engineer, and lives at Lake City.

**Thomas C.** (b. 1872) in 1894 married Margaret Boekenoogen, occupies the nw  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 28 and has two children, Hazel and Clifford.

Rose and Philip Isaac are at home.

**Williams, David C.**, nursery man, in January 1881 purchased the ne  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 31, all of sec 19 and altogether

1280 acres of land in Washington township. He located on 31 and his son Frank on 19. That spring they broke 310 acres and planting it in flax secured a yield of 18 bushels to the acre from some of it. He built that year two sets of farm buildings, sunk three wells and planted five acres with nursery stock on the farm of James C. Strong on sec 32.

In 1884 he enlarged the nursery to 20 acres (p. 997) but Frank leaving sec. 19 it was sold to John A. Ryon.

His wife, Sarah M. Chapman, died at 57 June 17, 1887, and he died two years later.

His wife was a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. In 1847 she married D. B. Chapman and located at Monmouth, Ill. Two years later they moved to Arkansas. About ten years later they returned to Illinois, and in 1864 he died at Eau Claire, Wis., leaving one daughter, Mary L. Chapman.

In 1869 Mrs. Chapman became the wife of D. C. Williams and located at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where he engaged in the nursery business and remained until 1881, when they came to this county.

Mary L. Chapman, who became very prominent as a teacher in this county, in 1886 married Prof. Abbott C. Page, principal of the Waterloo high school. She was a graduate of the State Normal school and served as an instructor at several of the annual institutes in this county.

## XXVIII.

### BIOGRAPHIES.

"If you have a word of cheer,  
That may light the pathway drear,  
Of a brother pilgrim here,  
Tell him so. Let him know  
How much you appreciate  
What he does; and do not wait  
Till the hand of Fate  
Lays him low.  
For the spirit that has fled  
Does not need, to speed it on,  
Our poor praise, where it has gone."

"Granite monuments may crumble but cherished memories endure while life lasts."

One of the chief glories of America is, that it is a country in which ability and industry find their surest and speediest reward. Fame and fortune are open to all who are willing to work. Neither class distinctions, social prejudices, nor differences of birth or religion prevent the man of true merit from winning just reward of his labors in this favored land. The lives of great men, like great events, occupy a prominent place in the history of the world and they become our instructors.

No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him; there is always work and tools to work withal, for those who will; and blessed are the horny hands of toil. Our lives are songs; God writes the words, and we set them to music at pleasure; and the song grows glad, sweet or sad, as we choose to fashion the measure. The following biographical sketches include some who have lived in one or more parts of Pocahontas county, and others who have come to it during recent years. The same motives that led us to make favorable mention of others prompts us to place these also in loving remembrance.

"The lives of great men remind us  
We can make our lives sublime;  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."

## BIOGRAPHIES.

**Bailey, John W.**, (b. 1835; d. 1893), was a native of West Chester, Pa. In 1860 he married Louisa Graham. He was a member of the 36th Wis. Inf. from Nov. 11, 1863 to Sept. 5, 1865. In 1874 he located at Fonda and, with the exception of two years in Williams township, continued to reside there until his decease at 58 in 1893. He was an honored member of the Fonda G. A. R. post, having held nearly every office in that organization.

His family consisted of five children. Nelson in 1886 married Mary Wood and lives at Marathon; Ida in 1887 married Frank Niece and died at Fonda in 1894; Frank in 1896 married Matie Turner and lives in Nebraska; Oscar in 1892 married Hattie Henderson and lives at Fonda; Myrtle in 1899 married Wallace Haven, a painter, and lives at Pocahontas.

**Behrendsen, George**, (b. 1843; d. 1898), was a native of Denmark. In 1869 he came to America, located in Cook Co., Ill. where he married that year Anna Nissen and found employment as a carpenter. In 1875 he located on sec. 33, Clinton township, Pocahontas county, and occupied this farm until his death in 1898. His wife, Anna, died in 1878 and three of her four children were living at the time of his decease, namely, Anna, Mrs. Meta Holmgren and B. G. Behrendsen. In 1879 he married Mrs. Henrietta Behrendsen, who with one daughter, Mary G., survived him. All of his children are still residents of Clinton township. He was a man of rugged honesty and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

**Blizzard, Harry A.**, (b. 1867), clothier, Fonda, is a native of Wilton, Iowa, the son of Augustus C. and Margarite (Ayres) Blizzard. At 17 he went to Clarks, Neb., and finding employment as a clerk in a store, remained there the next eight years. In 1895 he located in Fonda and became

proprietor and manager of a clothing store, under the name of Woodhouse (George) & Blizzard. By his uniform modesty and courtesy he has won the good-will of the people of Fonda and vicinity, and is now (1903) a member of the board of education.

In 1892 he married Margarite Butler, of Clarks, Neb., and has a family of three children, Grace, Harold and Ruth.

**Burnett, William H.**, (b. 1834), resident of Cedar township from 1877 to 1888, was a native of New Brunswick and a cousin of George Spragg. During his residence in Illinois he married Mary Vaughn and soon afterward located in Buchanan county, Iowa. In 1877, after a short residence in Greene county he bought of Mrs. Rachel Hartwell the n<sup>o</sup>. 6 sec. 6, Cedar township, improved and occupied it during the next eleven years, when he located first at Dana, then in Colorado and is now in Missouri. He was a first day advent and during his residence at Sunk Grove secured the maintenance of occasional services there and in the Pinneo schoolhouse in Dover township.

His wife died during his residence in Colorado. His family consisted of nine children. Burpy died at 21 at Sunk Grove; Ida married James Rarisee, has two children and lives in Missouri; George is at Central City, Colo.; Wm. H., an attorney, lives in Colorado; Letitia married Milton E. Burkhalter and lives at Pocahontas; Bertha married Edwin J. Southworth and lives at Laurens; Alice died in 1895; Lula married Wm. Haller and lives in Des Moines. The others are Albert and Ruth. Four of the daughters, Letitia, Bertha, Alice and Ruth, and their brother, William, were teachers in this county and rendered very acceptable service.

**Burson, Abram**, (b. 1856), Carpenter, Fonda, is a native of Greene Co. Pa., the son of James and Rebecca (Reynolds) Burson. His father's

family consisted of five sons, John R., David, Abram, Alexander P. and James; and the three oldest, John, David and Abram became residents of Pocahontas county. David came to Fonda in 1881, found employment in a hardware store and two years later went to California where he still resides. Abram in 1879 married Margaret Ann Greenlee, of Greene Co., Pa., and in 1882 located at Fonda where he found employment as a carpenter and builder. During four years, 1896-1900, he was a partner with Elijah H. Anderson in a drug store. During recent years he has been engaged in the sale of real estate. He has served several terms as a member of the Fonda school board and town council.

His family consists of five children. Albert G., a graduate of Fonda and of the pharmaceutical department of the Iowa State University, in 1902 married Mae Fitch and is now engaged in the drug business at Pierce, Nebraska; James is a bank clerk; Frank, Rebecca and Madge are at home.

**Burson, John R.**, a carpenter, in 1882 located at Fonda where in 1884 he married Anna, daughter of Robert Leslie, of Cedar township. In 1887 he moved to Los Angeles, Cal., but is now in Pennsylvania. He has two children, Nellie and Ruth.

**Byrne, Wm. Michael**, (b. 1858), is a native of County Roscommon, Ireland, the son of William and Mary (Kelley) Byrne. He was raised on a farm. In 1878 he married Catharine Lynch and, coming to America, worked two months on a railroad in N. J., and then located in Cedar township, Pocahontas county. In 1880 he bought a farm of 80 acres on sec. 14, Dover township, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He increased this farm to 240 acres, improved it with good buildings, grove and orchard and occupied it until 1896, when he built a house and moved to Fonda

for the education of his children. He has managed the affairs on the farm several years since his first removal from it and usually carries about 70 head of cattle. In 1900 he formed a partnership with his nephew, Thos. J. Byrne and has since been engaged in the stock, grain and implement business in Pocahontas. He is a democrat and a member of the Catholic church.

His family consists of five children, Michael, Catherine, Anna Ellen, Margaret and Mary Elizabeth. William, the oldest, died from an accidental gunshot wound in 1896.

Mary Byrne, his widowed mother, came to America in 1880 and has been a resident of this county since that date. She has dwelt most of the time with her three sons, Thomas in Grant, Matthew in Cedar, and William. Peter Byrne, who was a resident of Grant township 20 years and moved to Minnesota in 1902, was also her son. He married Ann, sister of Jeremiah O. Sullivan, and raised a large family. Her other son, Michael, lives in England.

**Carleton, Samuel M.**, (b. 1825; d. 1895), farmer, Cedar, was a native of Salem, N. H., where in 1846 he married Lydia R. Sargent. He found employment in the cotton mills at Salmon Falls, N. H., and remained there 35 years, serving as an overseer during the last ten years. In 1879 he came to Pocahontas county and located on a farm southwest of Fonda, which he improved and occupied until 1891 when he moved to Fonda. He died at 70 in 1895 and his wife at 78, Jan. 1, 1902.

His family consisted of three children two of whom died in childhood. James S., the oldest, in 1874 married Elva A. Mitchell and located at Salmon Falls. Five years later he and family came with his parents to Cedar township. He died at 28 in 1891, one month after the death of his wife.

He left one daughter, Rena, a Fonda graduate in 1894. In 1896 she married Vernon W. Harris, a clerk, and in 1902 located at Anthon, Iowa.

**Challand**, George, (b. 1846; d. 1900) was a native of Canton, England, and at four came with his parents to Shabbona Grove, Ill., where he grew to manhood and in 1871 married Julia Alice, daughter of Montolbert Greenfield. In 1872 he located near Clare, Iowa, and, a few years afterwards near Rolfe, where his wife died at 50 in February 1900. He died in December following.

Their family consisted of eight children, Mrs. Wealthy Smith, of Minneapolis, Terry at Rolfe, Mrs. May (Frank) Neal, formerly of Pocahontas (Des Moines), Clarence, Maud, Claude and Martin.

**Clark**, Mrs. Sarah A., (b. 1822), Fonda, is a native of Washington Co., Pa., the daughter of John and Margaret Williams. In 1843 she became the wife of John W. Clark and located in the vicinity of Cincinnati, O. In 1853 they moved to Stark Co., Ill., and in 1875 to Warren Co., where he died a few years afterwards. In 1889 Mrs. Clark became a resident of Fonda, where her daughter, Mrs. Emmet Kay had previously located. Dec. 14, 1900, at the end of ten years' service as president of the Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. church, she was very pleasantly surprised at a meeting held in her honor, by the presentation and adoption of the following resolutions:

"In view of the fact that sister Sarah A. Clark, who has reached the advanced age of 79 years, has for more than ten years performed efficiently the arduous duties of president of this society, and has been a faithful member and an untiring worker in the M. E. church for more than half a century, therefore,

Resolved, that she be made an honorary member of our aid society, have a voice and vote therein, be free from the payment of all dues and receive a complimentary invitation to

all suppers served by the society.

Attests: Mrs. Dr. LEESE, pres.  
Mrs. A. BURSON, sec.

Her family consisted of five daughters. Euphemia E. married Albert Hillard and died soon afterwards. Mary B. married Emmet Kay, (see Kay) Alice married James B. Knotts and lives in Lucas county. Emma died in her youth, and Georgia A., an assistant in The Times office many years, resides with her mother.

**Chapman**, Joseph, (b. Nov. 3, 1808) resident alternately of Williams township and Fonda during recent years, is a native of Fairfield Co. Conn., the son of Phineas and Ruth Treadwell Chapman. His father who was the seventh son of Phineas Chapman, Sr., was born, lived and died, at the age of 57 in 1821, in the same house. During the period of the war of 1812 he served as the sheriff of Fairfield county. His six older brothers, during the Revolutionary War, were in the U. S. army, where John became a captain and Albert and James were promoted to minor positions. Joseph was fourteen at the time of his father's decease. He had three brothers, John, Hiram and Charles, and seven sisters, Laura, Betsey, Ann, Eliza, Matsey, Lydia, and Mary, and all of them died many years ago near the old home in Connecticut, except Hiram, who died in Oregon.

At sixteen Joseph was put out by his mother as an apprentice and worked during the next five years at the latter's trade in Wilton. The next year was spent in a jewelry store at Albany, N. Y., where he learned to clean and repair the clocks in use at that time. As a book agent and jeweler he spent the next two years canvassing Culpepper, Madison and several other counties in Virginia. During this period he furnished many an evening's entertainment playing on the fiddle, singing songs and



telling witty stories. In 1835, in company with his brothers, Hiram and Charles, all single, he came to Peoria county, Ill., where in 1837, he married Eliza Ann Sherwood and, locating on a farm of 80 acres, improved, enlarged and occupied it until 1872, when his wife died and he went to the home of his daughter, Robah Oakes. In 1887, he became a resident of Fonda and vicinity in the home of his son, Baxter S. Chapman.

He united with the Presbyterian church in his youth, served fifty years as a teacher in the Sunday school and nearly as long as a deacon in the church. Such was his reverence for the Sabbath and love for the sanctuary, that when he had passed four score and ten he made personal sacrifices to attend church.

He passed his 94th birthday Nov. 3, 1902, and has been the oldest resident in the vicinity of Fonda since 1900. He never used tobacco or liquor in any form and attributed his steady nerves and good health in old age to that fact. "I cannot tell," said he on one occasion, "what effect the use of tobacco or liquor might have had on me, for I never used either; but I have noticed the effect they have had on others, and have profited by their experience. I have taken some light from the lamp of their experience without diminishing their light in the least." He had an effective method of administering a gentle reproof to those who were so irreverent as to use profane language in his presence. After reminding them that good people have no need to use profane language, and that its use always makes the impression that there is something wrong with the user, he would illustrate the matter by a reference to the use of props. "When any one passes a house that is supported by props, it is not necessary that another should tell him there was something wrong about it, for the use

of the props show it. In like manner the use of profanity to support a man's veracity always shows where he is weak. Don't swear, if you expect others to believe you." He was very entertaining, possessed considerable native wit, and often surprised his listeners by beautiful and apt quotations, such as:

"From others fields we gather flowers,  
The thoughts are theirs, the thread  
is ours."

In his 93rd year he repeated several stanzas of the ode on Heaven.

"The faithless world in ruin lies,  
Enwapt in fancy's vision,  
Allured by sighs, beguiled by shows  
And empty dreams; nor scarcely  
knows

There is a brighter heaven.

"A lonely stranger here I roam,  
From place to place am driven,—

My friends are gone and I'm in  
gloom—

This world is all a dreary tomb,  
I have no home but heaven."

He was accustomed to looking on the bright side of things, endeavored to make others happy, often referred to the secret of a happy life and kept a supply of the Shorter Catechism for free distribution.

His family consisted of four children:

Mary married John Sullivan and died in 1882, leaving, three children, Kittie Kinne, Bessie Orton and Hugh Sullivan.

Baxter S., married Hattie Clemens, a pioneer and early teacher of Williams township. He is the owner and occupant of a farm of 240 acres south of Fonda. He has served several years as justice and has two sons, Fred C., a teacher and fruit grower, and Charles.

Robah married Wm. M. Oakes, a farmer, and lives at French Grove, Ill.,

Joel died in his youth.

**Coffin**, Marcellus W. (b. 1842; d. 1902), editor of the Rolfe Reporter, was a native of Glens Falls, N. Y. His father died when he was twelve, and in 1863, he married Emma Warren (b. 1843). In 1886, he moved to Maquoketa, Iowa, and three years later to Grundy county. In December 1882, when the town of Rolfe was new, he located there and was proprietor of the Rolfe House ten years. As an editor of the Rolfe Reporter, the first paper established at Rolfe, he was associated two years with E. A. Duke and the next four years with Percy O. Coffin, his eldest son, when (1890) the paper was discontinued. He wore a long black beard, possessed considerable business capacity, and had the spirit of a leader. He served three years as a member of the first town council of Rolfe 1884-86, as the first president of the school board and was a justice at the time of his death, Sept. 2, 1902.

His family consisted of three sons. Percy O., who was associated with him in the publication of the Reporter, 1886-90, lived five years in Omaha, where he graduated as an electrician. In 1901, he returned to Rolfe. In 1886, he married Lena Fisk and has one son, Ray. Edwin G., a farmer, married Flora Butts and lives at Burwell, Neb. Clarence W. in 1891, married Lulu Belle Roberts and has three children, Harry, Iona and Wayne.

Lem C. Coffin, a brother of Marcellus, was for many years the owner and occupant of a farm near Rolfe. Sept. 5, 1864, he enlisted as a member of Co. D. 175th N. Y. and served until the close of the Civil War. He is now a resident of Lyons, Neb., where he has been engaged in the hardware business.

**Coleman**, Michael G., (b. 1854) Fonda, is a brother of James H. (p. 576), the son of William and Mar-

garet Cashman Coleman. He is a native of Derby, Conn., where he received his early education. In 1868, he came with his parents to Allamakee county, Iowa, and settling on a farm, attended the high school at Lansing, spent two years at St. John's College at Prairie du Chien, Wis., and in 1877, completed a commercial course in the Bryant & Stratton Commercial College, Davenport, Iowa. He taught school during the next seven years. In 1885, he married Emma Spelling and located at New Alb n, where he served as postmaster three years, 1887 to 1890. During the next three years he was engaged in the sale of general merchandise at West Bend. In 1892, he came to Fonda, where he has since been engaged in the insurance and loan business. He served three years as a township clerk in Allamakee county, two years as a member of the council at West Bend, and seven years as city recorder at Fonda. He has been secretary of the Northern Telephone Co. since its organization in 1899.

His family consists of two children, Hazel Leone and Helen.

**Deacon**, John (b. 1846), owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres on sec. 5, Cedar township, is a native of Ireland. In 1865, he came alone to America, lived two years in Boston and then located in Jackson county, Iowa, where in 1873, he married Margaret Mahoney. In 1883, he located in this county on his present farm, which he has improved with good buildings, groves and orchard. His family consists of six children, Mary A., Robert, Alla, Julia, Margaret and Henry.

**Dean**, Thomas L. (1841), a pioneer of Lincoln, is a native of Ohio. In 1870, with wife and three children he located on a soldier's homestead of 160 acres, the sec. 34, Lincoln township, this county. He assisted in the organization of that township,

was elected the first justice, and served twenty-eight consecutive years, 1873 to 1900. He served as president of the school board two years, clerk four years, and treasurer six years. He also served as sheriff of Pocahontas county two years, 1878-79. Aug. 8, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Co. D. 98th Ohio Infantry and served until the close of the war. He has made a splendid record as a soldier and citizen. He improved his farm with good buildings and occupied it until 1900, when he moved to Pocahontas.

His family consisted of ten children of whom the first born died in childhood. Ellen M., a native of Mercer county, Ill., in 1884, married William D. Pattee and died at 33, in 1899, at Pocahontas, leaving four children, Mary, George, Minnie and Nellie. Mary E. in 1889, married George E. Hawk, a farmer, lives in Minnesota, and has two children, Arthur and Frank. Minnie O. in 1887, married Charles E. Andrews. They own and occupy a farm of 160 acres in Lincoln township and have four children, Lewis, Roy, Mabel, and Lloyd. Martha A. in 1900, married Edward Challenge, a farmer, and together with her brother, George T., continues to live on her father's farm in Lincoln township. James E., a carpenter, lives at Palmer. Frank in 1902, married Josephine Flaherty and lives at Pocahontas. John, the youngest, lives at Pocahontas.

**Dennis**, Ross, painter, Rolfe, in 1872, married Juliette Garvis, daughter of Rev. W. A. Potter, and located at Monticello, Wis. In 1884, he came to the new town of Rolfe, Pocahontas county, where his wife died in 1900, leaving a family of three daughters, two children having died in childhood.

Hattie May in 1894, married George Hauck, a merchant, Rolfe. Ida in 1895, married Joseph White, a grain

dealer, Rolfe, and has one child, Elizabeth Lucile. Annie in 1901, married Wardale O. McKilvey, a druggist, Rolfe.

**Detwiller**, John (1837--1893) victim of the tornado of July 6, 1893, was a native of Canada, where in 1897, he married Helen Stewart. In 1889, they located in the vicinity of Fonda and at the time of his death were living on the south part of the William Marshall farm. The house they occupied was well protected on the west and north by a dense maple and walnut grove. They were not apprehensive of danger and were seated at the supper table. When the unusual roar of the whirling storm was heard, they hastily rose from the table and, opening the door, perceived that their barn and outbuildings had been carried away. The next moment the porch was wrested from its fastenings. Stepping quickly into the room it seemed to Mrs. Detwiller, who survived, to be unroofed and commencing to revolve. Becoming unconscious, she knew not what occurred, until she was in the act of rising to her feet amid prostrate tree tops about twelve rods north of the place where the house had stood. No fragments of the shattered house were near her, but she soon beheld the prostrate form of her husband a few feet distant, and found him helpless and unconscious from terrible wounds about the head and limbs. As the shades of evening drew near, he breathed his last. Both had been carried northward over a tall maple grove, in which the trees had been broken by a blast from the north and lay one upon another in the rows facing southward. His wife sustained serious injuries, and in 1896, returned to the home of her mother at Carlingford, Perth Co., Ontario. John Detwiller lived but a few years at Fonda, but so excellent were his principles and so noble was his conduct that he won the esteem

and confidence of all who knew him. He was survived by five brothers and five sisters, of whom three brothers, Alexander, William and Gavin, and one sister, Annie, a seamstress, were residents of Fonda a few years.

William G. Detwiller, in 1900, graduated from the Iowa State Normal School, at Cedar Falls, receiving the Master's degree. During his school days at Cedar Falls he won many honors as an athlete. In the fall of 1899 he was appointed a captain of cadets by Major Dinwiddie and received his commission from Gov. Leslie M. Shaw in the spring of 1900. He is now principal of the Webster school, Sioux City.

Alexander Detwiller Feb. 3, 1892, began to work as a farm hand for his uncle, Hon. James Mercer, for \$200 a year and at the end of five years his balance sheet was as follows:

INCOME.	
Earnings for five years	\$ 1,000.00
EXPENDITURES.	
For support of the church and Sunday school	60.00
Sent home to his mother	175.00
Paid current expenses	140.00
Spent in travel	75.00
Personal property acquired	150.00
Money at interest	400.00

This is a very interesting and suggestive statement. It tells its own story of success achieved by discretion, industry and economy. Nothing unusual was undertaken when he commenced to work for his uncle, but the results greatly exceed those of the average young man who at twenty-one begins life with no other capital than his brain and brawn.

He discovered himself worthy the confidence and esteem of his employer which was the secret of his long continuance in the same position. Time was cheerfully given him to visit the World's Fair in 1893, and later a month was given to visit his old home. If the amount sent home for

the support of his mother be added to the value of the personal property acquired and money on interest it makes \$725.00 saved by the industrious farm hand in five years; and that during a period when every business interest suffered more or less from the serious financial depression, and the average farm renter made nothing worthy of mention. He is now married and the happy owner and occupant of a half section of land at Hayfield, Manitoba.

**Doty, Henry M.** (b. 1852), owner and occupant of a farm of 80 acres on sec. 14, Marshall township, is a native of Michigan. Locating in Marshall county, Iowa, he married there Mary E., sister of A. J. Stover, with whom in 1880, he came to Pocahontas county. He was the first to occupy and improve his present farm, and has met with good success as a farmer. He participated in the organization of Marshall township, was one of its first trustees and served nine years in that capacity. His brother, Emery M. Doty, (b. Mich. 1849), who located near him on the same section, was treasurer of the school funds four years, 1885-88.

His family consists of two children, Laura and Torah.

**Dower, Tomas J. Dr.** (b. 1866) is a native of Williamsburg, Iowa, the son of John and Elizabeth (Ward) Dower. He acquired his special education by taking the scientific course at Valparaiso, Ind., the medical course at the Iowa State University, where he graduated in 1896, and two special medical courses in Chicago, one before and one after his graduation at Iowa City. He located first at Livermore and in February 1899, at Fonda, where he has been favored with a lucrative practice. In 1898, he became a member of the Iowa State and also of the American Medical Associations. In 1900, he married

Mamie I. Lyons, of Webster City, and owns a pretty cottage home.

**Eberle**, Thomas, one of the recent settlers of Marshall township, located on sec. 20 in 1899. He is meeting with good success on the farm and his capacity for managing the public affairs of the township has been recognized by making him president of the school board in 1902.

His family consisted of nine children. John in 1900, married Helen Holder and lives in Grant township. Marie in 1899, married Clement Guthrie and lives in Dover. Frank married Maggie Holder and lives in Marshall. Charles, Clara, Thomas, Annie, a teacher, Louisa and Edward are at home.

**Fitch**, Samuel (b. 1822; d. Fonda, 1903), was a native of Wilburton, England. In 1851, he married Elizabeth Hazel, and coming to America located in New York. In 1856, he came to Clayton county, Iowa, and located on a farm. In 1893, he located in Fonda, where his wife died at 69 in 1895, and he at 80 in 1903. His family consisted of three children, Charles C. (b. N. Y. 1851) lives at Mt. Vernon, S. D.

George H. (b. Iowa, 1858) in 1878, married Amelia Biggle and engaged in farming in Clayton county. In 1884, he moved to Calhoun county, and in 1891 to Fonda, where two years later he was joined by his brother, Fred, and they became associated in the hardware business, under the name "Fitch Bros." This partnership was maintained until 1903, when George and family moved to the state of Washington. He served several years as a member of the Fonda council and as a steward of the M. E. church. His family consisted of four children, of whom the first born died at Fonda. Mae, a Fonda graduate in 1899, in 1902, married Albert G. Burson, a druggist, and lives at Pierce, Neb. Grace and Esther are at home.

Fred W. Fitch (b. 1865), junior

member of the firm of Fitch Bros., Fonda, 1893 to 1903, is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, where in 1891, he married Elizabeth Broker and engaged in farming until 1893, when he came to Fonda and engaged in the hardware business. His family consists of three children, Eva, Leon and Elnor.

**Flint**, George W., resident of Williams township, 1868 to 1878, was the son of Silas Flint, who came with him from Benton to Calhoun county. After a few years his parents returned to Benton county and died there, his father at 84 and his mother at 82. George W. was a highly respected citizen and served as treasurer of Calhoun county two years during his residence in it. In 1878, he moved to Clay county, Neb., and died there in 1897.

He married Sarah J., daughter of Joseph L. Flint, and his family consisted of six children, two of whom died during his residence in Williams township. Ines married Henry E. Spencer, a carpenter, and died in 1898, leaving two children. Lulu M. married Nathan C. Barker and lives at Geneva, Neb. Lenora M. in 1900, married Roy T. Carpenter, merchant, Fonda, and has one child, Horace. Georgia Grace is at home.

Flint, William P., a pioneer of Williams township and later a resident of Fonda, is the son of Joseph L. and Jane Curtis (Dickey) Flint. His parents were natives of Maine, where they married in 1842. In 1851, they came to Illinois and two years later to Johnson county, Iowa, where his father died in 1887. His mother and brother, Caleb, live at Barnum. In 1875, he married Kate J. Clemens and his family consists of three children, Mabel, Edith and Clarence.

Ann Flint, who married Joseph Hay, who in 1868, made the first entry of the Warner homestead, and Enceba Flint, who became the wife

of Wesley Hay, were both sisters of William Flint and early residents of Williams township.

**Forbes**, John (b. 1858), merchant, Fonda, is a native of Dixon, Ill., the son of Rev. Hugh W. and Mary (Broadwell) Forbes. In 1860, he moved with his parents to Iowa, and has been a resident of the state ever since, first at Tama, and later in Carroll, Buena Vista and Pocahontas counties. In 1887, under the name of John Forbes & Company, he engaged in the sale of general merchandise at Newell. In 1895, he located at Fonda and continued as a general merchant until 1902, when he became associated with E. J. Chingren in the real estate business.

His father, who died in Fonda at 74 in 1896, was the first Presbyterian minister to preach in Dixon, Ill. He served faithfully and well the churches of Cambridge and Hanover, Ill., and of West Irving, Millersburg, Deep River, St. Charles, Rock Creek, and Iowa Center, Iowa. Walter Forbes, an older brother of John, was a resident of Fonda and assisted in the store from 1895 to 1900, when he located in Colorado.

John was a member of the Fonda council three years, 1897-99. In 1885, he married Emma Woodring, of Carroll, and his family consists of five sons, Judd, Bert, Linn, Newell and Donald.

**Fouch**, Daniel, miller, Rolfe, is a native of Ohio. After a residence of five years in Carroll county, Iowa, where he was engaged in the milling business, in 1895, he came to Rolfe accompanied by his brother, Richard, and built a fine grist and feed mill. In 1898, this mill was nearly destroyed by fire but was rebuilt. In 1900, his brother relinquished his interest and Fouch & Patterson have been the proprietors since. Daniel Fouch has served a number of years as an elder of the Presbyterian church. His fam-

ily consists of four children, Verdie, May, Helen, and Webster D.

**Griffin**, James (b. 1848), resident of Cedar, is a native of Cork county, Ireland. In 1866, he came to Dubuque county, Iowa, and worked as a bridge carpenter for the I. C. Ry. Co., fifteen years. Here in 1872, he married Catherine, sister of Jeremiah Sullivan. In 1881, he located on sec. 4 Cedar township. He has improved this farm with beautiful buildings and increased it to 240 acres.

His family consisted of seven children.

Michael in 1901, married Eliza, daughter of Patrick Kearns, and lives in Fonda, where he is engaged in the furniture business.

James, Annie, Mary, Maggie, Julia, and Hannah are at home.

**Hanke**, Albert (b. 1849), a pioneer of Cedar township, is a native of Germany. In 1871, he and his brother, Frank, located on homesteads in Cedar township. Albert married Augusta Stry and is still the occupant of a farm on sec. 6. His family consisted of seven children. Edward married Mary Netski, lives in Buena Vista county and has three children, Martin, Ella and Annie. Bertha, Amanda, George, Carrie, Lillie, Ethel and Albert are at home.

Frank Hanke, his brother, in 1882, moved to Buena Vista county and died there in 1899. He married Minnie Stry, a sister of Augusta, and five of his family of nine are living, namely, Rineholt, Olive, Nettie, Elizabeth and James.

**Hardy**, Verlin Elijah (b. 1873), farmer and stock breeder, Fonda, is a native of Richland county, Wis. In 1880, he located in Cherokee county, Iowa, where in 1886, he married Ada, daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Rice. In 1887, he located on his present farm, on sec. 31, Cedar township, three miles west of Fonda. He has improved this farm with large and

substantial buildings and during recent years has acquired considerable prominence as a breeder of fine stock. His family consists of two children. Mabel and Elby Ray.

**Harrington**, Jeremiah W. (b. 1808; d. Mar. 26, 1901), was a native of Ireland, and coming to this country at 18, located first in New York and then further west. He served as a section boss nearly half a century, and continuously for a quarter of a century on one section of the Columbus and Indiana railroad in Ohio. He resided at Fonda and vicinity during the last twelve years of his life, and died at 93 in 1901. He was a tall strong and well preserved man, genial modest and dignified in his manners. He never used tobacco nor indulged in profanity. He was the father of a large family of children, who have married and established homes of their own. He was the oldest resident of Fonda at the time of his death. His wife survives him.

**Hauck**, Valentine (b. 1837), merchant, Rolfe, is a native of Coburg, Germany. In 1852, he came to America and located in Jo Daviess county, Ill. In 1866, he married Maria Kehl (b. 1847), a native of that county, and two years later became proprietor of a grocery store at Marshalltown, Iowa. Later he located at Glenwood, Mo, and in 1882, associated with Martin Weible, a brother-in-law, opened a general store in the new town of Rolfe. The firm, Weible & Hauck, have been doing business in Rolfe ever since, though August Weible, in 1894, became the successor of his father as a member of the firm. This is one of the oldest business firms in the county, and it has grown stronger financially and in favor with the people as the years have passed. He is the owner of the store building, considerable other town property and 480 acres of farm land most of it in the vicinity of Rolfe. He has served

several years as a member of the Rolfe school board, and is a democrat.

His family consisted of two children one of whom died in childhood.

George Otto Hauck, his son and associate in business, in 1894, married Hattie May, daughter of Ross and Juliette G. Potter Dennis, and his family consists of four children, Ida May, Esther, Margaretta and Valentine.

**Haven**, James Henry (b. 1841), a carpenter, is a native of Rutland county, Vt., the son of Solomon and Charlotte (Tower) Haven. At five he came with his parents to a farm near Rockford, Ill. In 1857, he located in Clayton county, Iowa, where his father purchased a tract of land that had on it a saw-mill. July 18, 1861, he enlisted at Colesburg as a member of Co. G. 9th, Iowa, passed from Dubuque to St. Louis on the Mississippi, then through Missouri and Arkansas with the army of Gen. Curtis, participating in the battles of Pea Ridge, the siege of Vicksburg and Lookout Mountain. After that he was in the army of Gen. Sherman until the close of the war, and altogether participated in 28 of 32 battles in which his regiment or a part of it was engaged. He was twice slightly wounded but was never marked "off duty." He was mustered out July 18, 1865, after having rendered four years of military service.

In 1866, he married Mary M. Bushee and located on a farm near Dyersville. After three years he learned carpentry and pursued that vocation. In 1880, he located at Fonda, where he has been prominently identified with the G. A. R. Post. His wife, while she lived, was an active member in the M. E. church. She died at 56 in 1900. She was twice president of the Fonda W. R. C. and later, its treasurer. Mr. Haven is a charter member of Fonda G. A. R. Post, and on

many public occasions has served as leader of the drum corps.

His family consisted of five children but the first born died in childhood. Wallace W., a painter, in 1899, married Myrtle Bailey and lives at Pocahontas. Adah A. in 1892, married Frank Cheney and lives south of Newell. Lurean and Albert are at home.

**Hawkins, B. K.** (b. 1864), photographer, was a native of Fountain Co., Ind. In the fall of 1865, he came with his parents to Polk county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood and learned photography. He maintained a photographic gallery at Fonda from 1892 to 1898, when he located at Pocahontas. He was a good violinist and took the lead in organizing and developing local musical talent.

**Hayden, Tullius C.** (b. 1852; d. 1890) merchant, was a native of Union Co., Ind., and at twenty in 1872, located at Panora, Iowa, where he served successively as clerk in a store, deputy sheriff and deputy clerk. After three years service in a bank at Guthrie Center he became a member of the mercantile firm of Hayden & Ferree and established a store at Fonda, where he died at 38 in 1890. In 1875, during his residence at Panora, he married Maggie Townsend, who with two children survives him. Blanch in 1898, married David Rose, an Illinois Central railway agent, and now lives in Washington. Teddie lives with his mother in the state of Washington.

**Hewlett, Alfred** (b. 1816; d. 1901), was a native of Somersetshire, England. In 1849, he came to America and located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where in 1864, he married Christiana Rigg. In 1873, with a family of five children, he located in Pocahontas county, near Rolfe. He died at 84 in 1901, leaving to his children the heritage of an honest, upright man. James, John and George Hewlett,

and their sister, Mrs. M. C. Ransom, and their mother still reside at or near Rolfe, and Mrs. Geo. W. Horton lives at Cedar Rapids.

**Hornor, Squire Finley** (b. 1845; d. Fonda, 1897), was a native of Boone county, Ind. In his youth he moved to Bloomington, Ill., where in 1866, he married Harriet E. Crosby. In 1895, he moved to Iowa, and located near Fonda, where he died at 52 in 1897. He was held in high esteem and honored by all who knew him. He took the lead in effecting the organization of the Christian church at Fonda and the erection of the tabernacle in 1895.

His family consisted of nine children. Laura Jane in 1892, married Ira Hair and died at 31, at Fonda in 1898, leaving three children, Pearl, Ruth, and Paul. Martha May, a graduate of the normal department of Drake University, and her sister, Anna P., are engaged in teaching. Cora S. in 1903, married Amos Eaton and located near Fonda. William N., a farmer, in 1898, married Edna J. Heflin and has one son.

Perry E., Eber G., James F., and Russell are at home.

**Kay, Emmet** (b. 1848), mayor of Fonda in 1903, is a native of Kewanee, Henry county, Ill., the son of James and Julia Post Kay. In 1867, he married Mary B., daughter of John W. and Sarah A. Clark, and located on a farm. In 1872, he moved to Warren county, Iowa, and in 1885, to Fonda, where he has been engaged first in the livery, and later in the real estate business.

His family consisted of three children. Claude C., married Ellen Russell and lives in Fonda. Maud married Albert Ehline, a tailor, lives in Fonda and has one daughter, Ethel. Zola is at home.

**Leece, Samuel Edgar** (b. 1863) dentist, Fonda, is a son of John and Mary (Sweeney) Leece. He is a native of



LaFayette county, Wis., where he grew to manhood, received his early education and began the practice of his profession. After taking a commercial course in the normal school at Valparaiso, Ind., he entered the Chicago Dental College and graduated from it in 1894. In 1895, he married Susie L. Benston of LaFayette, Wis., and located in Fonda, where he has since been engaged in the practice of dental surgery. He performs all dental operations without pain to his patients and has attained a high degree of skill as a workman. He has served as mayor of Fonda two years, 1900 and 1901. He has one daughter, Marie.

**Loats, Albert G.** (1823-1895), Bellville, was a native of Germany, where in 1850, he married Sceta Shap (b. 1823). In 1868, they came to America and resided two years in Livingston county, Ill. On March 4, 1870, with a family of five children, John A., George A., Albert A., Jennie A., and Folka A., they located on a farm of 160 acres on sec. 28, Bellville township, which they were the first to occupy and improve. At the time of their arrival all the money possessed was \$84.00 and with this amount a frame shanty, 12x14 feet was erected, that served as the home of the family more than ten years. During the thirty years that have passed since they began to occupy this humble structure, great changes have taken place. The country has developed rapidly, cozy and substantial improvements have been erected at the old home, and all the members of the family have married and secured comfortable homes of their own. The venerable patriarch died at 72 in 1895, and his aged wife lives in comfort at the old home with her second son, George A. Loats.

John A. Loats (b. 1854) in 1881, married Irene Johnson and located on a homestead in Turner county, S. D.,

where he still resides. In 1894, she died leaving a family of two sons and five daughters.

George A. Loats (b. 1856) in 1882, married Gacha (Tessie) Weimers. They own and occupy the old home farm and an additional quarter on sec. 27, bought in 1881, making 320 acres. Both farms are improved with good buildings, fences and groves. The large new house on the home farm was built in 1898. Mr. Loats is a man who concentrates his interest in his family and farm, and has been very successful in raising good crops. He was president of the school board in 1884, and a trustee three years, 1893-95, but has no desire to hold office. He is a liberal supporter of the Emmanuel German church, and was one of its original members and first officers. He has a family of six children all of whom are at home, Sacha (Sadie), Garrett (Charles), Albert, Henry, Richa (Frederika) and Jennie.

Albert A. Loats in 1883, married Swancha (Susan) Dewall and two years later bought a farm of 160 acres, in Lincoln township, which they were the first to occupy and improve. They moved to South Dakota in 1898, to Havelock two years later, and in 1897, located in Minnesota. They have a family of five children, Albert, Mary, Hannah, Sadie and William.

Folka A. Loats in 1889, married Gustave Boteen and located in Lincoln township, where they own a farm of 160 acres on sec. 16 which they have improved with good buildings. They have a family of four children. Lena, Sadie, Albert, and August.

Jennie A. (b. 1851), the eldest, in 1872, married Anton Ringering in Illinois. In 1884, she died leaving a family of seven children.

The second initial "A" in the name of the children of Albert G. Loats, stands for Albert. It was not an unusual custom in Germany for all the

members of the family to have the same name, and in this instance no reason can be assigned for the use of Albert, except that their father manifested a preference or fancy for it.

**Long, Andrew O.** (b. 1837), Bellville, is a native of Sweden and in 1863, married there Karin, John Peters' daughter, (b. May 30, 1842). Four years later, with two children, they came to America and located in Webster county, Iowa. In June 1870, they came to this county and began to occupy as a homestead, the s $\frac{1}{2}$  nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 8, 80 acres, Bellville township.

Their first improvement was a little frame shanty, and the following incident, related by a neighbor, is suggestive of their early struggles to keep the wolf from the door. During the period of impassable roads in 1870 their supplies having become exhausted, he walked to Pomeroy, a distance of five miles, for a sack of flour. Having no money and being a stranger, his request for flour was refused and he was compelled to return empty handed. Relating his experience to a neighbor on whom he called, the latter said, "Why did you not call on me, I would have loaned you the money?" Mr. Long replied, "Perhaps you would let me have it yet." He gave him the money and, retracing his steps to Pomeroy, carried the flour all the way home on his shoulders that same day.

This act of kindness in the hour of need is still gratefully remembered and great are the changes that have since occurred. The old homestead is still occupied but it has been enlarged from time to time by additional purchases, so that the home farm now includes 560 acres and the first, and even second, sets of buildings have been replaced by a large dwelling house in 1885, and several unusually large barns for the care of horses, cattle and hogs. He has been very successful as a farmer and stock

raiser, and, by all who know him, is highly esteemed as an industrious, prosperous, and upright man. He is a member of the Swedish Mission church, and a republican, but has never cared to hold office.

He raised a family of nine children: Annie in 1892, married John A. Sodestrom, who engaged in the lumber and implement business at Sac City. She died at 36, in 1901, leaving four children, Emma, Ellen, Andrew, and Anna.

Peter (b. Sweden, 1867), came to America with his parents in 1868, and after two years in Webster county, located in Bellville, where he has grown to manhood and still resides. In 1894, he married Sophia Youngberg and lives on a farm on sec. 5, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He has four children, Helen, Clara, Esther and Edna, twins.

Alma in 1892, married John W. Swalin, the pioneer occupant of a farm of 120 acres on sec. 6, Bellville, on which he has erected all the improvements. His family consists of six children, Mabel, Huldah, David, Esther, Earl, and Albert.

Mary in 1896, married Charles Swalin. They own and occupy an improved farm of 80 acres in Bellville, and have four children, Carl, Edward, Oscar, and Emil.

Amanda S. in 1894, married Ole Sodestrom and located on a farm of 80 acres on sec. 8, Bellville, which they were the first to occupy and improve. She died at 26 in 1901, leaving four children, Alice, Walter, Ada, and Mabel.

Frank (b. 1877) in 1901, married Carrie, daughter of P. Akerman, and lives on the Akerman farm.

Emma, Albert, and Charles are at home.

**McDermott, John J.** (b. 1851), farmer, at Fonda since 1879, is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., the son of John and Bridget McDermott, who

were natives of Ireland. At ten he moved with them to Ashland county, O., where he grew to manhood and in 1875, married Martha E. Bonney. A few months later he located in Weber county, Utah. In 1879, he located west of Fonda, first on the Mackey, then the Jack Hamilton farm, and in 1883 on his present farm, which he has improved with good buildings, grove and orchard.

His family consisted of three daughters. Louella in 1899, married William C. Lookingbill, a real estate agent and proprietor of a feed store at Sac City. Daisy, the eldest, and Jessie are at home.

**McLellan**, James Nelson (b. 1838), ex-county treasurer, is a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y. He received a good common school education and enjoyed two terms at Wheaton College. July 10, 1861, he enlisted at Camp Douglass, Chicago, as a member of Co. K. 42d Ill., the same company that Abram O. and William E. Garlock belonged to, and remained in the service until Feb. 20, 1865. He served under Gen. Fremont in Missouri, and passing down the Mississippi river participated in the capture of Island No. 10, Fort Pillow and Pittsburg Landing. He then passed to the army of the Cumberland under Sheridan, and later under Gen. Newton, the man that blew up Hell gate in the harbor of New York. He also served under Halleck, Rosecrans, Sherman and Thomas, and participated in thirty-seven different battles, including those at Farmington, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Nashville. He was under fire 100 of the 120 days occupied in the Atlantic campaign.

In 1868, he married at Waterloo, Iowa, Ellen Hagenbuch and located on a farm. In 1879, he became a resident of Pocahontas county and engaged in the drug business at Fonda. He served as treasurer of Pocahontas

county six years, 1888-1893. In 1894, he moved to Des Moines where he still resides. He has devoted some time and attention to raising fine horses and in 1898, received from the Louisville Trotting Association the flattering price of \$10,000 for Pilatus, a six year old, that had been purchased at the Berry sale in Chicago in 1894. He is a man of portly bearing, was a gallant soldier and a popular public officer.

His wife died in 1901, leaving a family of five children.

William Boyd, a jeweler, is located at Pocahontas. He is the proprietor of the Pocahontas telephone exchange. In 1899, he married Ella, daughter of R. D. Bollard and has one daughter, Phyllis Roberta.

Stephen Alexander, a graduate of the medical department of Drake University in 1902, in the same year married Alice Weaver and engaged in the practice of medicine at Buckeye.

Philip Sheridan, a horse trainer, Affa Roberta, a Des Moines graduate in 1900, and Laora Bell are at home.

**Moulton**, John (1828-1893), resident of Cedar, was a native of Ohio county, Ind. In 1848, he married Nancy D. Bush (b. 1829) and located on a farm. In 1860, he moved to Livingston county, Ill., and remained there until 1876, when he located on a farm of 80 acres in Cedar township, which he improved, increased and occupied until his death at 65 in 1893. He left a family of nine children.

Elizabeth (b. 1849) in 1870, in Peoria county, Ill., married John Garton, and in 1881, located on a farm of 80 acres on sec. 18, Cedar, which he improved and occupied until his death in 1897, when he left a family of four children, Emma, who in 1891, married Frank Hamilton, Cora, who in 1893, married Charles Moore, Isaac, who in 1900, married Clara Perry, and Pearl.

Thomas (b. Ind. 1848), a farmer, in

1881, in Livingston county, Ill., married Elizabeth Dudley and located that year in Cedar township, Pocahontas county. Three years later he located on sec. 18, Dover and remained there thirteen years. His family consisted of four children, Chester, Reuben, Walter and Charles.

Delilah in 1872, married Daniel Scribbins and located on a farm in Livingston county, Ill., but later near Peoria, and died while visiting friends at Fonda in 1900, leaving a family of ten children.

Arthur (b. Ind. 1854), in 1881, married Cora, daughter of John Lemp, and is now the owner of a farm of 400 acres in Cedar township, which he has recently improved with new and very commodious buildings. He has a family of eight children, George, John, Wilford, Roy, Grace, Henry, Fay and Nettie. He died in 1904.

Floyd (b. Ind. 1856) in 1889, married Ella Decorah. He is the owner of a farm of 160 acres in Cedar township, and has two children, John A. and Elsie.

Frank (b. Ill. 1860) in 1881, married Lucy, daughter of William Eaton, who died in 1886, leaving two children, John W. and Belle. In 1894, he married Pearl Shreves and is now a resident of Dover.

Stephen J. (b. Ill. 1863) married Bertha Walters, lives in South Dakota, and has two children, Dottie and Mary.

Mary Ann in 1886, married James Trude, a drayman, Fonda, (See Trude).

Jared L. (b. Ill. 1886) owner and occupant of the old home farm in Cedar, in 1898, married Anna Larson and has one son, Clarence.

In 1895, Nancy D. (Brush) Moulton married Americus V. Sargent and after a few years' residence at Fonda, returned to the old Moulton home, west of town,

**Mullen Bros.**, Owen W. and John

P., dealers in live stock and implements at Pocahontas and Fonda, have been residents of Fonda and vicinity since 1879. Terrence Mullen (b. 1821), their father, is a native of Ireland, where in 1860, he married Margaret Ward (b. 1841) and located on a farm. In 1881, he came to America and located on a farm of 80 acres south west of Fonda, which he still owns, increased to 640 acres, improved with good buildings and occupied until 1899, when he and family moved to Fonda.

His family consisted of seven children.

Margaret in 1889, married Michael Kelly (b. Ire. 1848), who came to America in 1863, and located in New York state. In 1884, he came to Iowa and located on a farm of 160 acres south of Fonda. He improved and enlarged this farm, by the purchase of neighboring tracts, to 640 acres and occupied it until 1900, when he moved to Fonda. His family consists of five children, John, Eva, Dennis, Terrence and Michael.

Owen W. (b. Ire. 1863), senior member of the firm of Mullen Bros., in 1900, located at Pocahontas, where he has since been engaged as a dealer in live stock and implements.

John P., (b. Ire. 1864) junior member of the firm of Mullen Bros., has been a dealer in live stock and implements at Fonda since 1899. He spent three and one half years at Buena Vista College and taught seventeen terms of school during his residence on the farm. In 1899, he married Rose Brady, of Storm Lake, and has three children, Margarite, Marie, and Edward.

Rose, a dress maker, lives at Sioux City.

Michael J. after taking a scientific course at St. Mary's Academy at Omaha, Neb., in 1895, became a civil engineer for the Amalgamated Copper Company, of Butte Montana. Dur-

ing the war with Spain in 1898, enlisting in the vicinity of the Black Hills, he rendered patriotic service as one of the rough riders under Col. Griggsby.

Mary married Thomas P. Fitzgerald, an implement dealer, and lives at Varina.

Jettie E., a teacher, is at home.

**Murray**, Hugh J. (b. 1859) Pocahontas, is a native of Sharpsburg, Pa., the son of Peter and Ellen Murray, with whom in 1860, he came to Iowa, and located south of Des Moines. In 1889, he located on the sw $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 25, 160 acres, Marshall township, Pocahontas county, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He herded cattle two years in Marshall and Sherman townships, having 350 head the first year and 800 the next. In 1893, he located at Pocahontas, where he has since been engaged in the insurance business. He is the owner of a fine dwelling and two business houses at Pocahontas, and a half section of land in Sherman township.

In 1895, he married Catherine, sister of M. A. Hogan, and has one son, Vincent.

**Neal**, Benjamin (b. 1828; d. 1903), farmer and drayman, Fonda, was a native of Richmond, Va. At fifteen he moved with his parents to Mason county, Ill., where in 1854, he married Eunice Howe. In 1875, he became a resident of Pocahontas county, locating on a farm in the vicinity of Fonda. In 1884, he moved to Fonda, became a drayman and continued in that employment until his decease at 75 in 1903. He was an industrious, honest and honorable man.

His family consisted of one son and seven daughters. Susan Jane in 1883, married Lewis Dishoff, a farmer, and lives in Greeley county, Neb. Charles E., a farmer, in 1885, married Clara Wright and lives at Cherokee. Sarah C. in 1883, married Frank Messenger, a carpenter, lives at Fonda and has

five children. Lena married Robert Boothby, a farmer, and lives at Cherokee. Huldah in 1885, married Charles Woodward, a railroad agent, lives at Mount Vernon, S. D. Lydia, Hattie, and Viola May, a Fonda graduate (1899) and teacher are at home.

**Nichols**, Nelson Clark (b. 1828), farmer, Fonda, is a native of Union county, Conn., the son of Warren and Matilda Parrish Nichols. In 1846, he went to Worcester, Mass., and found employment as a machinist. In 1853, he married Lucy Jane Patch (b. 1830) and remained there until 1858, when he came to Clayton county, Iowa. In May 1869, he located on a homestead five miles south west of Fonda, and he is still its owner and occupant. He planted fruit trees suited to this section and has one of the finest fruit bearing orchards in this vicinity. He has not yet forgotten the experiences of 1869, when he and his neighbors, William Strauss, C. D. Lucas, and Orlando O. Brown, hauled the materials, for their first buildings, from Fort Dodge. In October that year he paid the man that lived on the bank of the creek, on the Harvey Eaton farm, one dollar to ferry him across the Cedar at Fonda. The wagon box and fixings were put on the boat and the oxen swam after it pulling the wagon through the water with a long rope.

His family consisted of five children.

Nellie Marie in 1876, married Samuel Way, a telegraph operator, and located successively at Alta and Blairsburg, Iowa, and Glasgow, Montana, where he died leaving four children, Frank, Howard, Nellie and Fred. She now resides at Fargo, N. D.

George Newell, (b. 1861), a tinner, married Clara Roberts and located at Fonda. His family consists of five children, Lola, Vere, Opal, Claude, and Roy.

**Charles Henry** (b. 1863), a carpenter, married **Theresa Dorton** and lives in Clayton county.

**Frank**, a farmer, in 1893, married **Pearl McGeary**, lives on the old home farm and has one child **Laura Jeanette**.

**Cora** in 1886, married **George Marsh**, a painter and decorator, lives at **Primghar**, and has a family of five children, **Harry**, **Phoebe**, **May**, **Dora**, and **Joseph**.

**O'Donnell**, **Edward** (b. 1853), **Fonda**, is a native of Schuylkill county, Pa. In 1855 he came with his parents to **Allamakee county**, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. In 1877, he located at **Dyersville**, where in 1878, he married **Ellen Sayre**. In May that year he located at **Fonda**, where he found employment as a carpenter. He was the postmaster at **Fonda** six years, April 1, 1883, to Oct. 15, 1889, and during this period built for the office a fine brick building. He has been the town assessor most of the years since that date.

His wife died in 1887, leaving four children, **Carl**, a clerk, who in 1902, married **Vina Kennedy** and located in **North Dakota**, **Edward**, **Hazel** and **Lewis**. In 1898, he married **Susan McCartan**.

**Olson**, **John** (b. 1826) occupant of the south part of the **Wm. Marshall farm**, **Cedar**, 1869 to 1885, is a native of **Denmark**, where he grew to manhood and married **Mary Jensen**. In 1867, he came to America with a family of three children and located in **Maine**. Two years later he bought the sw $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 33, **Cedar township**, this county, improved and occupied it the next six years. The buildings that he erected were completely demolished and the grove that he planted was partially destroyed by the tornado of 1893. During his residence here he returned to **Denmark** and brought his aged mother that she might spend the remainder of her days at his

home. She died at 93 in 1880 and was buried on the south side of an elevation on the south west corner of the farm near **Cedar creek**. He was a member of the **Lutheran church** but his children became **Seventh Day Adventists**. In 1885, he moved to **San Pasqual, Cal.**

His family consisted of three children all of whom were born in **Denmark**, and bear the name of **Johnson**, after the **Danish custom** of calling the children after the first name of their father.

**Henry Johnson** in 1878, married **Florence White**, daughter of an Iowa clergyman, and in 1884, located in **California**. He taught several terms of school in the vicinity of **Fonda** and now has a family of six children, **Frank**, **Harry**, **Arthur**, **Nellie**, **Roy**, and **Jessie**.

**Lawrence Johnson**, a teacher, after his removal to **California** married **Viola Darling** and has two children, **Inez** and **Glenn**.

**Sophia Johnson**, a teacher, pursued medical studies at **Battle Creek, Mich.**, in 1895, graduated later from the **California Medical College** and has since been engaged in the practice of medicine at **San Diego, Cal.** She grew to womanhood at **Fonda** and, having a conviction that there was a more advanced sphere for woman than mere drudgery, pursued her education, relying upon her own resources. The success that has attended her unaided efforts is but another illustration of what a young lady may accomplish if her will and energies are rightly directed.

**Patty**, **Clay C.** (b. 1866), druggist, **Fonda**, is a native of **Benton county**, Iowa, the son of **Joseph M.** and **Rachel J.** (**Greenlee**) **Patty**, who located at **Carroll** during his childhood. Here he grew to manhood and secured a good education. In 1888, after attending the **Illinois school of Pharmacy** at **Chicago**, he engaged in the

drug business at Charter Oak. Coming to Fonda in 1893, he established a drug store, and, though its location was changed several times, he has now one of the finest rooms in the town, the first floor of the brick building built by Roberts, Kenning and Wood, on the southwest corner of Second and Main streets, in 1901. In addition to the usual stock of drugs, stationery, school books, soda fountain, etc., he keeps a news' stand and a wholesale ice cream establishment. During recent years he has attained the reputation of making the best ice cream, not merely in the town, but in this section of the state. In order to supply the large demand for the smooth and velvety ice cream that he makes, he has provided facilities for its manufacture, that are a credit to the town. They include, among other things, a pasteurizer, a cream separator, a mammoth freezer, and a steam engine. He can easily make one or more hundred gallons of ice cream in a day. During the season of 1902 and 1903, the milk of 100 cows was received daily, and the product, which is called "Velvet Ice Cream" was shipped to most of the towns along the Illinois Central and Milwaukee railroads within fifty miles of Fonda.

In 1894, he married Ginevra Ballard of Odebolt, and has one son, Frank.

Dr. Louis G. Patty, his brother, after a residence of five years at Fonda, during which he was engaged in the practice of medicine, in 1898, returned to Carroll. Frank L., a younger brother, after assisting him two years in the drug store, died at 20 at Carroll in 1898.

**Pfeiffer**, Godfrey (b. 1837), miller, Fonda, is a native of Germany. He came with his parents in 1846, to Butler county, Ohio, and in 1860, to Keokuk, Iowa. In 1861, he married Sarah Farr, of Wapello county and located on a farm. In 1871, he became the principal owner and manager of a

mill at What Cheer. Three years later he assisted in the erection and management of a mill at Greencastle. Three years later he built a mill at Newton and when it was destroyed by fire three months after its completion he rebuilt it. In 1881 he moved this mill and its machinery to Fonda, erected there also the brick house known as the McKee home, and was a resident of that place until 1889, when he moved to Wilbur, Neb., and in 1893, to Parkston, S. D.

His family consisted of five daughters, four of whom engaged in teaching at Fonda and vicinity.

Laura Bell in 1898, graduated from the classical department of the State University, Lincoln, Neb., and became principal of the historic department in the high school at Omaha. She is now teaching at Lincoln.

Louisa Jane, after pursuing a normal course in Drake University and teaching several years, in 1895, married George H. Kerr, proprietor of a linotype printing press, and lives at Des Moines.

Emma Mary, teacher of the primary department Fonda two years, in 1888, married George Taylor, clerk in a shoe store, Omaha, and died there in 1899, leaving seven children.

Rebecca Kate in 1891, married Bert F. Osburn, a clerk, lives at Parkston, S. D., and has two children.

Estella, a graduate in 1891, of the high school at Wilbur, Neb., and in 1899, of the academic department of Yankton College, has since been engaged as a teacher.

**Post**, Charles H., farmer, Cedar, was a native of Painesville, O., the son of Daniel K. and Charity Post, both of whom died at Painesville, the former at 79, and the latter at 91, after raising a family of twelve children all of whom grew to manhood. Charles H., the seventh son, in 1870, married Mary Matson and found employment in a nursery. In 1880, he

located on the n $\frac{1}{2}$ ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 36, Cedar township, which he improved and occupied until 1891, when he moved to the vicinity of Newell. In 1901, he located on a farm near Burlington, Kan. His long experience in nursery work developed a taste for raising fine fruits and also the skill to do so successfully. He achieved good success in raising apples, plums, cherries, and strawberries wherever he has been located. He received a good education and both he and his estimable wife were efficient and prominent helpers in the work of the M. E. church and Sunday school.

His family consisted of four children. Ella in 1890, married William Shorts, a farmer, and lives near Stuart, Iowa. Alice in 1899, married William Reed, a farmer, and lives near Burlington, Kan. Walter and Mabel are at home.

**Post, Wilbur Eugene** (b. 1861), farmer, Cedar, is a native of LaFayette county, Wis., (near Warren, Ill.), the son of Alanson and Mary Post. In 1885, he married Julia M. Church and lived one year on his father's farm near Newell, Iowa. In 1886, he located on his present farm on sec. 25, Cedar township, which he has improved with good buildings and increased to 160 acres. He has taken an active interest in the management of the public affairs of the township and served as president of the school board three years, 1896-98. His family consisted of four children, Elliott, who was accidentally drowned at 17 in 1903, Clayton, Glenn and Stella.

**Reed, Joseph M.** (b. 1842), Clinton, is a native of Pennsylvania and in 1860 came with his parents to Delaware county, Iowa. In 1861, he enlisted as a member of Co. B, 4th Iowa Cavalry, and continued in the service until the end of the war, four years. In 1895, he married Arminta Hayden, and in 1871, located on a homestead in Palo Alto county. In 1874, he located in Clinton

township, Pocahontas county, where he improved a farm of 120 acres with neat and handsome buildings, and occupied it until 1900, when he moved to Laconner, Washington. His family consisted of three children. Amy L. in 1883, married F. F. Fitzgerald. Lena in 1891, married Charles A. Vaughn, a farmer. Ora married Miss Christianson, of Gilmore City.

**Rice, Walter** (1845-1901), farmer, Fonda, was a native of Schoharie county, N. Y., where in 1866, he married Elizabeth Chrystal and located on a farm. In 1877, he moved to Iowa, locating first in Story and then six years in Cherokee county. In 1887, he located on the ne $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 24, Cedar township, Pocahontas county, and occupied this farm until a week previous to his decease, which occurred near Des Moines, March 9, 1901. During his long residence at Fonda he became well known as an enterprising and successful farmer. His family still occupies the farm. It consisted of two sons and one daughter.

Fred in 1892, married May Bennett, occupies the old home farm and has two children. Ada in 1886, married Verlin E. Hardy, farmer, Fonda. Frank in 1903, married Olive, daughter of Samuel S. Martin, Fonda.

**Saunders, W. B.** (1855-1901), dealer, Rolfe, was a native of Rensselaer county, N. Y. At ten he came with his parents to Illinois and later to Black Hawk county, Iowa. In 1879, he married Alma Messenger and in 1886, located on a farm in Center township, Pocahontas county. After seven years he moved to Rolfe, where he became a dealer in hay and ice. He was a man of strict integrity and very highly respected. He left a wife, five sons and two daughters.

**Schoentahl, Henry,** (b. 1844) farmer, Fonda, became a member of Co. M. 6th Iowa Cavalry. Oct. 16, 1862, at Dubuque, and went into camp at



Davenport. He was mustered out at Sioux City, Oct. 15, 1865, after three years of service on the northwestern frontier. He participated in the battles with the Indians at Hart Mound, White Stone Hill, and the Black Hills.

In 1868, he married Louisa Kruse, at Dubuque and they continued to reside there until 1896, when they located in the vicinity of Fonda. His family consisted of six children, Emil, Wilhelmina, Sadie, August, Ludic and Edward.

**Seifert**, George Mrs. (1826-1902), Clinton, was a native of Germany. In 1848, at Schenectady, N. Y., she became the wife of George Seifert, who died in 1885, at DeWitt, Iowa, leaving a family of nine children. In 1889, Mrs. Seifert and her daughter, Anna, became residents of Clinton township, making their home with her daughter Catherine, wife of W. C. Kennedy. Anna in 1901, married Edward H. Weigman and located at Barlow, N. D. Three of her sons, Charles C., John and Amos Seifert, are still residents of Pocahontas county. The other children are Mrs. McKidd, Nebraska City, Mrs. Page, Chicago, and Henry Seifert, DeWitt, Iowa. She was a loving mother and a noble woman. She endeavored to exert a good influence over all with whom she associated. (John died in 1904).

**Shea**, Patrick (b. 1837), owner and occupant of a farm of 240 acres on sec. 5, Cedar township, is a native of Ireland. At ten he came with his parents to Canada and in 1862, located in New York. The next year he went to California and spent the next seven years mining copper at Stockton or doing other work at San Francisco. In 1869, he married there Mary Maher. In 1870, he left the Pacific coast, visited friends in New York and Canada, bought and located on 80 acres of his present farm which he has nicely improved and increased to

240 acres. He is an intelligent and highly respected citizen and has served several years as assessor, trustee and treasurer of Cedar township.

His wife died in 1879, leaving four children, Richard, Joseph, Margaret and Mary.

Patrick Shea, his father, who came to his home in 1882, died there at 74 in 1887.

**Sherman**, Perry H. (1838-1902), Rolfe, was a native of Cattaraugus county, N. Y. At the age of four he was bereft of his mother and was deprived of home, circumstances that compelled him to support himself as soon as he was able. He grew to manhood on a farm and in 1858, married Jerusha Smith. In 1865, he located in Jones county, Iowa, where he experienced the hardships common to the pioneers of that section, one of which was the protection of their lives and homes against the depredations of outlaws. During a part of this period he was captain of a band of vigilantes, who were organized for the purpose of apprehending and punishing horse-thieves and other violators of law. In 1892, he became the owner and occupant of a farm adjoining Rolfe and died at 64 in 1902. By industry and frugality he acquired a comfortable competency. He was a man of sterling worth, truthful in his word and exemplary in his conduct.

His family consisted of eight children, namely, J. P. and F. H. Sherman, merchants, Mrs. O. B. Fuller, Nellie, Fred A. and Benjamin Sherman, all of whom reside at Rolfe. Fred and Benjamin in 1902, were students of the State University at Iowa City, having in view the practice of law and medicine respectively. One of his children died in childhood and Alice, wife of F. F. Ellicker, died in 1900, at her home in Des Moines.

**Sinnett**, James (b. 1836: d. 1903), one of the pioneers of Pocahontas county, was a native of Ireland. He

came to America in 1853, and after a residence of four years in New York located in Michigan, where he was engaged in the copper industry the next twelve years. In 1869, he married Julia Ryan (b. Ireland 1840), and located in Pocahontas county, Iowa, first in Lizard, the next year in Bellville, and in 1878, on sec. 23, Lake township, where he secured a farm of 240 acres. In 1900, he moved to Rolfe and later to Gilmore City, where he died at 67 in 1903.

His family consisted of twelve children, seven of whom survive him. M. T. in 1891, married Julia Murphy. After spending ten years in the mining districts of Colorado, he located at Pocahontas and has a family of four children. Maggie in 1883, married Thomas Laihoff, lives at Marysville, Montana, and has seven children. James in 1899, married Anna Kelleher occupies his own farm in Lake township and has two children. Kate in 1892, married M. J. Ford, a farmer, lives in Webster county and has six children. Patrick in 1899, married Agnes Nugent, lives on his own farm in Lake township and has two children. Mary in 1895, married J. C. Hood, a farmer, lives in Webster county and has two children. Julia A., a teacher in 1903 at Gilmore City, has been very successful in her profession, having taught three and one-half years in Rolfe. Her mother lives with her.

**Smith, Thomas Brennan** (1855-1902) Clinton, was a native of Peoria, Ill. He was the son of Andrew Brennan, who died when he was a babe. His mother soon afterward married Andrew S. Smith, father of James S. Smith of Plover, and the name of Smith was adopted. In 1870, he came with his father to Pocahontas county and continued to reside in it until his death at 48 in 1902. In 1878, he married Julia Nemecek who died at his home on sec. 29. He left one daughter

er Mary, who lives with her grandmother, Mrs. Nemecek.

Tom Smith was a pioneer character whose acquaintance or fame was not confined to Pocahontas county. During the early days he kept large herds of cattle on the prairies and as the years passed became possessor of 560 acres in Clinton township. His tastes were extremely primitive and during the summer months he scorned to wear anything on his feet. He made his trips to the neighboring towns and even to the cities without any special change of clothing. As a trader in hay and cattle he did a large business each year. He was a hard and persistent worker, often disregarding the time of day. He experienced the hardships of the pioneer through many years of wearing and wearisome labor.

He was a brother of Mrs. John H. Oldaker and Mrs. John Bush, a half brother of James S. Smith, a cousin of H. C. Barnes, and was related to the Nemecek brothers and Votlucka families.

**Smorkovski, Anton** (1824-1881), Bellville, was a native of Bohemia, where in 1851, he married \_\_\_\_\_ Dosa, who died a few years afterwards leaving one daughter, Mary. In 1856, he married Barbara Dosa, a sister of his first wife, and, coming to America in 1867, located in Livingston county, Ill. In 1872, with a family consisting of wife, four sons and three daughters, he came to Pocahontas county, Iowa, and located on the  $e\frac{1}{2}$   $sw\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 28, 80 acres, Bellville township. He was an industrious and thrifty farmer, and improved his farm with good and substantial buildings. At the time of his death at 57 in 1881, he was the owner of 320 acres, all of which are still owned and occupied by his wife and the younger members of his family.

Mary, a daughter by his first wife, in 1875, married Peter Kemmer and

located on a farm of 160 acres on sec. 13, Sherman township, which they have improved, increased to 320 acres, and still occupy. Their family consists of three children, Peter, Annie and John.

Anton (b. Boh. 1857) in 1885, married Mary Stoley. He owns and occupies a farm of 170 acres in Center township and has a family of five children, Mary, James, Elizabeth, Lois and Anna.

Anna (b. Boh. 1858) in 1877, married Rudolph Beneke, (see page 345).

John (b. Boh. 1860) owns and occupies a farm of 100 acres on sec. 16, which he has improved with good buildings.

Donna (b. Ill. 1868) in 1890, married George Peters, who owns and occupies a farm near Havelock, which he was the first to improve. Their family consists of five children, George, Barbara, Anton, Joseph and John.

Sophia (b. Iowa, 1872) in 1895, married John Clain, a farmer, lives in Washington township, and has a family of three children, Jennie, Anton and Joseph.

Joseph, Frank and their mother occupy the old farm home.

**Straight Bros.,** Lee S. and Guy H., manufacturers of brick and tile. Fonda, are natives of McLean county, Ill., sons of Rufus C. and Francina R. (Abbey) Straight. They grew to manhood and received their early education at Fairbury, Livingston county, Ill. Lee in 1882 erected a tile factory at Manhattan, and two years later, selling this plant, bought another one at El Paso, Ill., where Guy then became associated with him in business. In 1894 they came to Fonda and erected a brick and tile manufacturing establishment (p. 388), that has since received their undivided attention and been successfully operated by them. Both are skillful mechanics and entirely familiar with every department of the work. They have

with their own hands erected not only their buildings, but also their most important and delicate machinery. The industry they have established is one of the most important at Fonda and its management, under their careful personal supervision, has been very successful. They are the owners of several hundred acres of land in the vicinity of Fonda, and leading stockholders of the Northern Telephone Company.

Lee S. Straight (b. 1860) completed his education at the Bryant & Stratton business college, Chicago. He is a director of the Northern Telephone Co. and has served several terms as a member of the Fonda council. In 1882, in Livingston county, Ill., he married Ida Tanner, a teacher, and his family consists of six children. Halver and Fleda, Fonda graduates in 1922 and 1933, respectively, Gladys, Ina, Merton and Alma.

Guy H. Straight (b. 1868), junior member of the firm of Straight Bros., in 1891 during his residence at El Paso, Ill., married Ida E. Mahoney, a teacher and resident of Fairbury, Ill. His family consists of three children, Oma, Leta and Lois, one having died in childhood. He is now (1903) a member of the Fonda council.

**Struthers,** William (b. 1836), farmer, Des Moines, brother of Robert, (p. 171) is a native of Canada where in 1860 he married Anna, daughter of John and Margaret Kilgour. Coming to Pocahontas county that year he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 13, Des Moines township, which he improved and occupied until 1877, when he located on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 23, where he still resides and is the owner of 226 acres.

His family consisted of seven children, one of whom died in childhood.

John A. (b. 1862), a farmer, in 1892 married Emma Norman, lives in Des Moines township and has a family of four children, Vernon, Gordon, Florence and Robert.

William J. (b. 1865), a railroader, in 1894 married Hulda Elg, lives at Gowrie and has a family of four children, Donald, Pauline, Clifton and Carl Eva.

Nellie in 1894 married Frank King, a dentist, lives at Rolfe and has one daughter, Milfred Louise.

Elizabeth in 1894 married Frank Duvoe, a banker, and lives at Jeffers, Mion.

George D. (b. 1876), is the owner and occupant of a farm of 170 acres on sec. 13, Des Moines township. In 1900 he married Natalia Julmi and has one son, Melvin.

Leslie (b. 1879) is at home.

**Struthers**, James, brother of William, after seven years spent in Australia, located across the line in Humboldt county near McKnight's Point, a beautiful point of timber extending from the east bank of the Des Moines river out upon the prairie a few miles northeast of Rolfe. He improved and occupied this farm until his death in 1898, at which time he was the owner of a large and finely improved farm.

In 1861 he married Margaret Jane, daughter of John and Margaret Kilgour, and his family consisted of eight children, five sons and three daughters, namely George, a farmer; Maggie, deceased; Andrew J., who located at Sioux Rapids and died at 36 in 1903 leaving a wife and two children. Barbara, Robert, Fred, Anna, and Watson.

**Sullivan**, Henry (b. 1854), Cedar, is a native of Wheeling, W. Va. At the age of one year he moved with his parents, John and Ann Gibbons Sullivan, to Green county, Wis., where he grew to manhood. In 1890, he located in Pocahontas county, Iowa, in the vicinity of Fonda, and is now the owner and occupant of a farm of 160 acres near the town, on which he has erected all the improvements. In 1882 he married Ann Knight of Green county, Wis.

**Sullivan**, Jeremiah O. (b. 1840), is a native of Ireland. At the age of nine he came with his parents to Memphis, Tenn., and six months later to Jackson county, Iowa. In 1870, he came to Pocahontas county and located on a homestead of 80 acres on sec. 4, Cedar township, which he still occupies, has increased to 430 acres and improved with good buildings.

In 1874, he married Mary Keefe and has a family of three sons and three daughters, Michael, Anna, Margaret, John, William, and Mary.

John Carey, James Griffin and Peter Byrne, who reside in the vicinity of Fonda, are married to sisters of Mr. Sullivan. His parents lived and died in Jackson county.

**Swenson**, Swen J. (b. 1840), tailor, is a native of Sweden, where he grew to manhood and in 1867, married Alberta Eigel (b. 1843). In 1869, he came to America and lived nine years in Brooklyn, N. Y. In 1878, he located at Newell and in 1892, at Fonda, Iowa, where he established tailor shops that at times gave employment to several workmen besides himself and his two sons, Paul and Gustave. Nov. 1, 1900, he moved to Albert City. He is an industrious worker, a man of sterling integrity and has raised a fine family.

His family consisted of six children. Bertha in 1891, married Carl E. Thorpe, a tailor, lives at Manson and has three children, Evelyn, Lloyd and Margarite.

Swen N. (b. 1871), a drug clerk, St. James, Minn., in 1894, married Eva Alfreda Krohn and has two children, Irena and Marion.

Paul (b. 1875), a tailor, Lake City, in 1896, married Edna Clearwater and has one child, Pauline.

Gustave T. (b. 1877), a Fonda graduate in 1894, worked in the tailor shop several years, acquired a practical knowledge of electrical engineering and became chief electrician for the Pacific Wireless Telegraph and Tele-

phone Company, San Pedro, Cal. In 1902, he married Edith, daughter of William and Rebecca J. Busby, Fonda, and located in Los Angeles.

Minnie and Carl are at home.

Mary Johnson Swenson (1808-1897), his mother, in 1872, the year after the death of her husband, Swen Swenson, at the age of 64 years, came to America and lived with her son, Swen J., at Brooklyn, Newell and Fonda, until her death at 89 in 1897. She was the mother of four children, one of whom, the eldest, died in childhood; Anna Bertha married August Foegelquist and lives in Minnesota; Augusta married C. Ljungren, lives in Sweden; and Swen J. Swenson. She was a devout member of the Lutheran church.

**Thatcher**, Isham Clarence (b. 1845), county auditor, is a native of Williston, Vt., the son of Stephen and Helen Isham Thatcher. In 1853, he moved with his parents to Indiana, in 1857, to Dodge county, Wis., and in 1863, to Minnesota, where his parents still reside. In 1888, he located in Des Moines township, Pocahontas county, where he soon won recognition as an enterprising and prosperous farmer. He was three times elected and served efficiently as auditor of this county six years, 1897-1902. Called from the plow to accept an important public trust he discovered to his friends that the man who successfully stirs the sod can faithfully and efficiently perform the duties of the auditor's office. He is now serving as a deputy in the auditor's office.

In 1869, he married Helen A. FASTER who died in 1871 leaving one daughter now Mrs. H. B. White, Houston, Minn. In 1878, he married Ella C., only daughter of Sanford and Ch'oe Brown Ritter, and their family consists of one daughter, Eloise, a teacher.

**Trude**, Solomon H. (b. 1816), carpenter, Fonda, was a native of Saratoga, N. Y. In 1839, he married

Rachel Bailey (b. 1820) and located at Erie, Pa., where he found employment as a carpenter and later nine years as a ship builder on the lakes. In 1858, he moved to Johnson county, Wis. Oct. 4, 1861, he enlisted as a member of Co. H., 13th Wis. Inf. and continued in the service three years and two months. He belonged to the army of the Cumberland and served successively under generals Rosencrans, Grant, and Sherman.

His family consisted of eight children, and three of his sons, William, George, and Marion, followed his patriotic example and rendered military or naval service during the civil war. William served three years in the same company with his father and died at Hillsboro, Wisconsin, in 1880. George W. enlisted as a member of the 8th Wis. Inf., the eagle regiment, and served nearly four years. He is a carpenter and lives at Des Moines. Francis Marion entered the navy and was under the command of Capt. Winslow on the ill-fated Kearsarge.

Solomon H. in 1880, came to Fonda, Iowa, where he continued to reside until 1900, when he and wife moved to Des Moines where he died at 85 in 1901.

James J. Trude, his youngest son, came with him to Fonda and engaged in draying many years. In 1900, he located on a farm in South Dakota. In 1886, he married Mary A. Moulton and has a family of six children, John, Nancy, Cora, Charles, Clarence and Arthur.

**Tucker**, Seth Samuel (b. 1830), hotel keeper and dairyman, Fonda, is a native of Erie county, N. Y., the son of George and Susan Tucker, who were natives of that vicinity. In 1850 he married Jane Coyle a native of Poughkeepsie. In 1878 he located on a farm in Cedar township, north of Fonda. In 1883 he became proprietor of the Central House and four years later of the Ewing Hotel, Fonda. He has maintained a dairy and sold milk

most of the time since 1889. His wife died at 56 in 1888.

His family consisted of seven children, two of whom died in childhood.

Mary Belle, an early Fonda teacher, in 1884, married Frank H. Covey, a cigar maker, lives at Fonda and has one son, Harry. Minnie in 1886, married John Weaver, one of the first engineers on the Wabash (now C., M. & St. P.) railroad, Des Moines to Fonda, is now a master mechanic on the Santa Fe railroad. They live at Marceline, Mo. Gilbert W. in 1893, married Emma Jennings and lives at Marceline, Mo. Charles S. an engineer on the Santa Fe railroad, in 1897, married Susan Tucker and lives at Burlington, Kan. Hepzibah Lapen in 1891, married Palmer C. Toy, lives at Storm Lake and has one daughter, Opal.

**Weible**, Martin, (b. 1836) merchant, Rolfe, is a native of Wittsburg, Ger. In 1846, he came with his parents to America and located in Jo Daviess county, Ill. In 1861, he married Cathrina, sister of Valentine Hauck. In 1878, he located in Carroll county, Ill., later at Grundy Center, Iowa, and in 1882, associated with Valentine Hauck, he established a general store in the new town of Rolfe. This pioneer firm is still doing business at Rolfe under the old name "Weible and Hauck," but August, his son, in 1894, became the active member of the firm. During the years 1894 to 1902, he found congenial and profitable employment as a dealer in stock. He is the owner of 360 acres of farm land in the vicinity of Rolfe. He was brought up in the Evangelical Association or Albright church.

His family consists of three children.

Margaret in 1881, married Jacob Yetter, a farmer, who owns and occupies a farm of 320 acres in the vicinity of Rolfe.

Anna in 1885, married Charles Ma-

haffey, a mason. He died in 1891, leaving three children, Judson, Catherine and Leona. In 1894, she married Stewart B. Whitmore, a farmer, lives near Rolfe and their family consists of three children, Hazel, Harriet and Stewart.

August (b. 1870), merchant, is a native of Jo Daviess county, Ill. In 1891, he married Nellie Hoard and in 1894, became the successor of his father in the general store of Weible & Hauck, Rolfe. He is the owner of considerable town property and in 1902, completed one of the most handsome residences in the town of Rolfe. It is modern in its plan of construction and from cellar to attic is supplied with the most recent facilities for comfort and convenience.

**Wilde**, William (b. Dec. 25. 1849), is a native of Dodendorf, Germany. He came to America in 1869, and located at Oregon, Ill., where he found employment on a farm. In 1878, he moved to Center township, Calhoun county, Iowa, and in 1879, married Amanda McNames. In 1884, he moved to Pomeroy and became an assistant in a lumber office. Since 1890, he has been the manager of the lumber and coal business of the Woodford & Wheeler Company, Fonda.

His family consists of five children, Morton Clyde, Guy, Hazel, Linn and Iris.

**Wolf**, Joseph (b. 1859), Center, is a native of Tama county, the son of Albert and Frances Wolf. In 1880, he married Josephine Anderly (b. 1859) and located on a farm. In 1889, he came to Pocahontas county and after one year in Sherman located in Center township. He served as clerk of the township three years, 1895-98. His family consists of four children, Charles F., Mamie, Albert and Julia.

**Wolfe**, Maurice (b. 1820; d. 1901), Lincoln township, was a native of Ireland. At twenty-two he came to Illinois, where he married in 1859. In

1887, he came to Iowa and remained until his death at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Geo. Bonne, Lincoln township, in 1901. He left a family of twelve children all of whom were with them at the time of his death, namely, John, Robert, Edward and Jerry Wolfe, Mrs. Geo. Bonne, Mrs. W. J. Stegge, Mrs. John Alberts, Agnes, Maggie, Julia, Josephine and Cecilia.

**Wykoff**, William Marshall (1834-1902), farmer, Fonda, was a native of Canandagua, N. Y., the son of James and Esther Gates Wykoff. He was the youngest of a family that consisted of five brothers and two sisters. At four he was bereft of his father and at twenty-one went to Elmira, learned the tinner's trade and later engaged in the hardware business at Brownsville, Minn. In 1876, he located three miles southwest of Fonda on a farm, which he was the first to improve and occupied it until his decease at 68 in 1902. His house on the knoll west of Cedar creek has always been a very prominent land mark. A happy home and family were the objects of his first concern, and then the faithful performance of his duty as a good citizen.

In 1858, at Brownsville, Minn., he married Phoebe Snyder and his family consisted of six children. Frank, William who married Lizzie Spielman, Fobes, Esther who married Virgil Heston, Dollie, and Mamie who married Geo. H. Stafford.

**Bartosh**, Matias (b. 1832), Pocahontas, is a native of Bohemia, where in 1856, he served as a soldier under King Joseph in the war with Italy. In 1858, he married Anna Stejskal (b. 1829), and, coming to America in 1865, located in Winnesheik county, Iowa. In 1874, he located on the nw $\frac{1}{4}$  sec 29, Center township, Pocahontas county, which he was the first to occupy and improve. He increased this farm to 320 acres and occupied it until

1895, when he moved to Pocahontas, where he still resides. He is one of the founders and liberal supporters of the Catholic church at Pocahontas.

He raised a family of seven children, one having died in childhood.

Catherine (b. Boh. 1859) in 1879 married Anton Sedlacek and located on the ne $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29, Center township, which he improved, increased to 280 acres, and occupied until his death in 1882. He left five children, Anton, Michael, Mary, Joseph and Wencel, who, together with their mother, occupy his late farm.

Mary in 1879, married Anthony Hudek, see Hudc-k.

Anna (b. Iowa 1866) in 1888, married Wencel Stouill, see Stouill.

Elizabeth in 1890, married Joseph Payer, who lives on his mother's farm in Center township, and has four children, Mary, John M., Anna, and Agnes.

John (b. 1870) in 1894, married Anna Sinek, occupies a farm of 160 acres on sec. 29, Center township, and has four children, Frances, Agnes, Elizabeth, and Albert.

Ella in 1895, married Joseph L. Eral who occupies a farm of 160 acres in Lincoln township and has three children, William, Lucia and Wencel.

Wencel (b. 1873) in 1894, married Anna Schroeder, occupies a farm of 160 acres in Center township and has one son, Wencel.

**Bollard**, Joseph B. (b. 1858; d. 1903) druggist, Fonda, was a native of Crawford county, Pa., where he received a good education and later graduated from Oberlin College. He began to teach school at the early age of seventeen and pursued this employment three years after he located in 1880, with his elder brother, Richard D. Bollard, in Pottawattamie county, Iowa. In 1883, he located on a farm north of Fonda, and the next year became a resident of that town, where he found employment as a drug clerk.

In 1886, associated with Dr. M. F. Patterson, he became proprietor of a drug store and maintained it nearly fifteen years. Others that were successively associated with him in this business were Henry Brown, S. M. Carleton and Wm. Bott. In 1891, he erected a two story brick block over the ruins of the frail structure that was destroyed by fire, Aug. 25th, that year. He served as a member of the Fonda council six years, 1890-95, and served several terms as a member of the Board of Education, of which he was president two years, 1893-94. He performed a leading part in effecting the organization of the Big Four Fair Association, and was a member of its first board of directors. During the period of his official recognition he exerted a potent influence in the management of the public affairs of the community, especially those relating to its educational interests, and was an active participant in the politics of the county. His pleasant voice, genial nature and natural ability caused him to be recognized as a leader in the circles in which he moved. He died at 45 in 1903.

In 1885, he married Jennie M., daughter of William Bott, Fonda, and his family consisted of five children, Roy, Robert, June, Elzina, and Eva.

**Gates, Jarvis D.** (b. 1859), farmer, Fonda, is a native of Shabbona Grove, Ill., the son of Isaac and Laura A. Gates. In 1870, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Martin and Catherine Welsh, and located on a farm. In 1879, he located south of Fonda, and in the fall of 1880, on the farm of Geo. Sanborn, which, after the lapse of twenty-three years, he still occupies. He has met with good success in raising stock and has manifested considerable pride in keeping a flock of fine sheep. His long continuance on the same farm suggests the maintenance of a pleasant relationship with

the owner thereof and a just regard for the old adage, "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

His family consisted of four children. Jennie May, a teacher, in 1892, married Daniel A. Whitney, a farmer, lives at Shelbina, Mo. and has two children, Everett and Sarah Etta. Kleber W. in 1885, located at Marshfield, Wis., where in 1894, he married May Beach and has two children. Lester and Harry are at home.

Fremont Eugene Gates, a carpenter and younger brother of Jarvis, has been a resident of Fonda since 1895.

**Gezy, John** (b. 1855), Fonda, is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, the son of Joseph and Rosa Gezy, who were natives of Germany. In his boyhood he moved with his parents to Pulaski county, Ind. In 1880, he found employment in Newton county, Ind., where in 1881, he married Lydia E. Martin and located on a farm. Two years later he passed to Iroquois county, Ill., and in 1885, to a farm of 120 acres south of Fonda. He increased this farm to 220 acres, improved it with good buildings and occupied it until 1903, when he erected a pretty house in Fonda, which he now enjoys. He has one daughter, Maud, who is at home.

**Gezy, Joseph H.** (b. 1857), farmer, south of Fonda, is a brother of John. In 1882, in Indiana he married Lucinda Burritt, and the next year located on 80 acres in Williams township, Calhoun county, Iowa. He has increased this farm to 540 acres and improved it with good buildings. His wife died in 1902. His family consists of four children, Henry, Edward, Frederic and Pearl.

**McEwen, William D.** (b. 1865), banker, Pocahontas, is a native of Ormstown, province of Quebec, Canada, the son of Duncan and Mary McEwen, and nephew of W. D. McEwen, Esq., Rolfe. He became a resident of Pocahontas county in September 1888,



first on his own farm and in 1893, at Pocahontas, where he became cashier of the Pocahontas Savings Bank. He continued to fill this position in a very efficient and satisfactory manner until January 1900, when he resigned, and, in partnership with Joseph Simpson, established the City Exchange Bank of Pocahontas. He is still president of this bank and has been the sole proprietor of it since 1901. He built and occupies one of the fine residences at Pocahontas. In 1903, he was a member both of the council and school board of that city.

In 1893, he married Emma Tutt, of South Bend, Indiana, and has two children, Lawrence R., and Leon Duncan.

**McEwen, W. S.**, a cousin of Will D. McEwen, succeeded him as cashier of the Pocahontas Savings Bank, which, in July 1902, was reorganized as the First National Bank of Pocahontas. He continued to fill this position in the reorganized bank until September 1903, when all the stock of this bank was purchased by the proprietors of the Allen Bros. Bank, and the latter was merged into it, under the new officers, J. H. Allen, president; C. S. Allen, vice-president; and F. W. Lindeman, cashier. The office was then transferred to the new Allen bank building.

**Squire, George B.** (1839—1903), Fonda, was a native of Huron county, Ohio. He enlisted as a member of the 3rd Ohio Cavalry, when the first call for volunteers was made at the beginning of the Civil War, and, at the end of three years, re-enlisted and continued in the service of his country until the close of the war. He then came to Iowa, and located at Iowa City, then at Grinnell and later in Audubon county. In 1893, he located near Fonda, where he died at 64

in 1903. He possessed a pleasing personality, was a faithful soldier and highly respected citizen.

In 1869, he married Sarah Detwiler and left a family consisting of two sons and three daughters, Mrs. Georgia Easthouse, Enola and Grace, teachers, Allan and Ernest.

**Stoullil, Joseph** (b. 1835), Pocahontas, is a native of Bohemia, where in 1859, he married Antonia Sramek. Some years afterwards he came to America and located in Tama county, Iowa, and in 1872, on 160 acres on sec. 19, Center township, Pocahontas county. He was the first to occupy and improve this farm and increased it to 440 acres. In 1875, when Center township was organized, he was elected a trustee and also the first treasurer of the school board. He is now a resident of Pocahontas, where he is the owner of considerable town property. His family consisted of fourteen children, nine of whom are living.

Joseph (b. 1860), married and lives in South Dakota.

Wencel (b. 1865) in 1888, married Ann Bartosh, occupies a farm of 160 acres in Center township and has six children, Mary, Ella, Joseph, Wencel, William and Agnes. Mary in 1885, married Anton Smorkovsky, lives near Pocahontas and has five children Mary, Wencel, Elizabeth, Alice and Anna. Anna in 1888, married Joseph Hobart, lives in Arkansas, and has three children, Agnes, Josephine and Alice. Frank (b. 1873) in 1899, married Josephine Hudek, occupies a farm of 160 acres in Center township and has one son, Richard. Frances is a nurse at Sioux City. Edward is married and occupies the old home farm on sec. 19, Center township. Emma and William are at home.

## XXIX.

### GARFIELD TOWNSHIP.

“God give us men! A time like this demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands.  
Men, whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men, whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
Men, who possess opinions and a will;  
Men, who have honor; men, who will not lie;  
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty and in private thinking.  
Lo! Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land and waiting justice sleeps.”  
—HOLLAND.

“Let us make ourselves members of a new and better race.”



**G**ARFIELD township (92-31, except section 5) is the new name given in 1903, to the rural sections, 1-4 and 6-36, of Clinton township, the history of which has already been given under its old name of Clinton township.

In response to a petition signed by Geo. W. Henderson and many other citizens in the eastern part of Clinton township, the Board of County Supervisors formed all that part of Clinton township that was not contained

within the limits of the Independent School District of Rolfe (sections 5 and 6, the  $w\frac{1}{2}$  of 4 and  $n\frac{1}{2}$  of 7 and 8) into a new township, called Garfield, Sept. 11, 1903. Center school house was designated as the place for holding the first election, Nov. 3, 1903, and the following persons were appointed to serve as the first election board, namely: Milt D. Wolcott, W. C. Kennedy and James McCreary, judges; L. W. Ives and Nels Peterson, clerks. At this first election the following officers were elected: W. C. Kennedy, B. C. Votlucka and H. G.

Mason, trustees for one, two and three years, respectively; John Siefert and E. G. Fargo, justices for one and two years, respectively; Nis Behrendsen, clerk; F. W. Ives, assessor; J. E. Schnug and W. E. Campbell, constables.

Nov. 12, 1903, the board of supervisors, in response to another petition enlarged Garfield township by adding to it all the territory in Clinton except section 5, which was included within the incorporate limits of the town of Rolfe.

It was also ordered at this time that the boundary lines of Clinton township shall be those of section five, 92-31. This change made the incorporate town of Rolfe a township, and rendered unnecessary the further election of township officers. The officers of Clinton for 1903, were R. S. Mather, B. C. Votlucka and H. G. Mason, trustees; and J. K. Lemon, clerk.


Garfield is still included in the first supervisor district with Clinton, Des Moines and Powhatan townships.



## XXX.

### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

“Sow a thought reap an act,  
Sow an act reap a habit,  
Sow a habit reap a character,  
Sow a character reap a destiny.”

N 1860, this county was organized as one school district, with Robert Struthers, Ora Harvey and John A. James, directors. The Lizard district, embracing the south half of the county, was organized May 6, 1861, at the third meeting of the board of county supervisors. The county records, relating to this department of work in the early days, are no longer available for reference. The growth in educational matters, however, as in other in-

terests of the county, has been steady and permanent.

Perry Nowlen, the first one elected superintendent and for the year 1859, did not qualify, and the reason no doubt was, because there was no occasion for him to do so. Four of his immediate successors, Oscar F. Avery, Wm. H. Hait, Ora Harvey and Michael Collins, each of whom served about one year, during the period, 1860-1863, were appointed first by the county judge, or board of county supervisors. Fred E. Metcalf was the first one to serve two years, 1864-1865.

He was succeeded by W. D. McEwen, J. J. Bruce; David Miller and Geo. W. Hathaway, each two years. Oscar I. Strong, after serving in 1874, resigned and John F. Clark, being appointed and afterwards elected, served three years, 1875-77. David Miller and O. I. Strong then served successively each a term of two years. In 1882, they were followed by J. P. Robinson and J. H. Campbell, both of whom served terms of four years. Their successors have been Fred C. Gilchrist two years, 1890-91; Clel Gilchrist six years, 1892-97; A. W. Davis two years, 1898-99; and U. S. Vance 1900 to date, 1903.

O. F. Avery, the second incumbent, issued one certificate during his term of office. This was given to Helen M. Harvey and she taught the first school in 1860, in the home of W. H. Hait, at old Rolfe. During the fall of that year the first school house, a brick one, was built at old Rolfe. W. H. Hait, the superintendent in 1861, issued two certificates, and two schools were taught that year, one by Helen M. Harvey in the brick school house and the other by Ellen Condon in a vacant log cabin, later known as the "Pioneer School House," built by Patrick Collins on sec. 13, Lizard township. In 1866, W. D. McEwen issued among others a certificate to James J. Bruce. At that date there were only six school houses in the county, namely, the "Brick" and (Robert) "Struthers" in Des Moines township, the "Calligan" and "Walsh" in Lizard, the "Malcolm" in Clinton and "Strong" in Powhatan. No others were built after the one at old Rolfe until the close of the war, or in 1865, and the first ones then were those in the Calligan, Strong and Malcolm districts. In 1869, when Mr. Bruce was superintendent, he issued certificates to Nellie Remtsma (Mrs. Fred Swingle), Mary Quinlan, Thomas Lumpkin, Henrietta Vaughn, Ella M. Butler and Charles E.

Tuttle. On April 21st that year he selected the site for the school house at Sunk Grove, the first one in Cedar township and west half of the county.

The report for 1860, when all the county was included in one district, shows 36 pupils in the county, thirteen of whom were enrolled with an average attendance of eleven.

In 1865, there were two districts, and they contained, Des Moines 61, and Lizard 39 children of school age.

In 1870, there were in the county 591 children, of whom 307 were enrolled with an average attendance of 159.

In 1875, there were 13 districts and 902 children. In 1880, when Fonda appeared as the first independent town district with 86 children, there were 15 districts and 1401 children. In 1890, when there were three independent town districts there were 19 districts and 3,339 children.

The annual report for 1903, was as follows: Subdistricts, 128; independent, 17, of which 8 were in towns, 8 in Lizard township and one, a joint district at Gilmore City, where the school is in Humboldt county; 145 school houses, valued at \$126,376; teachers' places 174, employed during the year 311, of whom 44 were males employed at an average of \$40.15 a month, and 267 were females, at \$34.26 a month; children of school age in the county 5,150, enrolled 4,681 with an average attendance of 2,756, and cost of tuition per month \$2.43; value of apparatus \$7,768; 218 certificates were issued, 16 teachers held state certificates and the amount paid the teachers was \$51,582; volumes in libraries 10,887. More than 9,000 of these have been obtained since 1900.

The town of Ware had no school in 1903. It is located at the corner of four sections, that represent as many school districts each of which was supplied with a good school house be-

fore that town was founded in 1900. After maintaining several terms of school in town, it was decided to send the children to the school in the district to which they respectively belong.

Lizard township was divided into eight independent rural districts, as at present, in 1875. Each district has one school and elects its own directors, secretary and treasurer.

The first county institute was held in the brick school house at old Rolfe in December 1870, by Superintendent David Miller, and thirty two teachers were enrolled. The second one was held in the Pioneer school house in Lizard township in December 1871, during the closing weeks of his term, and forty teachers were enrolled. The plan of holding district institutes, for the mutual improvement of the teachers and the development of an intelligent interest in the schools on the part of their patrons, was adopted during his second term, 1878-79, the first ones being held in Grant, Des Moines, Center and Washington townships.

The annual institute has been a very important factor in the development of the school work in this county. It has furnished many teachers the only means they enjoyed for professional advancement. As the years passed and new branches were added to the required list of studies the institute has been supplemented by the normal training or summer school. The first training school was held at Fonda in the fall of 1877, during the term of Superintendent J. F. Clark. It lasted eight weeks and was followed by an institute of two weeks. The instructors were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellison, Prof Hamill and Mrs. Bishop.

After the lapse of twenty years, or during the summer of 1897, a normal institute lasting six weeks was held at Fonda by Superintendent Clel Gilchrist. The new branches that had

been previously added and to which special attention was given at this meeting were algebra, physics, civics, and economics. The instructors were Prof. James C. Gilchrist, Geo. E. Reed, D. K. Bond, A. W. Davis, U. S. Vance, A. T. Rutledge and Tillie Cramer. A summer school lasting four weeks has been held in connection with the annual institute every year since that date, except in 1899.

Fonda was the first of the High Schools of the county to send forth a class of graduates. This class graduated in 1894, and consisted of six persons: Gus T. Swenson, L. R. Wright, Ada Hawkins (Bond), Rena Carlton (Harris), Lena Mercer, and Minnie Haffele (Adams). The first classes from the other High Schools of the county were graduated as follows: Rolfe in 1897, Laurens in 1898, Havelock from the tenth grade in 1895 and from the twelfth in 1898, and Plover in 1899. Aggie Garlock of Rolfe, in 1887, was the first to graduate from the eight year course of study, established by the Board of Supervisors in 1886 for the district schools of the county.

The principals of the High Schools, under the leadership of A. W. Davis, in March 1897, organized a county oratorical association for the purpose of holding an annual contest between the pupils of their respective schools. Four contests were held and the winners in the dramatic and humorous exercises respectively, were as follows: At Fonda, March 21, 1897, Jennie Eaton and Weston Martin, both of Fonda; at Rolfe in 1898, Abbie Davis, Fonda, and Arthur Tumbleson, Havelock; at Havelock in 1899, Cora Mercer, Fonda, and Mabel Gibbs, Rolfe; at Pocahontas in 1900, Florence Conroy and Mae V. Wright, both of Fonda.

The consolidation of the rural schools has recently become the subject of considerable discussion in this

county. State Superintendent R. C. Barrett visited this county and delivered an important address on that subject at Ware, Feb. 18, 1901, a few months after that town was founded. The system has since been advocated in the public press of the county by Superintendent U. S. Vance and Prof. Frank Jarvis. Among the considerations that are urged in favor of the system of consolidation are the following:

It requires and makes possible build-

ings that are larger and better supplied with educational equipments and sanitary appliances. By the transportation of pupils to and from school under the care of responsible parties, more of them attend and better protection is afforded, both to the health and morals of the pupils. It reduces the cost of educating each pupil, secures better classification of them and better teachers for them. It is also urged that in the states where it has been tried, Ohio, Massa-

**County Teachers's Institutes and Normal Training Schools.**

Date	Place	Supt.	Teachers Present	Instructors
1870, Dec.	Old Rolfe	David Miller	32	David Miller
1871, Dec.	Pioneer S H Lizard	David Miller	40	Geo. W. Hathaway, C. M. Saylor
1872, Dec.	Garlock S H Cedar	Geo. W. Hathaway	25	Prof. James Enos
1873		Geo. W. Hathaway		
1874		O. I. Strong		
1875		J. F. Clark		
1876, Oct.	Fonda	J. F. Clark	40	
1877, Sept. *	Fonda	J. F. Clark	43	Prof. and Mrs. Charles Ellison, Hamill and Bishop
1878, Oct.	Pocahontas	David Miller	39	Prof. Hoy, of Hamp'on and Prof. Wentworth, of Chicago
1879, Oct.	Pocahontas	David Miller	30	Abbie Gifford, A. Cahoun
1880, Nov.	Pocahontas	O. I. Strong	40	Erwin Baker
1881, Sept.	Fonda	O. I. Strong	36	Erwin Baker, R. A. Brownlee
1882, Oct.	Fonda	J. P. Robinson	40	J. Wernli
1883, Oct.	Pocahontas	J. P. Robinson	40	Bennett Bigsby, Laura Pfeiffer
1884, Sept.	Rolfe	J. P. Robinson	45	J. W. McClellan, Mary L. Chapman, Edna Blake
1885, Aug.	Fonda	J. P. Pobinson	50	Frank E. Plummer, Mary L. Chapman, Anna E. Brown
1886, Sept.	Pocahontas	J. H. Campbell	50	J. Wernli, Alice L. Brenton, Anna E. Brown
1887, Aug.	Pocahontas	J. H. Campbell	60	D. J. Buck, Alice L. Brenton, Anna E. Brown
1888, Aug.	Pocahontas	J. H. Campbell		J. Breckenridge, Alice L. Brenton, Anna E. Brown
1889, July	Rolfe	J. H. Campbell		J. Breckenridge, Alice L. Brenton, Anna E. Brown
1890, Aug.	Fonda	F. C. Gilchrist		Anna E. McGovern, A. W. Sargent, S. A. Emery, J. C. Gilchrist
1891, Sept.	Laurens	F. C. Gilchrist		Anna E. McGovern, A. W. Sargent, S. A. Emery, J. C. Gilchrist
1892, Aug.	Rolfe	Clel Gilchrist		Geo. E. Reed, Nora Kelley J. C. Gilchrist
1893, July	Fonda	Clel Gilchrist	193	Geo. E. Reed, Mrs. M. D. Fry, J. C. Gilchrist
1894, July	Havelock	Clel Gilchrist	193	D. K. Bond, Mrs. A. E. Thomas, J. C. Gilchrist
1895, July	Laurens	Clel Gilchrist	176	W. N. Hull, D. K. Bond, Mrs. A. E. Thomas
1896, July	Rolfe	Clel Gilchrist	226	J. C. Gilchrist, T. J. Loar, A. W. Davis, U. S. Vance, Tillie Cramer
1897, July*	Fonda	Clel Gilchrist	131	J. C. Gilchrist, U. S. Vance, A. T. Rutledge, A. W. Davis, D. K. Bond
1898, July*	Pocahontas	A. W. Davis	130	W. W. Davis, U. S. Vance, A. T. Rutledge, Cyrus Thompson
1899, Aug.	Havelock	A. W. Davis	141	W. W. Davis, G. E. Finch, A. T. Rutledge, Mary Young
1900, Aug.*	Laurens	U. S. Vance	103	A. W. Davis, G. E. Finch, A. T. Rutledge, E. L. Grout
1901, Aug.*	Rolfe	U. S. Vance	134	A. E. Bennett, Fred L. Cassidy, A. T. Rutledge, E. L. Grout
1902, Aug.*	Fonda	U. S. Vance	131	Adam Pickett, Fred L. Cassidy, A. T. Rutledge, Frank Jarvis
1903, Aug.*	Pocahontas	U. S. Vance	150	C. J. Boyington, Fred L. Cassidy, W. H. Reever, Frank Jarvis

\*Normal Training School.

chusetts, Maine and New York, it has been more beneficial to the children and more economical to the patrons than the old system.

A County Teacher's Library Association was formed in 1899, during the term of Superintendent Davis. This association contributed \$50, and, receiving \$50 presented to this county by Hon. Geo. W. Schee, of Primghar, on Nov. 25, 1899, established a County Teacher's Library, containing 125 volumes. This library was divided into five sections and were located in different parts of the county as follows:

No. 1—Rolfe, care of A. T. Rutledge.

No. 2—Laurens, care of E. L. Grout.

No. 3—Pocahontas, care of W. B. Matson.

No. 4—Palmer, care of Minnie Hanson.

No. 5—Fonda, care of D. E. Barnes.

The books in each section are passed in rotation from one station to the other every six months, on the first day of January and July. They are for the exclusive use of the teachers, who become members of the association by the payment of fifty cents a year. They may be retained three

weeks, but must be returned before the semi-annual rotation of the sections.

The Board of Supervisors on July 18, 1900, decided to donate \$50 a year for ten years towards the development of this library, in order to secure the proposed gift of the same amount for that period from Mr. Schee. This library, at the end of ten years, from these two sources, will have books costing in the aggregate \$1,000.

Our County Schools, a monthly paper, established by Superintendent A. W. Davis in July, 1898, is published by the superintendent as a means of communication between him and the directors and teachers on educational matters.

The public school is the American method of solving the problems of human rights, individual liberty and popular government. Other countries have government, society and church schools; America alone has the people's schools in which is attempted universal education—one of the greatest movements of the age. Our public schools, as a means of developing general intelligence, constitute the hope of the nation and merit the liberal support of every citizen.



## XXXI.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.

"United we stand, divided we fall."

### County Medical Association.

The physicians residing in different parts of this county assembled at Pocahontas. Aug. 23, 1897, for the purpose of forming a county organization. There were present at this first meeting the following physicians: W. W. Beam, and Charles E. Leithead, of Rolfe; Drs. Charles R. Whitney and L. G. Patty, of Fonda; Dr. J. D. Wallace, of Plover, and Drs. O. H. Barthel and C. B. Lawrence, of Pocahontas. Dr. Whitney served as temporary chairman.

The officers for the first year were chosen by ballot and as follows: Dr.

W. W. Beam, president; Dr. C. R. Whitney, vice-president; Dr. O. H. Barthel, secretary; Dr. J. D. Wallace, treasurer. It was decided to call the organization, The Pocahontas District Medical Association. Drs. J. D. Wallace, L. G. Patty and A. L. Belt were appointed a committee on organization, constitution and by laws. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Pocahontas at 2:00 p. m., Sept. 28th following; and Drs. Chas. E. Leithead and C. B. Lawrence were appointed a committee to arrange the program. The secretary was author-

ized to procure such books and stationery as were necessary to keep the records of the association. Drs. Belt, Matson and McManus of Gilmore City, Edgar of Fonda, Carroll and Higgins of Laurens, sent letters expressing regrets that they could not attend this meeting.

The object of this association was to promote the interests of the medical profession in this part of the state. Also to afford its members an opportunity to become acquainted with each other, to compare notes and discuss matters relating to the work of their profession. As indicated by its name its territory was not confined to Pocahontas county.

At the second meeting, which was held in the County Auditor's office, Pocahontas, Sept. 28, 1897, the following new members were enrolled: Drs. O. W. Wright of Pomeroy, A. L. Belt and W. F. Matson of Gilmore City, and F. E. Heathman of Havelock. At this meeting papers were read by Dr. A. L. Belt on "Diphtheria," and Dr. Patty on the "Duties of one practitioner to another," and President Beam delivered an address on the wonderful progress made in the practice of medicine and surgery during the last few years. At the next meeting held Jan. 18, 1898, Dr. C. R. Whitney presided, "Anaesthesia" was the subject of a general discussion, and Dr. O. W. Wright read a paper on "Traumatic Surgery."

Two subsequent meetings of this district association were held and the following physicians were added to its membership, viz: D. W. Edgar, Fonda; J. M. Carroll and J. H. Hovenden, Laurens; E. W. Wilson, Rolfe; J. W.

MacCreary, Pioneer; W. M. Shipley, Ottosen; and A. H. Thornton, Pocahontas. In 1902, this association was practically disbanded when it was merged into the Fort Dodge District Medical Association.

Aug. 25, 1903, the physicians of this county organized anew, as the Pocahontas County Medical Society, according to the plan of the Iowa State Medical Society, to which it is subordinate. The object of this society is to attend to the business of the medical profession in this county, as the representative of the Iowa State Medical Society, to bring into one organization the physicians of the county, so that by frequent meetings, full and frank interchange of views, they may secure such intelligent unity and harmony, in every phase of their labor as will elevate and make effective the opinions of the profession on all scientific, legislative, public health, material and social affairs. The first officers of this society, chosen in 1903, were Dr. A. L. Belt, Gilmore City, president; Dr. J. W. Wallace, Plover, vice-president; Dr. E. W. Wilson, Rolfe, secretary and treasurer. The other members of this society in 1903, were Drs. W. W. Beam, Rolfe; F. W. McManus, Gilmore City; A. H. Thornton, O. H. Barthel and J. W. Starr, Pocahontas; D. W. Edgar, C. R. Whitney and T. J. Dower, Fonda; J. M. Carroll, J. W. Higgins, and J. H. Hovenden, Laurens; F. E. Heathman, Havelock; B. A. Smillie, Palmer.

## County Bar Association.

The attorneys of this county met at the court house March 10, 1903 and organized the Pocahontas County Bar Association with the following members: F. C. Gilchrist and F. W. Paige, of Laurens; C. C. Delle, Higby, S. H. Kerr, Robert Bruce, Fred Sherman and W. H. Wilcox, of Rolfe; A. W. Davis, F. H. Bond, Z. C. Brad-

shaw, J. D. Wurtzbaugh, Frank A. Fairburn, and W. H. Healy, of Fonda; J. H. Allen, Wm. Hazlett, James Bruce, Geo. A. Heald, W. C. Ralston, B. B. Foster, C. D. Atkinson, T. F. Lynch and J. M. Berry, of Pocahontas. Hon. Fred C. Gilchrist was elected president and J. M. Berry secretary. Messrs B. B. Foster, F. H. Bond and

A. W. Davis were appointed to prepare a code of rules and regulations for the government of the association. Messrs Wm. Hazlett, F. A. Fairburn and W. C. Ralston were appointed a committee to consider the feasibility of forming a common library and the preparation of rules for its management. These committees will report at the next meeting to be held during the session of the court in January, 1904, when it is expected the organization will be completed.

### County Druggist's Association.

The druggists of this county met at Rolfe, Dec. 31, 1897, and effected the organization of a county association, called the Pocahontas Pharmaceutical League, by the election of the following officers: L. E. England, Gilmore City, president; C. H. Beam, Rolfe, secretary; R. E. Hughes, Laurens, treasurer. The membership included the following druggists:

L. E. England, F. L. Colgan, C. H. Beam, Gilmore City.

Geo. W. Core, C. M. Webb, Joseph Wiewel, H. W. Lohse, Rolfe.

J. B. Sheldon, Havelock.

R. E. Hughes, C. G. Reed, J. W. Higgins, M. D., J. M. Carroll, M. D., Laurens.

C. C. Patty, Fonda.

Geo. W. Day, Plover.

S. C. Jones, Pocahontas.

The next and last meeting was held at Pocahontas, Jan. 25, 1898.

### County Press Association.

The editors of the newspapers established in this county met in the Record office at Pocahontas, Nov. 24, 1902, and effected the organization of the Pocahontas County Newspaper Association by the election of the following officers: L. W. Chandler, Fonda, president; W. S. Clark, Pocahontas, vice-president; D. O. Blake, Pocahontas, secretary; and A. R. Thornton, Rolfe, treasurer. The objects of this association are to afford an opportunity for better acquaintance on their part, and, by the friendly discussion of matters that are of common interest, to secure the best system in the management of their respective establishments. At a meeting held in January 1903, the temporary organization was made permanent.

The newspapers, their date of establishment, editors and proprietors, that were in this county at the time this association was organized were as follows:

THE FONDA TIMES, (1876), the Fonda Publishing & Printing Co., pro-

prietors since Jan. 10, 1901; L. W. Chandler, editor.

THE POCAHONTAS RECORD, (1884), by D. O. Blake.

THE POCAHONTAS SUN, (1885), by R. C. Garver; U. S. Vance since Dec. 1903.

THE ROLFE REVEILLE, (1888), by A. R. & Lottie Thornton. (By J. H. Lighter since Aug. 13, 1903.)

THE GILMORE CITY GLOBE, (1892), by H. C. Marmon.

THE HAVELOCK ITEM, (1893), by Frank Jarvis, and by G. E. & F. S. McCaffree in 1903.

THE ROLFE TWICE A WEEK TRIBUNE, (1898-1903), by J. H. Lighter, (merged in Rolfe Reveille, Aug. 10, 1903.)

THE POCAHONTAS HERALD, (1899), by A. L. Shultz.

THE PLOVER REVIEW, (1900), by G. H. Liddell.

THE POCAHONTAS DEMOCRAT, (1901) the Pocahontas Publishing Co., proprietors; W. S. Clark, editor.

THE PALMER PRESS, (1903), by L. O. Hull.

Our County Schools, a monthly pa-

per published by the county superintendent, is printed at Charles City.

The newspaper press has become one of the seven wonders of the modern world. As a controlling factor in society it exerts an influence like that of the parent, teacher and pastor. In one view the newspaper reflects the character of its editor, revealing his thoughts, feelings and views on public questions; but in another sense it is a combination of labor, money, intelligence and principles, and has distinct objects before it. It is worthy of note that those who conduct them are learning the dignity of their calling and are making strenuous efforts to place their papers where they belong—among the best agencies that are helping to develop a Christian civilization.

The wide awake, local paper carries to the family circle information concerning local affairs that is of interest to every citizen in that locality. Its record of progress is an aid to popular education and an incitement to further enterprise too valuable to be lightly esteemed. It publishes the local news with a fullness of detail that invests it with an interest unknown to the average daily, while its brief paragraphs, and breezy columns of personals have a charm peculiarly their own. So long as sociability, curiosity and sympathy distinguish human character it will continue to hold its oldtime place in the esteem of the community, while it serves as a

faithful chronicler of passing events. One of the treasures of our daily life, like the water we so freely drink and the pure life giving air,

“Is the newspaper, with its welcome message

To matured age and youth,  
With pure bright thoughts from many minds,

And many a pleasant truth,  
Breaking like a ray of sunshine,

And almost magic charm,  
The monotony of the farm.”

Such is the nature of the tie that is developed between the good-natured and long-time editor and his readers, that he thrives with their prosperity, rejoices in their mirth and sympathizes in their sorrow.

All the newspapers in this community, except the Fonda Times, have been established during the last two decades and they have been greatly improved during the last ten years by the use of improved presses and other printing utilities. When it is manifest that the local paper is putting forth an honest and efficient endeavor to promote the best interests of the community, as an executor and promoter of good morals, every citizen of that locality should naturally feel that he has a certain degree of interest in its prosperity, and do all he can to sustain it and increase its usefulness; for increased support always means enlargement of facilities and corresponding improvement of the paper.

### County Sunday School Association.

The first Sunday school in Pocahontas county was organized at old Rolfe in 1864, and Rev. Fred E. Metcalf, a missionary of the M. E. church, was superintendent of it the first two years. John Fraser had charge of it the next two years and then in 1868, organizing the second one in the county in the Strong school house (sec. 23) in Powhatan township, served as its

superintendent eighteen successive years. Other Sunday schools that were organized during the seventies were the M. E. at Fonda, Coopertown, and in Grant township, and the union school in the Heathman neighborhood north of Plover.

The first Sunday school convention of which any record has been preserved was held at old Rolfe on Saturday

and Sunday, May 26-27, 1877. It was called a county convention. The local workers were Rev. Wm. McCready, John Fraser, A. H. Lorimer and J. J. Jolliffe; and the teachers were J. C. Miller of Nevada, J. A. Marion of Humboldt, and N. A. Price. A basket dinner was enjoyed by the visitors and workers on the Sabbath.

On July 26th of the same year the Sunday schools of Pocahontas and Humboldt counties held a union cele.

nately. In those days the devout pioneers, having a teeming soil beneath their feet and a smiling heaven over head, when the Sabbath came, gathered in the wood, and lifted up their hearts in prayer to God, the giver of all good.

"Their temples then were earth and sky,

None others did they know,  
In the days when they were pioneers,  
Thirty years ago."



REV. C. W. CLIFTON.

bration or basket picnic in the grove of James Struthers near McNight's Point in Wacousta township, Humboldt county.

During the summer of 1880, services consisting of Sunday school at 10 o'clock a. m., followed by preaching, were regularly held in the grove of Mr. John Wilkinson on the old David Slosson farm, sec. 26, Des Moines township. The services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Cuthbert and Rev. L. C. Gray, who preached alter-

On Aug. 16, 1880, Rev. C. W. Clifton county secretary, issued a call for an all day Sunday school convention and picnic to be held in the grove of A. H. Hancher on sec. 24, Powhatan township, for the purpose of organizing a County Sunday School Association, auxiliary to the Iowa State Association. Announcement was made that several Sunday school workers from abroad would be present, and every Sunday school in the county was requested to report its name, denomi-

nation and membership, and to send one or more delegates. Wm. L. Fraser was to have a fruit and confectionery stand for the purpose of raising some funds to liquidate the debt and cost of painting the M. E. parsonage at old Rolfe.

At the meeting held in response to this call, John Fraser presided and addresses were delivered by Mr. Clifton and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lorbeer, of Humboldt. The day was unfavorable and only a few persons were present.

Oct. 28, 1880, John Fraser, president for Pocahontas county, issued a call to pastors, Sunday school superintendents and teachers in the county, to attend the second annual Sunday school convention of the Ninth District Sunday School Association at Humboldt, Nov. 11, 1880.

The meeting at which the Pocahontas County Sunday School Association was organized was held in the court house at Pocahontas in September, 1881. The Iowa State Sunday School Association was represented by Mrs. C. A. Lorbeer, of Humboldt, a district secretary. The county organization was effected by the election of the following officers: John Fraser, president; Wm. C. Kennedy, vice-president; Mrs. Sewell VanAlstine, secretary and treasurer. Others who were present and participated in the convention were James J. Bruce, J. S. Hatton, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. W. G. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Saylor. There were then only eight Sunday schools in the county, the new ones being those at Pocahontas and in the Pilot Creek district in Clinton township.

The second county convention was held in the court house at Pocahontas June 10, 1882, by the same officers.

The third county convention, the first one held in the new town of Rolfe, met in Bruce's hall Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27th, 1883. John

Fraser served as president, Mrs. Sewell VanAlstine as secretary and treasurer, and Wm. C. Kennedy as chairman of the committee of arrangements. The principal participants in addition to those already named were Rev. C. M. Wood, J. J. Bruce, E. D. Seeley, John Barnes, and J. S. Hatton. J. J. Bruce, E. D. Seeley and B. M. Fessenden were appointed delegates to the State S. S. Convention at Marshalltown. Inasmuch as the south and west parts of the county had not been represented either at this or preceding conventions it was decided to hold the next meeting at Fonda.

Mr. W. C. Kennedy, president in 1903, has contributed greatly to the maintenance and efficiency of this organization. Locating in Clinton, now Garfield, township in 1881, he has attended and participated in every one of the twenty-three annual meetings that have been held since the time of its organization in September that year. He was then elected vice-president, and later, as its president, has presided at thirteen of the annual conventions.

Mr. J. H. Parks, of Pocahontas, has manifested a similar devotion and interest in the Sunday school work. Though occasionally changing his residence he has been a Sunday school superintendent almost continuously since the Civil war and in 1903, was made a member of the executive committee of the Iowa State Sunday School Association.

Every Sunday school in the county is expected to contribute annually two cents a member to the county association, and the latter is now contributing twenty-five dollars annually to the State Association. In 1903, there were reported in this county 40 Sunday schools having an enrollment of 2,300 members. The county association is now organizing for another

house to house visitation throughout the county during September, 1904.\*

The object of this association is to disseminate and promote religious information among Sabbath school workers. Its membership consists of the officers, delegates from township organizations and all Sunday school workers who are present and enrolled.

The Iowa State Sunday School Association, under which this county has been organized, is an interdenominational organization that endeavors to bring every Sunday school in the state to greater efficiency and into helpful contact with every person. It is one of a series of State, Provincial and Territorial organizations, that forms the International Sunday School Association and maintains the International Series of Sunday School Lessons. It was organized in 1864. Its methods of work include the or-

ganization of counties and townships for the purpose of holding an annual convention, to promote house to house visitation, the establishment of home and normal departments in each Sunday school, primary unions in cities and the publication of a state paper. It aims to awaken a deeper interest in Bible study and to bring denominational workers into closer contact and harmony, believing that in the interdenominational co-operation of persistent christians lies the salvation of this country.

The first Sunday school in the world was established by Robert Raikes in Gloucester, England, in February, 1781. The first one in London was established Sept. 7, 1785. The first one in the United States was started in Virginia in 1786; the first one in Philadelphia, by Bishop White, in 1791; the first one in New York in the

**\*County Sunday School Conventions.**

The date, place of meeting, succession of officers and special lecturers present, appear in the following exhibit:

Date	Place	Church	Pastor	President	Sec & Treas	Lecturers
1881 Sept	Pocahontas	Court House	-----	John Fraser	Mrs. S. Van Alstine	
1882 June 10	Pocahontas	"	-----	"	"	Mrs. C. A. Lorbeer
1883 May 26-7	Rolfe	Bruce's Hall	A. W. Richards	"	"	Rev. C. M. Wood
1884 May 28-9	Fonda	M. E. ch	C. B. Winter	W. C. Kennedy	"	Rev. G. Groat
1885 May	Pocahontas	Court House	-----	H. W. Hay	"	
1886 June 7-8	"	"	John A. Kees	Fred Swingle	"	
1887 May 24-5	Rolfe	M. E. ch	Chas. Artman	B. M. Fessenden		
1888 June 5-6	Fonda	Pres ch	R. E. Flickinger	C. W. Clifton	Mrs. Nellie Swingle Becca Pfeiffer	Hon. B. F. Wright
1889 May 21-22	Rolfe	"	Geo. H. Duty	Wm. C. Kennedy	R. E. Flickinger	
1890 June 7-8	Laurens	M. E. ch	R. Burnip	"	"	
1891 May 19-20	Fonda	M. E. ch	W. H. Flint	"	"	Mattie M. Bailey
1892 Oct. 11-12	Pocahontas	Bapt'ist	John A. Kees	"	"	
1893 Oct. 11-12	Plover	M. E. & Pres ch	M. T. Rainier	"	Mrs. W. C. Ralston	Capt. Brown
1894 Oct. 24-5	Havelock	M. E. ch	C. M. Phoenix	"	"	Mattie M. Bailey
1895 Oct. 22-3	Rolfe	M. E. ch	T. E. Carter	"	Sylvester Smith	Rev. C. W. Sweet
1896 Oct. 13-14	Laurens	Christ'n ch	C. R. Neel	"	"	C. C. Wallace
1897 Aug. 24-5	Havelock	M. E. ch	C. M. Phoenix	"	O. M. Murphy	Rev. R. L. Marsh
1898 Sept. 8-9	Fonda	Pres ch	R. E. Flickinger	Sylvester Smith	Mrs. W. C. Ralston Rev. O. S. Thompson C. C. Wallace	
1899 Sept. 25-6	Pocahontas	Christ'n ch	S. T. Grove	O. M. Murphy	Effie Mercer Miss Mary Barnes	
1900 Aug 21-2	Plover	Pres ch	Z. W. Steele	Sylvester Smith	O. M. Murphy	Rev. C. W. Sweet
1901 Aug 25-6	Rolfe	M. E. ch	O. S. Bryan	W. C. Kennedy	Mrs. G. R. Kreul Mrs. Mary Mitchell	
1902 Aug 19-20	Gilmore Cy	Pres ch	F. E. Hoyt	"	"	
1903 Sept. 1-2	Pocahontas	M. E. ch	C. E. Van Horn	"	Miss Inez Bverly B. F. Mitchell	

autumn of 1803. The first one in the Mississippi valley was organized by Mrs. Margaretta Brown in 1818, in connection with the Presbyterian church in Frankfort, Ky. A Bible

dictionary could not then be found in any of the cities of the west, and she prepared and published at her own expense a little concordance for the use of her school.

## County Temperance Alliance.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Iowa State Temperance Convention, held in Des Moines, Feb. 6-7, 1888, that the friends of temperance proceed to perfect a more thorough organization in all parts of the state, a call was issued by the pastors of the churches and the representatives of the three temperance organizations at Fonda, and a convention was held in the Presbyterian church, Fonda, June 7, 1888, on the day following the 8th annual meeting of the county Sunday school convention. J. J. Bruce, vice-president of the State Alliance for this Congressional District, acted as chairman and gave a history of the previous temperance work in this county. Reports of temperance organizations and their work were made by Mrs. Geo. Sanborn, Mrs. N. M. Perry and Anna Brown. Addresses were delivered by Hon. S. H. Taft, of Humboldt, Revs. G. H. Duty and F. M. Quinn, of Rolfe; Rev. G. H. Hastings, Godfrey Pfeiffer, Geo. Sanborn and others; and a permanent organization was effected by the election of J. J. Bruce, president; John Fraser, W. C. Kennedy, and A. F. Hubbell, vice-presidents; and Rev. R. E. Flickinger, secretary and treasurer.

The following resolutions were adopted:

That we demand from our local nominating conventions the placing of sober men in nomination, and that under no circumstances will we vote for an habitual drinker, or one who furnishes intoxicating liquors for others to drink, or advocates their use.

II. That we demand from our local public servants the faithful enforce-

ment of all laws, including those prohibiting the liquor traffic. Having tried moral suasion and found it ineffectual, we believe the duty of the hour is the immediate enforcement of the laws of the state against the lawless liquor power, wherever that power may be entrenched.

On July 21, 1888, the Powhatan Township Alliance was organized at a meeting held in Plover, by the election of John Fraser, president; James Henderson, vice-president; P. G. Hess, secretary, and Mrs. J. Strouzel, treasurer.

The second annual temperance convention was held at Rolfe, May 22, 1889, in connection with the county S. S. convention, and special addresses were delivered by Hon. B. F. Wright of Charles City, Hon. Geo. L. Dobson of Newell, and Rev. John Hamerson of Fonda. Rev. M. W. Atwood of Rolfe was elected president and the secretary was continued.

At a meeting of the executive committee held at Rolfe, Dec. 9, 1889, \$35 were pledged to the state enforcement fund. Another meeting of the executive committee was held at Rolfe Feb. 26, 1890. Rev. Charles Artman was elected president and delegates were chosen to attend the state convention. No county convention was held that year owing to the absence of the secretary from the county at the time for holding it. The same cause prevented the meeting announced to be held in the M. E. church, Fonda, May 20, 1891.

The work of the Alliance, for several years after that date, was carried on by the members of the executive committee, the secretary of which, at the state convention, held in Des



Moines, February, 1890, was elected a director of the Iowa State Temperance Alliance and urged to endeavor to close all the saloons in the sixteen counties of this Tenth Congressional district. During the next eighteen months six hundred and seventy-five dollars were solicited, the evidence was secured, and injunctions, or, fines and penalties for contempt of court, were obtained in 59 of 60 cases, instituted in the courts of Carroll, Greene, Humboldt, Palo Alto, Pocahontas and Webster counties. This campaign was begun at Carroll, where fourteen cases were instituted, and it was rendered useless in that and Webster counties by the attitude of the Governor of Iowa (Boies), who remitted the fines and penalties as soon as requested and as fast as they were imposed by the courts.

After the enactment of the mulct law in 1894, two consent petitions were filed in this county for the establishment of saloons at Fonda. The canvass for the first one was made in September, 1894, and after this petition was filed, three saloons, two at Fonda and one at Gilmore City, were opened. The law did not then specify who should examine and approve the petition. J. J. Bruce, chairman of the board of supervisors, made an examination, found it lacked the required number of signatures, and on application to Judge Thomas, injunctions were granted against two of them on July 30, 1896, and on the other one in September following.

The second consent petition, which was circulated in November following (1896), was signed by a sufficient number of voters and received the approval of the supervisors. Two saloons were immediately established at Fonda, and one in Gilmore City; and when in 1899, the new towns of Palmer and Varina were located, a saloon was opened in each of them.

To prevent the successful issue of

this second canvass of this county, a union mass meeting was held under the auspices of the local Alliance in the Presbyterian church, Fonda, Sabbath evening, Oct. 11, 1896, when the principal addresses were delivered and special songs were sung by five of the leading business men, of Sac City; who among others stated the fact that County Auditor Peck had found that the costs of criminal prosecutions in Sac county during the last year under license, ending Sept. 30, 1886, were \$3,263.70; and during the next year the first one under prohibition, they were only \$1,750.51, or a saving in one year in this one item of \$1,513.19. Resolutions setting forth Fonda's previous unsatisfactory experience with the saloon and asking all voters in the county to refrain from signing the consent petition, were adopted, published in the county papers and circulated in leaflet form by pastors of the churches.\*

The saloon was more persistent in appearing and reappearing at Fonda than elsewhere in the county, and this fact caused that place to be the storm-center of the field-operations of the County Alliance. Its work was made effective in the "early days," before Wm. Hazlett became the county attorney in 1897, through J. J. Bruce, Esq., its attorney. The results achieved by him were as follows: In 1888, two saloons were searched and the keepers were fined in a justice's court and afterwards enjoined. In 1890, a lot of gamblers were routed from the fair ground, two places were closed and four barrels of beer were destroyed. In April, 1895, indictments were found against more than a half dozen persons in different parts of the county. In July, 1896, the consent petition in the auditor's office, having been examined was proven insufficient and injunctions were obtained against

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\* Page 329.

three saloons, all that were then in the county.

During the years the consent petition of 1896, was in force, the friends of temperance, though constituting a majority of the people of the county, were powerless to overthrow it, and the citizens in the townships, where the new towns were established, were powerless, either to prevent saloons from operating, or to close them. Fortunately the supreme court of Iowa, on Jan. 29, 1900, in the case of Lorenz Ill, Polk county, decided that when the new code went into effect, Oct. 1, 1897, it rendered insufficient all consent petitions filed previous to that date. This included the one in Pocahontas county and the county attorney, a few days later, notified all the saloons of the county of that fact. On March 28th, following, permanent injunctions were issued by Judge Helsell against all of the five saloons, that had been operating under the petition of 1896. Temperance saloons were subsequently started in most of the places that had been enjoined; but where evidence of the fact that the old keepers were at the "old business," was placed in the hands of the county attorney, they were easily and speedily closed.

The local temperance Alliance at Fonda, in February, 1900, or as soon as the consent petition in this county was declared insufficient by the supreme court, was reorganized as an Anti-saloon League, and began its campaign throughout the county to prevent the re-establishment of the saloon in it. Anti-saloon meetings\* were held in all the towns of the county, and a five year anti-saloon pledge was circulated and signed by voters in nearly every township. Pastors of churches and the public press of the county co-operated with the League, and as a result the effort to secure a consent petition in November, 1900, was a dismal failure.

The fact was noted in The Fonda Times of Nov. 12, 1903, that the vote of 1901, which was only 2,212, had increased to 3,092 in 1903, which indicated an increase of 760 citizens in the county in two years, a remarkable growth, and an increase in the population during the same time of 3,950 persons. It would be difficult to find a better reason for letting "well enough alone," and for keeping Pocahontas county on the high road to future and long-continued prosperity.

It is also worthy of note, that they were the facts above stated in regard to the experience of the friends of temperance in Pocahontas county, before and after their deliverance from the galling and unbreakable yoke of a consent petition, by the supreme court decision in 1900, that suggested the propriety and reasonableness of the Time Limit Movement, which has for its object the enactment of an amendment to the Mullet law, so that all consent petitions shall expire at the end of a reasonable time, three or five years; and thus afford the citizens in all the Mullet counties an option, or opportunity, to dispense with the saloons, whenever a majority of them desire to do so. In other words, it is merely a request that the legislature, as a matter of justice to the good people in the Mullet counties, repeat in 1904, what it did with such good results, by a

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\* The union meetings included those addressed by Mr. Flickinger in Fonda, Varina, Laurens and Plover; those addressed by the local pastors at Havelock, the Rolfe opera house and the Swede churches in Colfax township; and those addressed by Rev. H. H. Abrams at Gilmore City, Pocahontas and Fonda. Other meetings arranged and hand-billed by the secretary for Mr. Abrams in this vicinity at that time were those at Pomeroy, where he addressed the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, at Manson, Jolley and Rockwell City.

slight amendment of the Mulct law in 1897.

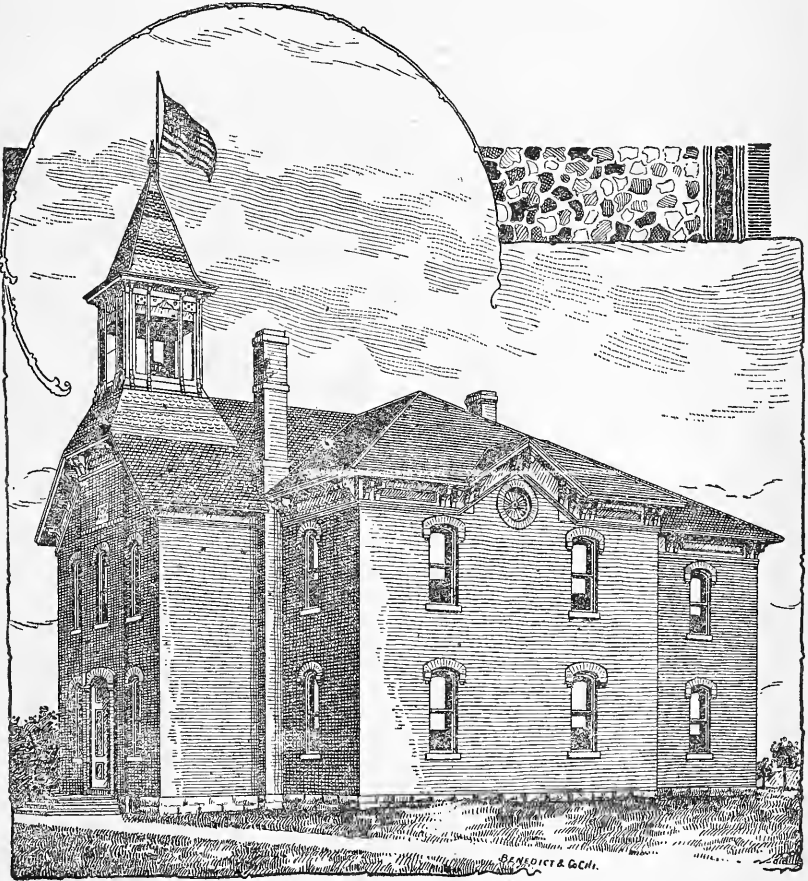
The question of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage has been twice submitted to the people of this county—Oct. 11, 1870, (P. 302), and June 27, 1882—and on both occasions a large majority of the voters were in favor of prohibiting their sale. In 1870, prohibition was adopted as the policy of this county by a vote of 123 to 25, and in 1882, the prohibitory amendment was carried by a vote of 407 to 246.

Josh Billings never uttered a truer sentiment than when he said "Whiskey is a good thing in its place, but hell is the place for it." Robert G. Ingersoll, just as truly said, "The

saloon is the sum of all villainies, the father of all crime, the mother of all abominations, the devil's best friend and God's worst enemy."

"He that any good would win,  
At his mouth must first begin."

The benefits attending the practice of total abstinence and of practical prohibition have raised the general standard of public opinion regarding the liquor traffic; so that in those states where the saloon does exist, public sentiment is demanding a higher license and more stringent regulations, while the rising spirit of commercialism now demands that only total abstainers be employed in all the important industries of the land.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, FONDA.

# APPENDIX.

## Public Officers,—Supplemental List.

### SUCCESSION OF SUPERVISORS.

(SEE PAGE 202)

1900. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln, chairman; Claus Johnson, Des Moines; A. H. Richey, Marshall; M. A. Hogau, Dover; C. B. Elsen, Lake

1901. Terrence Doyle, Lincoln, chairman; Robert Hunter, Clinton; A. H. Richey, Marshall; S. W. McKinney, Colfax; C. B. Elsen, Lake.

1902 C B. Elsen, Lake, chairman; Robert Hunter, Clinton; A. H. Richey, Marshall; S. W. McKinney, Colfax; Joseph Mikesh, Center.

1903. A. H. Richey, Marshall, chairman; Robert Hunter, Clinton; S. W. McKinney, Colfax; Henry Weber, Lake; Joseph Mikesh, Center.

1904 A. H. Richey, Marshall, chairman; Joseph Mikesh, Center; Henry Weber, Lake, Frank White, Colfax; B. C. Budolfson, Clinton.

### UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Jonathan P. Dolliver, since 1900; William B. Allison.

### REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

J. P. Dolliver, Fort Dodge, 1889-1900; J. P. Conner; Denison, 1900-1904.

### CENSUS ENUMERATORS IN 1900.

The census of 1900 was taken by the following enumerators: Bellville township, Anthony Larson. Cedar, including Fonda, Geo. B. Sanborn.

Lincoln and Center, including Pocahontas, Frank M. Starr  
Clinton, (92-31) including Rolfe and part of Gilmore City, Fred A. Malcolm. Colfax and Grant, John A. Crummer. Dover and Marshall, Benjamin Worley

Lizard and Lake, including part of Gilmore City, John E. McBride.

Des Moines and Powhatan, including Plover, Alex. McEwen.

Swan Lake, including Laurens, Roderick McCombs.

Sherman and Washington, including Havelock, Horace E. Buck.

## Representatives in the General Assembly of Iowa.

SENATORS			REPRESENTATIVES			
G. A.	Dist.	Name	County	Dist.	Name	County
1900 28th	50th	Parley Finch	Humboldt	76th	John B Kent	Pocahontas
1902 29th	50th	E K Winnie	"	"	Fred O Gilchrist	"
1904 30th	50th	E K Winnie	"	"	Montague Hakes	"

## County Officers.

SEE PAGE 212.

	Auditor	Clerk of Court	Treasurer	Recorder
1900	I C Thatcher	F H Plumb	G S Robinson	L E Hanson
1901	I C Thatcher	F H Plumb	"	L E Hanson
1902	"	"	G S Robinson	"
1903	Geo W Day	Percy M Beers	"	O E Christeson
1904	"	"	G S Robinson	"

## County Officers Continued.

	Sheriff	Superintendent	Surveyor	Coroner	Attorney
1900	W L Mitchell	U S Vance	H W Bissell		Wm Hazlett
1901	"	"	"		Wm Hazlett
1902	W L Mitchell	U S Vance	H W Bissell	A H Thornton	"
1903	"	"	"	"	Geo A Heald
1904	J J Kelleher	U S Vance	H W Bissell	A H Thornton	"

## Spanish War Volunteers.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LIST ON PAGE 508.

### LAURENS.

Joseph H. Allen, Esq., Co. F. 49th Iowa.  
 Victor A. Sniggs, U. S. Navy.  
 Fritz Lindeman, Co. F. " "  
 Charles A. Homer, Co. F. " "  
 S. A. Carlson, Co. F. " "  
 Herman Waddell, Co. F. " "  
 Peter Winter, Co. F. " "  
 C. H. Dennis, Co. F. " "

army June 29, 1899; and Oscar Dilocker of Laurens, who went with them, did not pass the examination on account of being too light in weight.

Dr. A. E. Carney of Pocahontas, served two years, 1898-1900, as a surgeon in the U. S. army in the Philippines,

### HAVELOCK.

POCAHONTAS.

Wm. D. Wallace, Co. F. " "  
 Fred Ballard, Co. F. " "  
 Charles Montgomery, Co. F. " "

James P. Winne, Co. F. 49th Iowa.  
 Roy C. Converse, Co. M, 52d Iowa, who died of typhoid fever at Chickamauga Aug. 8, 1898; and his twin brother, who was also a member of Co. F. 49th Iowa.

### PLOVER.

Ten of the above named left for Cedar Rapids June 19, 1898, where they were mustered in. They then passed to Camp Cuba Libre at Jacksonville, Florida, where they joined Co. F. (Tipton) of the 49th Iowa. This regiment was mustered June 2, 1898, at camp McKinley, Des Moines, went to Jacksonville, June 11th, and to Cuba, Dec 19, 1898. It participated in the scenes attending the evacuation of Havana and was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, April 9, 1899. It was under the command of Col. Wm. G. Dows, and Co. F. was commanded by Capt. Louis J. Powell.

John M. Barnes.

William Henderson.

The latter entered the U. S. navy and served under Admiral Dewey at Manila.

### FONDA.

Victor A. Sniggs entered the navy as an assistant engineer; Charles Montgomery re-enlisted in the regular

Patrick H. Carroll, Co. K. 1st S. D.  
 Michael J. Mullen, who became one of Col. Roosevelt's Rough Riders at Fort Meade, Texas, May 10, 1898.  
 Edward Taylor and Peter Murphy served three years, 1894-97, in the 1st U. S. Cavalry, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

## Church Growth,—An Exhibit.

Showing the religious development of Pocahontas county and the comparative strength of the various denominations represented in it during the period 1865 to 1903.

	Baptist		Catholic		Christian		Ev'ngl <sup>†</sup>		Lutheran		Methodist		Presbyterian		U. B.*		Summaries, 1865-1903	
	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903	1865	1903
Organizations	2	3	3	5	4	1	1	2	4	29	5	5	1	4	1	1	7	11
Members	45	150	400	1300	400	75	100	200	642	150	670	1,125	25	340	75	150	300	675
Churches	1	2	3	5	2	1	2	4	8	1	5	11	4	4	1	1	6	11
Seating capacity	150	390	700	1200	800	200	400	800	1500	200	1350	280	870	1400	200	200	300	675
Value of	1200	2750	5000	9100	6500	1800	2000	3000	6000	1000	500	1100	1030	13000	2000	2500	1800	5485
Parsonages		1	1	5	2			3	4		2	4	3	3	1	1	2	15
Value of		\$1500	1500	5200	3500			300	4000	5000	600	3270	4500	7000	1000	1500	\$540	\$2300
Salary of clergy	\$500	\$1000	1500	3600	200	200	300	1000	2400	3000	800	6500	500	2550	4250	500	4300	\$15200
Contingent funds	\$20	\$150	500	1028	500	50	200	370	500	250	950	5500	1720	1800	100	30	50	13420
S. S. members		100		2500	500	75	100	200	470	200	555	1150	455	800	100	150	300	4886
W. S. funds	20	\$75		75	150	30	50	75	150	400	200	235	145	430	50	75	275	551

†Bohemian --1; Irish,--6; Membership includes baptized children. The Lizard church being across the line in Webster county, is not included.  
 ‡German ---Belleville.  
 §Danish --1; German --4; Norwegian,--2; Swedish,--2.  
 ¶Episcopal,--10; Protestant, or Free,--1.  
 \*Swedish Mission, Colfax.

## Material Growth,--A Bird's Eye View,

Of the material development of Pocahontas county, as far as the facts could be obtained from the various census reports, from the period of its early settlement:--1860 to 1900.

	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900
Population	103	215	1416	2249	3713	6152	9553	12442	15339
Native born					2698	4587	7392	9954	12716
Foreign "					1015	1565	2161	2488	2623
Persons to sq mile	.2	.4	2.5	3.9	6.4	70.7	16.6	21.6	26.6
Families	30	32	137	485	682	1109	1850	2508	2983
Dwellings	30	32	126	485	649	1186	1816	2456	2946
Farms, No of	30		221		753	915	1437	1738	2005
" average size					107	161	173	170	182
" occupied by owner					626	717	1270	1200	898
" " cash tenant					36	46	830	521	521
" " share tenant					93	133	199	248	248
" " manager						19	9	17	17
" acres improved	139		7078	21928	40592	71561	149822	215550	344243
" unimproved					39688	75754	95606	95606	21212
Value of farms	\$2700		330930		828725	3366532	2711867	8404334	11338'10
" buildings					87117			2206670	589840
" implements	170	2945	29405		532976			877061	2633035
Live stock, value of	2000		99812					235000	1008827
" " sold						174733		10416	13012
Horses	4	73	374	1120	2254	3658	7835	10416	13012
Mules					116	169	347	282	457
Oxen	60		100		25	8	33		
Cows	28	152	596	1483	4707	6278	12688	9154	198'8
Other cattle	270	358	1280	3445	10466	11717	23199	18762	24305
Pure bred						120	223	444	923
Hogs	38	200	292	2608	16739	17984	53354	45328	78705
Sheep		2	7	30	629	842	1556	1806	4315
Wool, lbs of		8	30	125	3840	4793	9066	10448	38720
Goats									142
Chickens						38899	101796	143757	190238
Pure bred						1895		14470	
Turkeys							6418	12149	9705
Other fowls						3945	5880	3617	9578
Eggs, dozens						103281	413580	424174	892330
Poultry and eggs sold						\$ 11767		44761	56833
Bees, stands of			10			20		670	584
Honey, lbs			200			470	3702	3400	11050
Butter, lbs	1350	9672	39265	86172	303051	384444	847996	717984	1103637
Cheese "	1000	929	1750	7872	3329	1906	3360	460	5709
Creameries						1	3	7	(11) 7
Butter						1000	249932	810904	526075
Cheese factory								1	
Cheese made, lbs								3000	
Dairy products						\$74503			220744
Farm "			4993	112666	259573	421353		1177534	2376889
Wheat, acres		80	1600	7434	3913	4613	1737	2718	14919
" bushels		1000	18413	30774	40583	58769	80556	37652	175070
Corn, acres		266	483	8981	20390	30300	57529	93401	102979
" bushels	1280	7740	32560	229263	686602	889176	131955	1630116	3637150
Oats, acres		37	500	2541	4765	14898	29646	44614	67094
" bushels		602	11015	40194	154023	482122	1198723	1061933	2539810
Rye, acres				58	325	951	287	413	480
" bushels				647	5185	9750	5752	4812	5908
Buckwheat, acres				53	13	315	464	130	220
" bushels				842	123	3516	5147	521	2150
Flax, acres		1	2	17	1129	3767	9779	8716	36*3
" bushels		12	5	12	9906	29197	102292	58731	34350
Peas and beans, bushels			96	275	1361	404		567	118
Barley, acres			30	1000	209	946	1478	3238	7755
" bushels			260	830	4070	17169	42491	49045	231630
Sorghum, acres		9	30	52	28	63	90	64	13
" gallons		506	1787	2405	1323	4353	4683	3105	955
Hay, wild, tons	222	725	4861	12930	19872	50441	91747	60760	46494
Timothy "						2681		3111	4225
" bushels						496		1974	2000
Millet, acres						115		40	2015
" tons						184			3853
" bushels						201		425	
Tame grass, tons									28383
Potatoes, acres		29	100	233	398	654	1776	1720	1534
" bushels	650	2100	4753	21712	31284	51950	201507	68444	114753
Onions "						675		2000	775

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Turnips				4086		820	} \$17555
Beets				984		122	
Fruit trees	400	500	600	3030		5100	45340
Forest " acres "				1754		2612	
Natural timber "				760		900	
Apples, bushels		950	650	562	706	1064	4582
Plums "				388	56	1415	1074
Cherries "				11	49	16	95
Other fruit trees				155		323	386
Grapes, lbs				304		1085	6100
Orchard products, value				\$490		3139	4107
Small fruits "				\$625		220	3028
Blackberries, qts						100	1700
Currants "						1150	11630
Gooseberries "						990	2890
Raspberries "						1140	4690
Strawberries "						200	6430



JOSEPH CHAPMAN, FONDA,  
Died Jan. 27, 1904, in his 96th year.



## History of Elections.

In this list may be found an account of every election held in Pocahontas county from the date of its organization in 1859 until the fall of 1903. It includes the names of the candidates, shows the political party they represented and the number of votes they received. This list therefore shows the relative strength of the various political parties in different years. The last column shows the majority the successful candidate received.

In this list the following abbreviations are used: R. for republican; D. for democrat; Ind. for independent; Proh. for prohibition; Soc. for socialist; Peo. for people's party; G. for greenback; Nat. for national.

FIRST ELECTION, MARCH 15, 1859,—17		and Des Moines River bridge be built		
VOTES.		and paid with the swamp lands of the		
County Judge:		county?		
David Slosson, R	16	9	Yes	
Guernsey Smith, R	7		16	
Clerk of the District Court:		SPECIAL ELECTION NOV. 19, 1859,—21		
A. H. Malcolm, R	16	15	Shall the contract for the public	
W. H. Hait, R	1		buildings be approved?	
Treasurer and Recorder:			Yes	
W. H. Hait, R	17		21	
Drainage Commissioner:		ELECTION NOV. 6, 1860.		
James Edleman, R	17		Clerk of Court:	
County Surveyor:			S. N. Harris, R	
Guernsey Smith, R	15	14	County Supervisors:	
S. N. Harris, R	1		David Slosson, Des Moines, 9	
David Slosson, R	1		Ora Harvey, Clinton, 9	
Coroner:			Michael Collins, Lizard, (Not rec-	
Henry Park, R	17		ordred).	
Sheriff:		ELECTION OCT. 8, 1861.		
Oscar Slosson, R	15	13	No record was kept. The following	
Orlando Slosson, R	2		officers qualified:	
ELECTION OCT. 11, 1859,—33		VOTES.		
Senator, 33d district:			Perry Nowlen, County Judge.	
Luther L. Pease, R	17	1	Philip Russell, Clerk of Court.	
John F. Duncombe, D	16		Michael Collins, Treasurer and	
Representative 51st district:			Recorder.	
Samuel Rees, R	18	3	Henry Jarvis, Sheriff.	
Homer Moore, D	15		ELECTION OCT. 14, 1862,—24 VOTES.	
County Judge:			Secretary of State:	
John A. James, D	19	5	James Wright, R	
Patrick McCabe, R	14		Richard Sylvester, D	
Clerk of Court:			Auditor of State:	
S. N. Harris, R	19	5	Jonathan W. Cattell, R	
Michael Collins, D	14		John Brown, D	
Sheriff:			Treasurer of State:	
Henry Jarvis, R	19	5	Wm. H. Holmes, R	
Walter Ford, D	14		Samuel Lorah, D	
Coroner:			Attorney General:	
Wm. Jarvis, R	19	5	Chas. C. Nourse, R	
Roger Collins, D	14		Benton J. Hale, D	
Surveyor:			Register of State Land office:	
Robert Struthers, R	19	5	Josiah A. Harvey, R	
G. S. Ringland, D	14		Fred Gottchalk, D	
Drainage Commissioner:			Judges of 4th Judicial district:	
Wm. Jarvis, R	19		Josiah Pendleton, R	
Superintendent of Schools:			John Currier, D	
Perry Nowlen, R	19		District Attorney:	
SPECIAL ELECTION SEPT. 7, 1859,—16		VOTES.		
Shall the court house, schoolhouse			Henry Ford, R	
			H. C. Crawford, D	
			Congressman, 6th district:	
			A. W. Hubbard, R	

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J. F. Duncombe, D	10	Representative, 57th District::	
Clerk of Court:		C. C. Carpenter, R	41 31
Philip Russell, D	10	L. T. R. Alcorn, D	10
SPECIAL ELECTION NOV. 1862,—27 VOTES.		County Judge:	
Shall a three mill tax be levied for the Des Moines River bridge?		S. N. Harris, R	17 3
Yes	27 27	Fred A. Metcalf, R	14
SPECIAL ELECTION SEPT. 5, 1863—23 VOTES.		Elijah D. Seely	1
Shall a 2½ mill tax be levied to lift county warrants—\$1396.34—for two bridges across Lizard creek?		Treasurer:	
Yes	23 22	W. H. Hait, R	32 11
No	1	Michael Collins, D	21
ELECTION OCT. 13, 1863,—30 HOME AND 4 SOLDIER VOTES.		Clerk of Court:	
Governor:		A. H. Malcolm, R	29 5
Wm. M. Stone, R	17 5	Fred A. Metcalf, R	24
James M. Tuttle, D	12	Sheriff:	
Senator, 43rd district:		Henry Jarvis	41
Geo. W. Bassett, R	22 14	Surveyor:	
C. E. Whiting, D	8	Robert Struthers	31
Representative, 60th district:		Wm. H. Metcalf	17
James W. Logan, R	14 2	Superintendent:	
John M. Stockdale, D	12	Wm. D. McEwen, R	26 1
Treasurer and Recorder:		Fred A. Metcalf, R	25
Michael Collins, D 16&*2	18 1	Coroner:	
Wm. H. Hait, R 14&*2	16	Edward Hammond,	12
County Judge:		ELECTION OCT. 9, 1866,—76 VOTES.	
Fred E. Metcalf	11 4	Secretary of State:	
S. N. Harris 3&*4	7	E. D. Wright, R	68 60
Sheriff:		S. G. Vanander, D	8
John A. James	16	Register of State Land Office:	
Abiel Stickney 14&*4	18 2	C. C. Carpenter, R	68 60
Superintendent:		Levi P. McKennie, D	8
Fred E. Metcalf 17&*4	21 9	Congressman, 6th District:	
Philip Russell	12	A. W. Hubbard, R	68 62
Surveyor:		J. D. Thompson, D	6
Robert Struthers 13&*2	15 10	Judge of 4th Judicial District:	
John A. James 3&*2	5	Henry Ford, R	68 62
Coroner:		O. C. Treadway, D	6
Edward Hammond 17&*4	21	District Attorney:	
ELECTION NOV. 8, 1864—40 VOTES.		Orson Rice, R	43 35
President:		P. D. Mickel, D	8
Abraham Lincoln, R	32 24	Clerk of Court:	
Geo. B. McClellan, D	8	W. D. McEwen, R	46 14
Congressman 6th District:		A. H. Malcolm, R	32
A. W. Hubbard, R	31 23	Recorder:	
L. Chapman, D	8	E. C. Brown, Ind. R	78
Clerk of Court:		ELECTION OCT. 8, 1867,—100 VOTES.	
W. H. Hait, R	25 16	Governor:	
Philip Russell, D	9	Samuel Merrill, R	80 60
Recorder:		Charles Mason, D	20
Robert Struthers, R	28	Senator, 45th District:	
Sheriff:		Thomas Hawley, R	72 52
Henry Jarvis, R	23	C. C. Smeltzer,	20
ELECTION OCT. 10, 1865,—53 VOTES.		Representative, 62d District:	
Governor:		Samuel Rees, R	67 34
Wm. M. Stone, R	43 33	L. S. Coffin,	33
Thos. H. Benton, D	10	County Judge:	
		S. N. Harris,	97
		Treasurer:	
		W. H. Hait, R	54 10
		A. H. Malcolm, R	44

\*Soldier vote. Received Nov. 25th, five weeks after the first canvass;—it reversed the election of sheriff.

Sheriff:			For Approval,	86	82
Oscar Slosson,	50		Against "	4	
George Spragg,	50				
On drawing cuts Slosson received					
the office.					
Superintendent:			ELECTION OCT. 11, 1870,—220 VOTES.		
J. J. Bruce, R	50	2	Secretary of State:		
W. D. McEwen, R	48		Edward Wright, R	177	143
Coroner:			Charles Doerr, D	34	
John H. Johnson,	44	6	Convention to Revise State Consti-		
E. P. Hammond,	38		tution:		
			For,	22	
ELECTION NOV. 3, 1868,—112 VOTES.			Against,	157	135
President:			Congressman, 6th District:		
U. S. Grant, R	93	74	Jackson Orr, R	171	128
Horatio Seymour, D	19		C. C. Smeitzer, D	43	
Congressman, 6th District:			Judge, 4th Judicial District:		
Charles Pomeroy, R	93	74	Henry Ford, R	125	
C. A. Roegell, D	19		D. C. Vanham, D	14	
Judge, 2d Circuit 4th Judicial Dis-			istrict Attorney:		
trict:			C. H. Lewis,	130	116
J. M. Snyder, R	78	57	— Hull	14	
James P. White, D	21		Clerk of Court:		
Amendments to State Constitution:			W. D. McEwen, R	117	16
For ratification	92	73	W. H. Hait, Ind. R	101	
Against "	19		Recorder:		
Clerk of Court:			Thos. L. MacVey, R	119	28
W. D. McEwen, R	89	88	Geo. W. Strong, Ind. R	91	
Patrick McCabe, D	1		Special Bridge Tax:		
John Calligan, D	1		For,	123	69
Recorder:			Against,	54	
Thomas L. MacVey, R	58	8	Prohibition in County:		
E. C. Brown, Ind. R	50		For,	123	98
John Calligan,	1		Against,	25	
			Act Restraining Stock:		
ELECTION OCT. 12, 1869,—132 VOTES.			For,	76	
Governor:			Against,	97	21
Samuel Merrill, R	109	86	Increase of Supervisors from 3 to 5		
Geo. Gillespie, D	23		Members:		
Representative:			For,	152	142
G. S. Tolliver, R	88	55	Against,	10	
H. G. Brockwell, D	33		SPECIAL ELECTION APRIL 17, 1871.		
County Auditor:			Act Restraining Stock:		
W. D. McEwen, R	108	87	For,	181	100
Oscar I. Strong, Ind. R	21		Against,	81	
Treasurer:			ELECTION OCT. 10, 1871,—311 VOTES.		
James J. Bruce, R	93	56	Governor:		
Michael Collins, D	37		C. C. Carpenter, R	263	
Sheriff:			— Knapp, D		
Oscar Slosson, R	83	36	Senator, 47th District:		
Henry Jarvis, Ind. R	47		W. H. Fitch, R	266	217
Surveyor:			— Crapper, D	49	
Geo. W. Strong, R	97	63	Representative, 67th District:		
Oscar I. Strong, Ind. R	34		Robert Struthers, R	220	219
Superintendent:			J. H. Johnson,	1	
David Miller, R	118	116	County Auditor:		
W. D. McEwen,	2		W. D. McEwen, R	210	110
John Calligan,	1		W. H. Hait, Ind. R	100	
Coroner:			Treasurer:		
Joseph Clason, R	109	100	James J. Bruce, R	197	83
John Calligan, D	9		A. L. Thornton,	114	
"Cock Robin,"	4		Sheriff:		
Drainage Commissioner:			T. J. Curtis, D	196	79
W. S. Fegles,	116		E. Shreve, R	117	
Act Restraining Stock:			Superintendent:		

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Geo. W. Hathaway, D	200	89	ELECTION OCT. 13, 1874,—384 VOTES.		
John A. Griffin, R	111		Secretary of State:		
Surveyor:			Josiah T. Young, R	300	216
Geo. Van Natta, R	171	37	David Morgan, D	84	
O. I. Strong, Ind. R	134		Congressman, 9th District:		
Coroner:			Addison Oliver, R	312	239
Joseph Clason,	195	91	C. E. Whiting, D	73	
A. Cady,	104		Dist. Judge, 4th District:		
Drainage Commissioner:			C. H. Lewis,	299	212
W. S. Fegles, R	196	90	P. B. Mickel,	87	
W. W. Rathbun, D	106		Circuit Judge, 4th District:		
Repeal of Stock Act.			J. R. Zouver, R	244	109
For,	45		Frank E. Chamberlin, D	135	
Against,	215	170	District Attorney:		
This act was now declared to be in force.			Geo. B. McCarty, R	298	210
Legalizing the Sale of the Swamp Lands:			M. Wakefield, D	88	
For an Act of Legislaton,	171	124	Clerk of Court.		
Against " " "	47		J. W. Wallace, R	365	361
Legalizing the Title to the Swamp Lands:			Scattering,	4	
For an Act.	81		Recorder:		
Against " "	142	61	Andrew Jackson, R	221	67
ELECTION NOV. 5, 1872,—331 VOTES.			E. C. Brown, D	154	
President: 9 Electors.			Shall Stock be Restrained?		
U. S. Grant, R	263	195	For	319	317
Horace Greeley, Ind. R	68		Against	2	
Congressman, 9th District:			This act was again declared adopted.		
Jackson Orr, R	202	72	ELECTION OCT. 12, 1875,—463 VOTES.		
John F. Duncombe, D	130		Governor:		
Circuit Judge, 4th District:			Samuel J. Kirkwood, R	332	202
Addison Oliver, R	313		Shepherd Leffler, D	130	
Clerk of Court:			John Hogarth Lozier, Proh	1	
M. E. Owen, R	316		Senator, 4th District:		
R. B. Fish, D	1		E. J. Hartshorn, R	165	
Recorder:			Fred Hess, D	284	119
Thomas L. MacVey, R	320		Representative, 71st District:		
ELECTION OCT. 14, 1873,—363 VOTES.			G. S. Robinson, R	127	
Governor:			Owen Bromley, D	330	203
C. C. Carpenter, R	324	285	County Treasurer:		
Jacob Vale, D	39		Wm. D. McEwen, R	440	438
Representative, 71st District:			Scattering,	2	
E. J. Hartshorn, R	355		Auditor:		
County Auditor:			A. O. Garlock, R	435	432
A. O. Garlock, R	214	65	Scattering,	3	
T. L. MacVey, Ind. R	149		Sheriff:		
Scattering,	2		Joseph Breitenbach, R	349	252
Treasurer:			John F. Hintz, D	97	
W. D. McEwen, R	255	142	Scattering.	3	
C. H. Tollefsrude, Ind. R	113		Superintendent:		
Sheriff:			J. F. Clark, R	447	
Joseph Breitenbach, R	228	88	Superintendent. to fill vacancy:		
David W. Hunt, Ind. R	140		J. F. Clark,	18	17
Superintendent:			Wm Marshall,	1	
Oscar I. Strong, R	254	146	Surveyor:		
David Miller, Ind. R	108		Wm. Marshall, R	433	431
Surveyor:			Scattering,	2	
Wm. Marshall, R	260	152	Coroner:		
Geo. Sanborn, Ind. R	108		J. H. Johnson,	441	
Coroner:			Shall County Seat be Removed From (Old) Rolfe to Pocahontas:		
Dr. J. M. Carroll	269		For,	356	297
			Against,	59	
			This change was ordered Oct. 18, 1875.		

HISTORY OF ELECTIONS.

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<b>ELECTION NOV. 7, 1876,—527 VOTES.</b>		<b>Bounty on Gophers:</b>	
President, 11 electors;		For,	382 347
Rutherford B. Hayes, R	375 234	Against,	35
Samuel J. Tilden, D	141	<b>Restraining Stock:</b>	
Scattering:	11	For,	465 449
<b>Congressman, 9th District:</b>		Against,	16
Addison Oliver, R	367 213	At this election the township trustees were elected for 1, 2 and 3 years respectively and afterwards for a term of three years,	
Samuel Rees, D	154	<b>ELECTION OCT. 14, 1879,—753 VOTES.</b>	
H. A. Pierce	1	<b>Governor:</b>	
<b>Circuit Judge, 14th District:</b>		John H. Gear, R	479 265
John N. Weaver,	360 256	H. Trimble, D	214
Lot Thomas,	104	D. Campbell, Proh	54
<b>District Judge, 14th District:</b>		<b>Senator:</b>	
Ed. R. Duffie,	374	E. J. Hartsborn, R	591 478
<b>District Attorney:</b>		P. O. Cassady, D	113
J. M. Tolliver,	379	John Wallace,	40
<b>County Recorder:</b>		<b>Representative:</b>	
O. I. Strong, R	328 146	D. J. McDaid,	609 519
Michael T. Collins, D	182	A. Bradfield,	90
<b>Clerk of Court:</b>		<b>County Auditor:</b>	
J. W. Wallace, R	517 516	A. O. Garlock, R	509
J. W. Farmer	1	Henry Kelley, D	229
<b>ELECTION OCT. 9, 1877,—54 VOTES.</b>		<b>Treasurer:</b>	
<b>Governor:</b>		W. D. McEwen, R	467 191
John H. Gear, R	370 277	Ray C. Brownell, Ind. R	276
J. P. Irish, D	93	<b>Sheriff:</b>	
D. P. Stubbs, D	44	Joseph Mallison, Ind. R	388 42
Elias Jesup, Proh	36	Thos. L. Dean, R	346
<b>Representative, 72d District:</b>		<b>Superintendent:</b>	
L. H. Gordon, R	490 439	O. I. Strong, R	666 662
J. H. Groves, D	51	David Miller, Ind. R	44
<b>County Auditor:</b>		<b>Surveyor:</b>	
A. O. Garlock, R	508 505	Wm. Marshall, R	440
Scattering,	3	F. Millard, D	295
<b>Treasurer:</b>		<b>Coroner:</b>	
W. D. McEwen, R	525	John M. Brown,	736
<b>Sheriff:</b>		<b>Special Bridge Tax:</b>	
Thomas L. Dean, R	269 3	For,	136
J. Breitenbach, Ind. R	266	Against,	293 157
<b>Superintendent:</b>		<b>Bounty on Gophers:</b>	
David Miller,	401 265	For,	280 76
J. F. Clark,	136	Against,	204
<b>Surveyor:</b>		<b>Erection of a Jail:</b>	
Wm. Marshall,	501 497	For	292 95
Scattering,	4	Against,	197
<b>Coroner:</b>		<b>ELECTION NOV. 2, 1880,—686 VOTES.</b>	
J. C. Enfield,	486	<b>President:</b>	
<b>Gopher Bounty Tax:</b>		James A. Garfield, R	458 247
For,	206	W. D. Hancock, D	211
Against,	31	James B. Weaver, G	17
<b>ELECTION OCT. 8, 1878,—59 VOTES.</b>		<b>Congressman, 9th District:</b>	
<b>Secretary of State:</b>		C. C. Carpenter, R	457 249
J. A. T. Hull, R	351 108	P. M. Guthrie, D	208
E. M. Farnsworth, D	243	Daniel Campbell, G	17
<b>Congressman, 9th District:</b>		<b>District Judge, 14th District:</b>	
C. C. Carpenter, R	354 115	Ed. R. Duffie, R	513
D. Q. Hoggat:	239	<b>Circuit Judge, 14th District:</b>	
<b>Clerk of Court:</b>		John N. Weaver, R	507
J. W. Wallace, R	582	<b>District Attorney:</b>	
J. H. Lowrey, Ind. R	4	J. M. Tolliver, R	500
<b>Recorder:</b>			
Geo. Wallace, R	324 64		
Jason H. Lowrey, Ind. R	260		

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Clerk of Court:			A. L. Thornton, R	494	53
John W. Wallace, R	671		Michael Crahan, D	441	
Recorder:			Coroner:		
Michael Crahan, D	349	11	M. F. Patterson:	626	323
Joseph E. Pattee, R	338		John M. Brown,	303	
Recorder, to fill vacancy:			ELECTION OCT. 9, 1883.		
C. A. Bryant, R	349	323	Governor:		
M. Crahan, D	26		Buren R. Sherman, R	731	315
Shall State Constitution be Amended?			L. G. Kinne, D	416	
For,	173	54	J. B. Weaver, G	11	
Against,	119		Senator, 47th District:		
At this election township clerks,			C. C. Chubb, R	738	320
assessors and road supervisors were			Alex. Mitchell, D	418	
first elected for two years.			Representative, 78th District:		
ELECTION OCT. 11, 1881,—826 VOTES.			J. D. McVay, R	734	326
The People's party was organized in			L. T. Danforth, D	408	
Pocahontas county this year.			County Auditor:		
Governor:			C. H. Tollefsrude, R	612	76
Buren R. Sherman, R	561	319	T. F. McCartan, D	536	
L. G. Kinne, D	242		Treasurer:		
D. M. Clark, Proh	23		Wm. Brownlee, Ind. R	637	132
Representative, 72d District:			Geo. L. Brower, R	505	
Horatio Pitcher, R	250		Sheriff:		
S. A. Clemons, D	561	311	John F. Pattee, R	568	4
County Auditor:			Samuel H. Gill, Ind. R	564	
C. H. Tollefsrude, R	437	51	Surveyor:		
Theodore Dunn, Ind. R	386		L. C. Thornton, R	595	52
Treasurer:			C. P. Leithead, D	543	
W. D. McEwen, R	456	87	O. I. Strong, R	1	
H. G. Tyler, Ind. R	369		Coroner:		
Sheriff:			M. F. Patterson,	611	69
Joseph Mallison, R	505	190	J. M. Carroll,	542	
Anthony Hudek, D	315		Superintendent:		
T. L. Dean,	2		J. P. Robinson, R	687	226
Superintendent:			W. F. Bowman, D	461	
J. P. Robinson, R	421	19	ELECTION NOV. 4, 1884,—1277 VOTES.		
Henry Kelley, D	402		President:		
O. I. Strong,	2		James G. Blaine, R	775	279
Surveyor:			Grover Cleveland, D	496	
Wm. Marshall, R	475	131	J. P. St. John, Proh	6	
Thos. L. MacVey, Ind. R	344		Congressman, 11th District:		
Charles Briggs,	4		I. S. Struble, R	778	275
Coroner:			Thos. F. Barber, D	503	
J. C. Enfield,	466	108	District Judge, 14th District:		
John M. Brown,	358		Lot Thomas, R	760	264
SPECIAL ELECTION JUNE 27, 1882,—653			A. W. McFarland, D	496	
VOTES.			Circuit Judge:		
Prohibitory Amendment:			J. H. Macomber, R	778	294
For,	449	245	G. A. Berry, D	484	
Against,	204		District Attorney:		
ELECTION NOV. 7, 1882,—940 VOTES.			John W. Cory, R	719	203
Secretary of State:			Wm. Hayward	516	
J. A. T. Hull, R	618	306	County Recorder:		
T. O. Walker, D	312		A. L. Thornton, R	714	170
Wm. Gaston,	10		Amandus Ziemann, D	544	
Congressman, 11th District:			Clerk of Court:		
Isaac L. Struble, R	537	137	John W. Wallace, R	740	218
John P. Allison, D	400		Walter P. Ford, D	522	
Clerk of Court:			Scattering,	7	
John W. Wallace, R	727	515	Amendments to the State Consti-		
W. H. Hait, Ind. R	212		tution:		
Recorder:			For,	No. 1,299; No. 2, 242	

HISTORY OF ELECTIONS.

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Against,	“	39	“	68	T. J. Anderson, D	609	
For,	No. 3, 268; No. 4, 233				Senator, 50th District:		
Against,	“	69;	“	108	A. O. Garlock, R	878	488
<b>ELECTION, NOV. 3, 1885,—1354 VOTES.</b>					Wm. Thompson, D	390	
The Democratic party was organized this year in Pocahontas county.					J. J. Bruce, Ind. R	123	
Governor:					Scattering,	6	
Wm. Larrabee, R		760	176		Representative, 77th District:		
C. E. Whiting, D		584			C. M. Fillmore, R	875	302
James Mickelwait, Proh		10			S. F. Sturdivan, D	573	
Representative 78th District:					County Auditor:		
Thomas F. Kelleher, D		785	340		T. F. McCartan, D	763	66
James J. Bruce, R		445			C. W. Clifton, R	697	
Thos L. MacVey, Ind. R		92			Treasurer:		
County Auditor:					J. N. McClellan, R	855	258
T. F. McCartan, D		774	208		W. H. Ferguson, D	597	
John W. Gray, R		566			Sheriff:		
Treasurer:					John F. Pattee, R	830	246
W. D. McEwen, R		773	161		Thos. J. Calligan, D	584	
Carl Steinbrink, D		612			Superintendent:		
Recorder, to fill vacancy:					J. H. Campbell, R	805	178
Mary E. Thornton, R		801	226		L. E. Lange, D	627	
Frank E. Beers, D		575			J. L. Warden,	17	
Sheriff:					Surveyor:		
John F. Pattee, R		777	223		Lucius C. Thornton, R	885	312
C. H. Hutchins, D		554			L. M. Eaton, D	573	
Superintendent:					Coroner:		
James H. Campbell, R		684	59		W. W. Beam, R	855	248
Frank DeKlotz, D		625			J. H. Farson, D	607	
H. J. Willey, Ind		15			<b>ELECTION, NOV. 6, 1888,—1785 VOTES.</b>		
Surveyor:					President:		
John J. Cullen, R		946	572		Benjamin Harrison, R	999	253
Wm. Marshall, Ind. R		374			Grover Cleveland, D	746	
Coroner:					Clinton B. Fisk, Proh	40	
J. M. Carroll, R		716	103		Congressman, 10th District:		
D. W. Edgar, D		613			Jonathan P. Dolliver, R	1017	251
<b>ELECTION, NOV. 2, 1886,—1358 VOTES.</b>					Capt. J. A. O. Yeoman, D	766	
Secretary of State:					District Judge, 14th District:		
Frank D. Jackson, R		779	200		Lot Thomas, R	1024	
Cato Sells, D		579			County Recorder:		
Congressman, 10th District:					W. F. Atkinson, R	907	42
A. J. Holmes, R		792	221		M. W. Linnan, D	865	
Geo. Wilmot, D		571			Scattering,	6	
District Judge, 14th District:					Clerk of Court:		
Geo. W. Carr, R		792	787		W. C. Ralston, R	1756	1753
J. F. Harlan,		15			Scattering,	3	
County Recorder:					County Attorney:		
Wm. F. Atkinson, R		759	164		Byron J. Allen, R	1035	401
J. W. O'Brien, D	491	595			John P. Pederson, D	634	
W. J. O'Brien, D	104				C. C. Delle, Ind	45	
Clerk of Court:					Restraining Stock:		
W. C. Ralston, R		677	3		For,	1510	1368
W. H. Ferguson, D		674			Against,	142	
W. H. Healy,		1			Lizard township opposed this measure by a vote of 38 for, 61 against.		
County Attorney:					<b>ELECTION, NOV. 5, 1889,—1622 VOTES.</b>		
W. G. Bradley, R		759	184		Governor:		
W. H. Healy, D		575			Joseph G. Hutchinson, R	867	123
Coroner:					Horace Boies, D	744	
W. W. Beam, R		348	344		S. B. Downing,	3	
G. W. Bothwell,		4			Elias Doty,	8	
<b>ELECTION, NOV. 8, 1887,—1397 VOTES.</b>					Senator, 50th District:		
Governor:					Edgar E. Mack, R	886	148
Wm. Larrabee, R		808	199		Wm. Thompson, D	738	

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Representative, 77th District:			J. A. Crummer, R	1379	505
James Mercer, R	915	886	John M. Smith, D	874	
John Garvey, D	*29		Superintendent:		
Scattering,	6		Cleland Gilchrist, R	1298	364
County Auditor:			L. E. Lange, D	934	
T. F. McCartan, D	975	339	Scattering,	5	
P. J. Shaw, R	636		Surveyor:		
Treasurer:			H. W. Bissell, R	1302	347
J. N. McClellan, R	1088	555	P. A. Quinn, D	955	
Eric Anderson, D	533		Coroner:		
Sheriff:			O. A. Pease, R	1256	284
J. A. Crummer, R	856	99	A. S. Mygatt, D	972	
C. P. Leithead, D	757		ELECTION, NOV. 8, 1892,—2513 VOTES.		
Joseph Mikesb,	2		President:		
Superintendent:			Benjamin Harrison, R	1304	365
Fred C. Gilchrist, R	875	145	Grover Cleveland, D	939	
Walter P. Ford, D	730		James B. Weaver, Peo	210	
Surveyor:			William Bidwell, Proh	60	
H. W. Bissell, R	933	262	Secretary of State:		
L. M. Eaton, D	671		W. M. McFarland, R	1295	348
Coroner:			J. H. McConlogue, D	947	
C. C. Delle, R	884	165	E. H. Gillette, Pop	212	
Henry Schroeder, D	719		S. H. Taft, Proh	57	
Grade tax of two mills:			Congressman, 10th District:		
For,	776	256	J. P. Dolliver, R	1286	317
Against,	520		J. J. Ryan, D	969	
ELECTION, NOV. 4, 1890,—1795 VOTES.			John E. Anderson, Peo	225	
Secretary of State:			District Judge, 14th District:		
W. M. McFarland, R	1005	215	Lot Thomas, R	1326	
W. H. Chamberlin, D	790		County Auditor:		
Congressman, 10th District:			Frank G. Thornton, R	1255	216
J. P. Dolliver, R	952	114	E. W. Clinton, D	1039	
I. L. Woods, D	838		John Barrett, Peo	189	
District Judge, 14th District:			Clerk of Court:		
Geo. L. Carr, R	1015		W. C. Ralston, R	1398	506
County Attorney:			James Eral, D	892	
C. C. Delle, R	1056	333	J. D. Fitzgerald, Peo	200	
J. M. Bishop, D	723		Recorder:		
Clerk of Court:			Richard D. Bollard, R	1412	523
W. C. Ralston, R	1078	375	J. A. Carroll, D	889	
Frank E. Beers, D	703		J. C. Brubaker, Peo	189	
Recorder:			County Attorney:		
R. D. Bollard, R	954	133	F. L. Dinsmore, R	1255	179
M. W. Linnan, D	821		W. H. Healy, D	1076	
Scattering,	7		ELECTION, NOV. 7, 1893,—2416 VOTES.		
Coroner:			Governor:		
J. M. Carroll, R	1005		Frank D. Jackson, R	1283	419
To Revise State Constitution:			Horace Boies, D	864	
For a Convention,	44	12	J. M. Joseph, Peo	188	
Against,	56		Bennett Mitchell, Proh	81	
ELECTION, NOV. 3, 1891,—2260 VOTES.			Senator, 50th District:		
Governor:			Geo. W. Henderson, R	1284	408
Hiram C. Wheeler, R	1213	188	T. D. Higgs, D	876	
Horace Boies, D	1025		R. Olney, Peo	219	
A. J. Westfall,	22		Representative, 76th District:		
Representative, 76th District:			Parley Finch, R	1261	362
Frank E. Carpenter, R	1235	215	F. E. Beers, D	899	
Montague Hakes, D	1020		A. R. Starrett, Peo	216	
County Treasurer:			County Treasurer:		
J. N. McClellan, R	1365	478	C. A. Charlton, R	1312	418
Carl Steinbrink, D	887		L. C. Coffin, D	894	
Sheriff:			J. C. Brubaker, Peo	187	

\*All in Dover township.



Sheriff:		Surveyor:			
J. A. Crummer, R	1346	469	F. A. Malcolm, R	1330	649
M. J. Collins, D	877		John Nelson, D	681	
L. J. Lieb, Peo	181		E. A. Brown, Peo	387	
Superintendent:		Coroner:			
Cleland Gilchrist, R	1364	470	Frank Reyburn, R	1354	937
Maud Fuller, D	894		W. J. Leib, Peo	417	
Surveyor:		ELECTION, NOV. 3, 1896,—3274 VOTES.			
Fred A. Malcolm, R	1336	478	President:		
Patrick J. Quinn, D	858		Wm. McKinley, R	1866	488
Charles Brown, Peo	198		Wm. J. Bryan, D	1378	
Coroner:		Jonn M. Palmer, Nat. D		16	
Frank Reyburn, R	1346	500	Joshua Levering, Proh	14	
O. H. Barthel, D	846		Secretary of State:		
J. T. Sturdivan, Peo	192		Geo. L. Dobson, R	1866	485
ELECTION, NOV. 6, 1894,—2512 VOTES.		H. L. Kerr, D		1381	
Secretary of State:		Wm. G. Wright, Proh		23	
Wm. M. McFarland, R	1423	692	Congressman, 10th District:		
Horatio F. Dale, D	731		J. P. Dolliver, R	1853	460
S. B. Crane, Peo	308		John B. Romans, D	1393	
Bennett Mitchell, Proh	50		M. W. Atwood, Proh	23	
Congressman, 10th District:		District Judge:			
J. P. Dolliver, R	1421	345	Lot Thomas, R	1919	
J. C. Baker, D	1076		County Auditor:		
District Judge:		I. C. Thatcher, R		1707	153
Wm. B. Quarton, R	1410	361	Henry Fitzgerald, D	1554	
C. E. Cahoon, D	1049		Clerk of Court:		
County Auditor:		F. H. Plumb, R		1866	473
Frank G. Thornton, R	1305	187	Z. C. Bradshaw, D	1393	
E. W. Clinton, D	1118		Recorder:		
Recorder:		R. D. Bollard, R		1911	557
R. D. Bollard, R	1555	606	Chas. A. Hawley, D	1354	
D. K. Folk, D	949		County Attorney:		
Clerk of Court:		Wm. Hazlett, R		1864	474
Frank H. Plumb, R	1337	182	David Grier, D	1390	
C. F. Linnan, D	1155		ELECTION, NOV. 2, 1897,—2864 VOTES.		
County Attorney:		Governor:			
F. L. Dinsmore, R	1406	523	Fred E. White, D	1401	17
Wm. J. Collins, D	983		Leslie M. Shaw, R	1384	
ELECTION, NOV. 5, 1895,—2449 VOTES.		Chas. A. Lloyd, Peo		25	
Governor:		Samuel P. Leland, Proh		51	
Francis M. Drake, R	1272	586	M. J. Kremer, Soc	3	
W. J. Babb, D	686		Senator, 50th District:		
S. B. Crane, Peo	418		Parley Finch, R	1447	138
Francis Bacon, Proh	73		M. V. Reed, D	1311	
Representative, 76th District:		Representative, 76th District:			
Parley Finch, R	82		M. E. Dewolf, R	1415	76
James Mercer, Ind. R	999	316	L. E. Lange, D	1339	
Geo. W. Core, D	683		County Treasurer:		
J. S. Hopkins, Peo	370		C. A. Charlton, R	1451	105
Treasurer:		A. G. Wood, D		1346	
C. A. Charlton, R	1382	736	Sheriff:		
F. D. Hadden, D	646		John Ratcliff, D	1435	93
J. O. Overholt, Peo	388		W. A. Grove, R	1342	
Sheriff:		Surveyor:			
J. A. Crummer, R	1233	481	H. W. Bissell, R	1440	114
M. J. Dooley, D	752		A. B. Olson, D	1326	
T. L. Dean,	447		Superintendent:		
Superintendent:		A. W. Davis, R		1572	371
Cleland Gilchrist, R	1318	578	W. R. T. Merwine, D	1201	
Mrs. Melissa Barnes, D	740		Coroner:		
J. W. Ellison, Peo	373		C. B. Lawrence, R	1420	105
			O. H. Barthel, D	1315	

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ELECTION, NOV. 8, 1898,—2644 VOTES.

Secretary of State:			
Geo. L. Dobson, R	1490	405	
Claude R. Porter, D	1085		
Malcolm Smith, Proh	51		
R. M. Daniels, Peo	15		
A. C. Swanholm, Soc	3		
Congressman, 10th District:			
J. P. Dolliver, R	1419	266	
Edwin Anderson, D	1153		
P. J. Shaw, Proh	61		
A. Norelius, Peo	9		
District Judge, 14th District:			
W. B. Quarton, R	1373	175	
J. W. Sullivan, D	1208		
District Judge, to fill vacancy:			
F. H. Helsell, R	1399	205	
C. E. Cohoon, D	1194		
County Recorder:			
L. E. Hanson, R	1318	27	
Frank Reniff, D	1291		
Clerk of Court:			
Frank H. Plumb, R	1418	207	
Charles F. Pattee, D	1201		
Auditor:			
I. C. Thatcher, R	1315	17	
Geo. W. Day, D	1298		
County Attorney:			
Wm. Hazlett, R	1399	194	
L. E. England, D	1205		
Coroner:			
Frank Reyburn,	1444	284	
O. H. Barthel,	1160		

ELECTION, NOV. 7, 1899,—2959 VOTES.

Governor:			
Leslie M. Shaw, R	1686	474	
F. E. White, D	1212		
M. W. Atwood, Proh	48		
Charles A. Lloyd,	10		
M. J. Kremer,	2		
C. C. Heacock,	1		
Representative:			
John B. Kent, R	1737	585	
C. A. Rossing, D	1152		
County Treasurer:			
Guy S. Robinson, R	1656	391	
H. W. Lyon, D	1265		
Sheriff:			
W. L. Mitchell, R	1624	327	
M. J. Keenan, D	1297		
Superintendent:			
U. S. Vance, R	1633	364	
Cyrus Thompson, D	1269		
Surveyor:			
H. W. Bissell, R	1701	496	
W. P. Rude, D	1205		
Coroner:			
Frank Reyburn, R	1732	575	
O. H. Barthel, D	1157		

ELECTION, NOV. 6, 1900,—3517 VOTES.

President:			
Wm. McKinley, R	2176	889	
Wm. J. Bryan, D	1287		

John G. Wooley, Proh	53		
Martin Barker, Peo	1		
Secretary of State:			
Wm. B. Martin, R	2156	869	
S. B. Crane, D	1287		
S. O. Pillsbury, Proh	51		
Congressman, 10th District:			
J. P. Connor, R	2149	799	
R. F. Dale, D	1296		
P. J. Shaw, Proh	54		
District Judge:			
A. D. Bailie, R	2150	844	
I. W. Bane, D	1306		
County Auditor:			
I. C. Thatcher, R	2072	686	
J. A. Henery, D	1386		
Recorder:			
Leonard E. Hanson, R	2082	686	
Fred Bruns, D	1360		
Clerk of Court:			
Frank H. Plumb, R	1976	488	
Joseph Dooley, D	1488		
County Attorney:			
Wm. Hazlett, R	1872	304	
T. F. Lynch, D	1568		
Coroner:			
A. H. Thornton, R	2069	688	
T. J. Dower, D	1381		
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ELECTION, NOV. 5, 1901,—2274 VOTES.

Governor:			
Albert B. Cummins, R	1496	780	
T. J. Phillips, D	716		
A. N. Coats, Proh	55		
James Baxter,	6		
L. H. Weller,	1		
Senator:			
E. K. Winnie, R	1475	720	
E. P. Layman, D	755		
Charles Redman,	1		
Representative, 76th District:			
Fred C. Gilchrist, R	1411	566	
C. P. Leithead, D	845		
County Treasurer:			
Guy S. Robinson, R	1550	847	
Jonathan Pulley, D	703		
Sheriff:			
Wm. L. Mitchell, R	1512	772	
A. W. Peterson, D	740		
Superintendent:			
U. S. Vance, R	1582	1581	
M. O'Malley,	1		
Surveyor:			
H. W. Bissell, R	1496	753	
F. J. Poduska, D	743		
Coroner:			
A. H. Thornton, R	1521	807	
T. J. Dower, D	714		

HISTORY OF ELECTIONS.

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ELECTION, NOV. 4, 1902,—2929 VOTES.		J. D. Butler, D	1149		
Secretary of State:		James H. Scull, Proh	50		
Wm. B. Martin, R	1767	698	Judge of Supreme Court:		
Richard Burke, D	1069		Charles A. Bishop, R	1829	681
W. Howard, Proh	67		John R. Caldwell, D	1148	
W. A. Jacobs, Soc	26		William Orr, Proh	50	
Congressman, 10th District:		Superintendent of Public Instruction:			
James P. Connor, R	1751	750	John F. Riggs, R	1831	685
Kasper Faltinson, D	1001		A. R. McCook, D	1146	
W. D. Elweld, Proh	62		John S. Ward, Proh	49	
F. D. Swick, Soc	23		Railroad Commissioner:		
County Recorder:		David Palmer, R	1832	693	
Ole E. Christeson, R	1561		W. S. Porter, D	1139	
T. P. Fitzgerald, D	1311	250	H. R. Bradshaw, Proh	51	
Clerk of Court:		State Representative:			
Percy M. Beers, R	1514	105	Fred C. Gilchrist, R	1487	
Geo. F. Dean, D	1409		Montague Hakes, D	1591	104
Auditor:		County Treasurer:			
Geo. W. Day, D	1449	4	Guy S. Robinson, R	1813	594
R. E. Postin, R	1445		L. E. Streater, D	1219	
This vote was recounted by the		Sheriff:			
Contest board, Dec. 22-23, 1902, and		Wm. L. Mitchell, R	1527		
the result was as follows:		James J. Kelleher, D	1561	34	
Geo. W. Day,	1447	8	Superintendent of Schools:		
R. E. Postin,	1439		U. S. Vance, R	1752	475
County Attorney:		Nellie McLaughlin, D	1277		
Geo. A. Heald, R	1589	281	County Surveyor:		
T. F. Lynch, D	1308		H. W. Bissell, R	1756	507
GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1903.		A. B. Olson, D	1249		
For Governor:		Coroner:			
Albert B Cummlns, R	1860	715	A. H. Thornton, M. D., R	1746	489
J. B. Sullivan, D	1145		T. J. Dower, M. D., D	1257	
John F. Hanson, Proh	53		Supervisor 1st District:		
John M Work, Soc	34		W. S. Butler, R	284	
L. H. Weller, Peo	3		B. C. Budolfson, D	421	137
Lieutenant Governor,		Second District:			
John Herriott, R	1837	688	S W. McKinney, R	309	
			Frank White, D	352	43



**CORRECTIONS.**

A, indicates the first column; B, the second column; and "—," the words, "instead of."

Page	Line	Correction
65	B 18,	Powers, — Byers.
130	A 21,	Omit "visited."
156	A 25,	1855, — 1854.
165	B 41,	Nov. 19, — 15.
166	B 4,	Dec 17, — 20.
174	A 32,	Add "Croker" County.
195	B 24,	Nov. 8, 1874, — Nov. 7, 1872.
219	A 44,	1873, — 1871.
232	A 9,	David, — Mr.
286	A 10,	1887, — 1890.
289	B 46,	June 2, 1894, — Nov. 1, 1897.
295	B 29,	In 1872, — 1880.
297	A 1-27,	Omit.
312	A 38,	F. H. Plumb, — J. H. Lighter.
314	B 7,	Saylor — Sayley.
337	A 6,	Henry and H. A., — C. and A.
352	A 31,	Svedjje, — Schwady.
361	B 50	J. P. Robinson, — J. R. Johnson.
422	B 43,	McCarthy, — McCartan.
441	B 8,	Aug. 15, — —.
455	A 3,	1890, — 80.
479	A 22,	Norma, Emily and Charlotte, — Norma and Emily.
483	"	"Clinton," — "Center," at the top.
"	B 21,	Seely—70.75, — 70-75.
486	B 31,	1896, — 1886.
487	"	"Clinton," — "Center," at the top.
510	A	Footnote, 286, — 144.
510	B	" 506, — 300.
513	A 47,	Add "Michael," after "Crahan."
532	A 14,	Eldest, — youngest.
"	B 38,	Seven, — six; and add "Fletcher S." after "Paul B."
"	B 47,	Age of "19," — 30.
533	A 1,	1887, — 1881.
"	A 12,	His father, — Howard.
536	B 41,	'74, 82, — '74-82.
540	B 47,	6—George, a son by his first wife, lives in Minnesota and has three children.
557	"	Colfax, — Des Moines, at the top.
567	A 12,	1882, — 1877.
"	A 22,	1860, — 1861.
"	A 27,	1867, — 1866.
"	A 31,	1894, — 1893.
568	A 46,	1882, — 1880.
577	A 44-47,	Englert, — English.
"	A 46,	Sec. 4, — 6.
583	A 15,	Sec. 32, — 29.
597	A 12,	C. H. Tollefsrude, — H. C.
600	B 13,	Synsteliien, — Myustelien.
603	A 41,	Recorder, L. E. Hanson, — Auditor.
607	A 34,	1890, — 1900.
"	A 35,	Sec. 29, — 16.
"	B 22-23,	Barn, is 40x48, — house.
609	B 10,	Parents, — wife.
614	B 8,	Fall of 1870, — Spring of 1871.
615	B 3,	Matthias, — Matthew.
"	B 21,	Amundsrud, — Amundsand.
"	B 39,	Sec. 36, — 32.
616	A 5,	Nordre, — Norder.
"	A 9,	Near, — on.
"	A 31,	Cottage was not moved,—a new house was built in 1892.
616	B 8,	First, — second.
"	B 25,	Cows, — sheep.
614	A 39-40,	James M. Tibbetts, — I. N.
663	B 23,	Seven, — eleven.
671	A 3,	Lucy, — Lizzie.
672	B 31,	of, — at.
673	B 37-38,	Steckelburg, — Streckelberg.
680	B 38,	50, — 15.
681	A 31,	Sec. 30, — 8.
682	A 14,	Richey, — Ritchie.
687	B 44,	Carl G. in 1888, — Julius in 1886.
"	B 47,	1890, — 1892.
"	B 48,	Six children,—Josephine, Julius, Gustave I. Victor, Edward and Elmer, — five, Julius, etc.
693	A 14,	of, — at.
702	A 41,	E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , — E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .
704	A 11,	John C., — George.
707	B 20,	Milton S., — W.
712	B 30,	590 acres, — 462.
723	A 3,	Brother-in-law, — brother.
"	B 24,	Three, — two; and to the next line add, "Mrs. John Barnes of Powhatan."
726	A 33,	Fanny, — Catherine.
727	B 6,	two, — a few.
"	B 40,	Oregon, — Washington.
734	A 1,	Name of C. L. Fliut, '90-91," should follow A. Hudak, on the previous page.
736	A 14,	W. S. Cox, — Leonard Sease; latter was his deputy.
"	A 38,	W. S. Cox, — Leonard Sease,
744	B 6,	Jessie A. in 1899 married Geo. Rollin Schryver, — May, etc.
"	B 8,	May, a teacher, — Jessie R.
756	B 3,	Christian F., — Charles.
774	A 48,	18th U. S., — III.
775	A 34,	Chavis, — Clavis
793	A 23,	Potter, '93, 1901; — '93—1901.
793	A 32,	Edwin, — Edward.
"	B 2,	1903, — 1902.
794	A 13	& 18, Edwin, — Edward.
"	A 46,	Brete C., — Burt.
"	A 34,	The, — then.
"	B 46,	Richards '82, — '83.
795	B 13,	1903, — 1902.
"	B 18,	John F., — William J.
798	B 9,	Iowa "had", — has.
800	A 13,	1881, — 1880.
"	A 38,	These varieties of apple trees, — the varieties of apples.
801	A 36,	Have, — has.
"	B 2,	to, — in.
"	B 22,	Colleges, — college.
803	A 9,	Country, — county.
"	A 28,	Wrested, — wrestled.
805	B 16,	b, 1876, — 1873.
"	B 17	& 22, Terril, — Terrell.
806	A 24,	Insert "at" after "were."
"	A 38,	Putaski, — Puaski,
808	B 16,	R. R. Jim, — Tim.
836	B 27,	Votlucka, — Volutka.
838	B 46,	1877, — 1875.
839	A 4,	add "Carl A. and Wilhelmina are at home,"



**A REPRESENTATIVE HOME, 16x24, OF A PIONEER FARMER.**  
Built by George Sanborn in 1870, on Sec. 34, Cedar Township.

# INDEX.

An alphabetical list of the portraits and other engravings will be found at the beginning of the volume.

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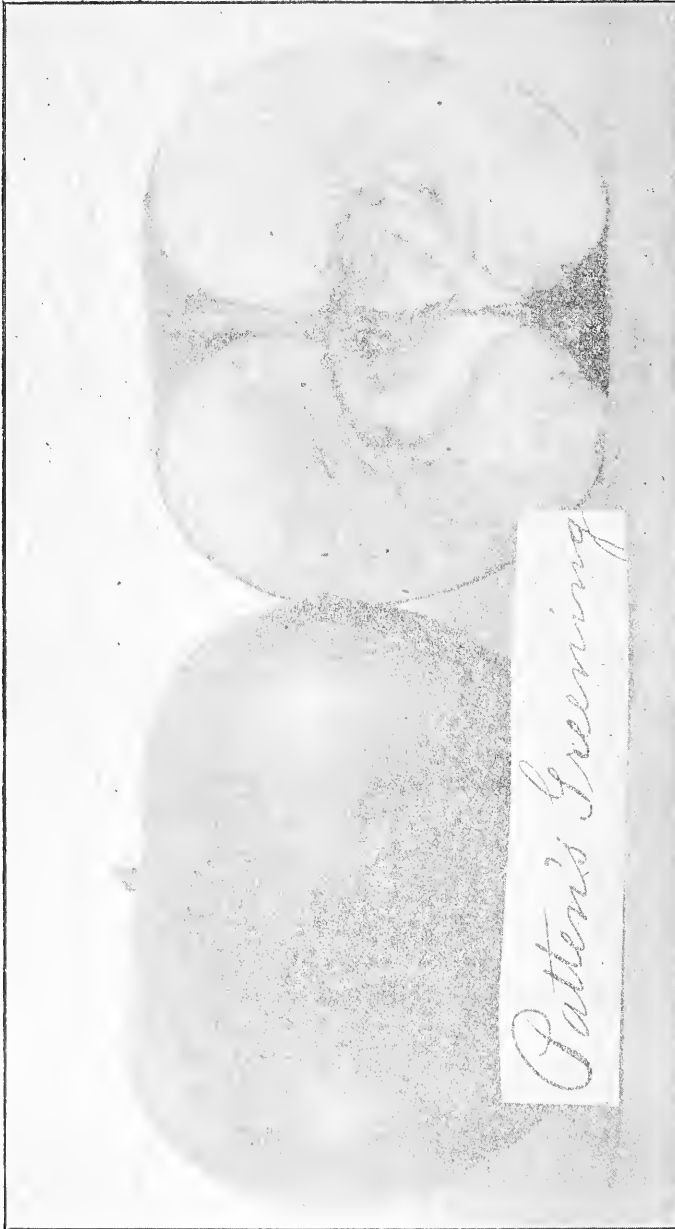
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**Hardy in Northwest Iowa.**

Per favor of Iowa Horticultural Society.

# ADDENDA.

## Pocahontas County Farmers' Institute.



meeting was held in the court house at Pocahontas, Monday evening, January 28, 1904, for the purpose of effecting the organization of a farmers' institute in this county. B. B. Foster served as chairman and W. S. Clark as secretary of this meeting. After an address by Judge Quarton, F. E. Freeman gave a report of the Calhoun County institute, which he had attended the previous week. W. S. Clark, F. E. Freeman, E. G. Fargo, J. A. Terry and O. P. Malcolm were appointed a committee of arrangements, with power to extend invitations to at least three representative men from each township to meet at Pocahontas on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 9th, for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization.

At the meeting held Feb. 9, 1904, the Pocahontas County Farmers' Institute was duly organized. Nearly every township in the county was represented. The meeting was called to order by B. B. Foster, who briefly stated its object. Henry Parsons, secretary of the Calhoun County Farmers' Institute, was present and made some timely suggestions in regard to organization. Sixty persons were enrolled as members. The membership was limited to farmers, and the membership fee was fixed at fifty cents. About twenty five others paid a fee of twenty five cents and were enrolled as honorary members.

The election of officers for the first year resulted as follows: President, Anthony Hudek, Pocahontas; vice president, Louis Brodsky, Pocahontas; secretary, Rev. C. W. Clifton, Havelock; treasurer, J. M. Schall, Havelock. Executive committee:

O. F. Olson, Washington township; Fred Hawley, Marshall; Charles L. Gunderson, Center; Raymond Lilly, Dover; Gerhard B. Carstens, Lizard township.

John Thompson, associate editor of the Farmer's Tribune, Des Moines, addressed the meeting on the selection and breeding of seed corn. March 4th and 5th were selected as the time for holding the first annual institute.

The first annual institute was held at Pocahontas March 4th and 5th, 1904. Anthony Hudek presided and the constitution and by-laws presented by Charles L. Gunderson were adopted. The program was one of interest and profit to every one present. It included several addresses by Prof. James Atkinson of the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames, and a number of excellent papers and addresses by leading farmers of the county. Among the latter were M. W. Linnan, who addressed the meeting on behalf of the Meat Producers' Association, that had met to effect a county organization on March 3rd, previous; Charles L. Gunderson, on the new road law; A. H. Richey, on taxes and assessments; Fred Hawley, on Poultry for Profit; J. C. Pattee, on the most profitable house for the farm; W. E. Pirie, on Rural Telephones; C. M. Saylor, on Bee Culture; B. C. Boysen of Sherman township, on tile drainage; and J. H. Allen, Esq., on the new drainage law.

Arrangements were made for the distribution of a peck of good seed corn, to the members of the organization soliciting it, on the condition that a bushel be returned from the crop thereof, accompanied with an account of its cultivation and results.

## Fonda and Palmer Rural Routes.

D. W. Newell, of the postoffice department, in January 1904, visited and approved two routes from Fonda, that were established as follows:

April 1, 1904, Fonda, No. 1,—J. R. Johnson, carrier: North, through west Cedar and Dover, to the Lilly

creamery; thence south by the Weaver school house to Fonda. Length 25 miles, area covered 39 square miles, 105 houses, 525 people served.

April 1, 1904, No. 2,—Aaron R. Peterson, carrier: South one half mile, east four and a half, north

through Colfax and Grant to Rusk; one north, two west, thence south to Fonda. Length 27 miles, area covered 38 square miles, 110 houses, 550 people served.

April 16, 1904, Palmer, No. 1, was established, Anthony Larson, carrier. This route extends south four miles to the south east corner of section 29,

Bellville; east two miles, north three, then three miles east to the south east corner of section 7, Lizard; one mile north, two west, four north, two west, thence two south to the south east corner section 28, Lincoln; one west, two south and two east to Palmer. Length 30 miles, 125 houses, 625 people served.

## The First Graduates at Pocahontas.

Pocahontas secured the erection of a fine brick public school building in 1902-3. It is 64x76 feet and cost \$21,000. The first class to graduate from this high school consisted of four persons and they graduated May 27, 1904.

The historic importance of this event appears in the statement of the fact that Pocahontas was the last of the seven towns founded in Pocahontas county during the period, 1870 to 1882, to send forth a class of graduates. It marks the end of a period of ten years, 1894-1904, during which the high schools of the county in the older towns were sufficiently developed to send forth their first classes or pioneer graduates. The first class consisted of 6 persons and they graduated at Fonda in 1894. In 1904 the number that graduated from the high schools of Pocahontas county, including Gilmore City, which is on the county line, was 47. Their names and the institutions represented were as follows:

FONDA—Martha Eaton, Pearl Eaton, Anna Byrne, Velma Brown, Edith Brock, Flo Sargent, Katie Fitzgerald, Sarah Weaver, Daisy Farrell, May Farrell, Wilbur Moffitt, Guy Wilde, Verne Wood, Fletcher Herrald.—13.

GILMORE CITY—Gazella M. Warren, Florence Hogan, May Higgins, Guy E. Daniels.—4.

\*HAVELOCK—Walter Cleveland, Maud Smith, Mattie McCaffree, Jessie Pogle, Gilford Greene.—5.

LAURENS—Selma Carlson, Patricia Bunton, Dorothy Roehlk, May Armstrong, Harold Winsor, David Beck-

strom, Arnold Hakes.—7.

SHAW—Lucy Shaw, Prentice J. Shaw, Arlo Shaver, Wright Postin.—4.

POCAHONTAS—Mary Ellen Simpson, Grace Fritz, Helen Lydia Fritz, Gene Estella Wallace.—4.

ROLFÉ—Blanche Cuff, Pearl Snyder, Fae Squires, Mayme Crahan, Mae Kent, Don McEwen, Frank Ritchey, Linn Jorgenson, Gustave Everson, Roy Campbell, 10. Total, 47.

Buena Vista College, established at Storm Lake in 1891, having secured an endowment of \$50,000 in 1902, sent forth its first class of four graduates from its Collegiate department, June 9, 1904. This fact is noted merely as a coincidence.

It is easy to see from the facts just stated that Pocahontas county has entered upon a new educational era that suggests greater general intelligence on the part of the people. Almost forty years of the county's history had passed before the first high school class was graduated. In ten years the annual output of graduates has increased from six to forty-seven, or more than seven-fold. It will continue to increase with passing years. This greater intelligence of the rising generation will find its expression in even better educational facilities, in improved methods of road-making, drainage, crop, stock and fruit raising and, no doubt also, in the general management of the public affairs of the county. The forward movement made by the farmers of this county immediately after the tour of Prof. Holden in April, 1904, when, from a special car

\*HAVELOCK GRADUATES. A correction of the list on page 794.

1895.—Brete C. Nowlan, from a ten-year course.

1896.—Lucy W. Potter, Ada Grace Harvey, Emma Cornelia Gill, Grace D. Speer, Fay C. Thomas, Myra Ella Harmon, John Raymond Tumbleson, Edward R. Nowlan, Litta Tumbleson, Myrtle Luella Strong; also from the ten-year course. The course was then increased to twelve years and there were no graduates in 1897, 1900, or 1902.

1898.—Lucy W. Potter, who continued her studies after completing the first course in 1896. She was the first full-course graduate.

1899.—Grace V. Smith, George A. Tumbleson.—2.

1901.—James A. Adams, Nina R. Sceright, John F. O'Brien.—3.

1903.—Blanche Spratt, Clara O'Brien, Mary Donohoe, Anna Goodchild, Lizzie Harmon.—5. Total, 21.

he addressed them at Gilmore City, Rolfe, Plover, Laurens, Ware, Pocahontas and Palmer on the importance of planting and raising good seed corn, so as to secure three corn-bearing stalks at every hill and thereby increase the annual yield of that important cereal twenty to thirty bushels an acre, is a good practical illustration of similar forward movements along other lines, that will soon be made by the intelligent and

enterprising people of Pocahontas county. As expressed by Cleveland Coxé:

"We are living, we are dwelling  
In a grand and awful time;  
In an age on ages telling  
To be living is sublime.

Oh, let all the soul within you,  
For the truth's sake go abroad;  
Strike! let every nerve and sinew  
Tell on ages, tell for God."

## A Legend of Pocahontas County.

By C. M. Doxsee, Rolfe, Iowa.

Not many hundred years ago,  
Before the white man came,  
To drive away the indian  
From off this fertile plain,  
The red man's tribe, all up and down  
What now is Crooked Creek,  
Had staked his tents and lived on game  
Brought in from week to week.

The elk and deer that roamed the field  
Soon fell an easy prey;  
The muskrat and the prairie dog,  
Each had its own best day;  
The crane in summer left its wing  
And filled the boiling pot;  
And when a special feast was asked  
A tender dog was shot.

The tribe increased as years went by,  
And maidens fair to see  
Had never made a visit, to  
Another tribe's tepee,  
Except when they would go as wife  
Of some young Indian brave,  
Who had traveled miles these girls  
From maidenhood to save.

They had not looked upon a face,  
Except a dusky red;  
And when the white man first appeared,  
In fear the women fled.  
Not so the braves. They stood their ground,  
And old chief Powhatan  
Gave orders for his warriors bold  
To setze and bind the man.

The warriors did as they were to'd,  
And brought him strongly bound  
Before the king of all the tribes,  
And placed him on the ground.  
The king then ordered all his braves  
Around this man to dance,  
To ascertain by this rude means  
What decree he should advance.

When they had danced some three whole  
days,  
The old king heard a cry  
From a spirit, deciding that  
This man must surely die.  
The block was brought, his head was laid  
Upon the icy stone,  
And as the club was raised aloft,  
From one there came a moan.

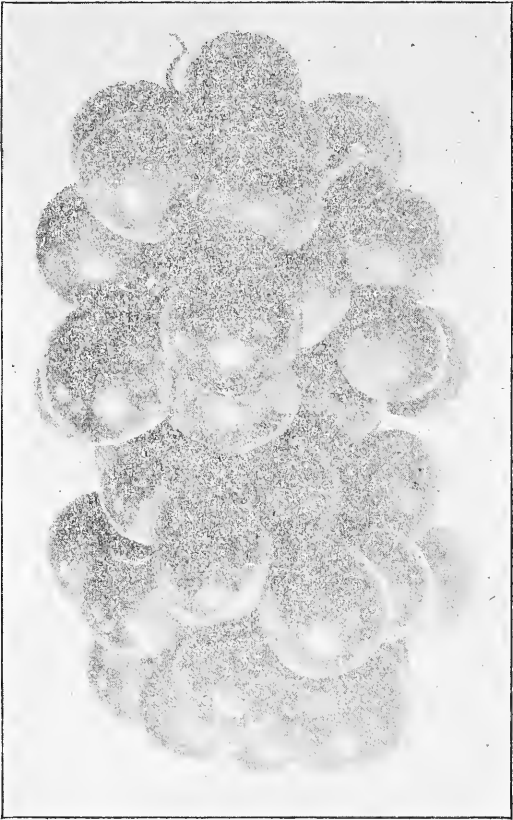
'Twas Pocahontas; to rescue  
The doomed she quickly ran,  
And in her Indian tongue exclaimed,  
"Kill me but spare this man."  
The king stood motionless and gazed;  
The hot blood warmed his heart;  
He motioned to his braves and said,  
"Take this young girl apart.

"Unloose the cords that bind this man,  
We'll let our captive free,  
And Pocahontas, my own brave girl,  
This land your own shall be."  
So they called it, Pocahontas,  
A name that stands today;  
And the news of this girl's riches  
Reached white ears far away.

Ere many moons had shed their light  
Upon this eventful place,  
The brave young girl of Crooked Creek  
Had married a pale face.  
John Rolfe is the name the pale face bore,  
And when he won her hand,  
He asked if she would not give him  
One half her fertile land.

This best she said I will not grant,  
And brought her small foot down,  
But if 'twill suit you just as well  
I'll give to you this town.  
So Rolfe is the name they gave the town,  
To the county, Pocahontas  
With fertile fields and willing hands  
No power on earth can daunt us.

The End.



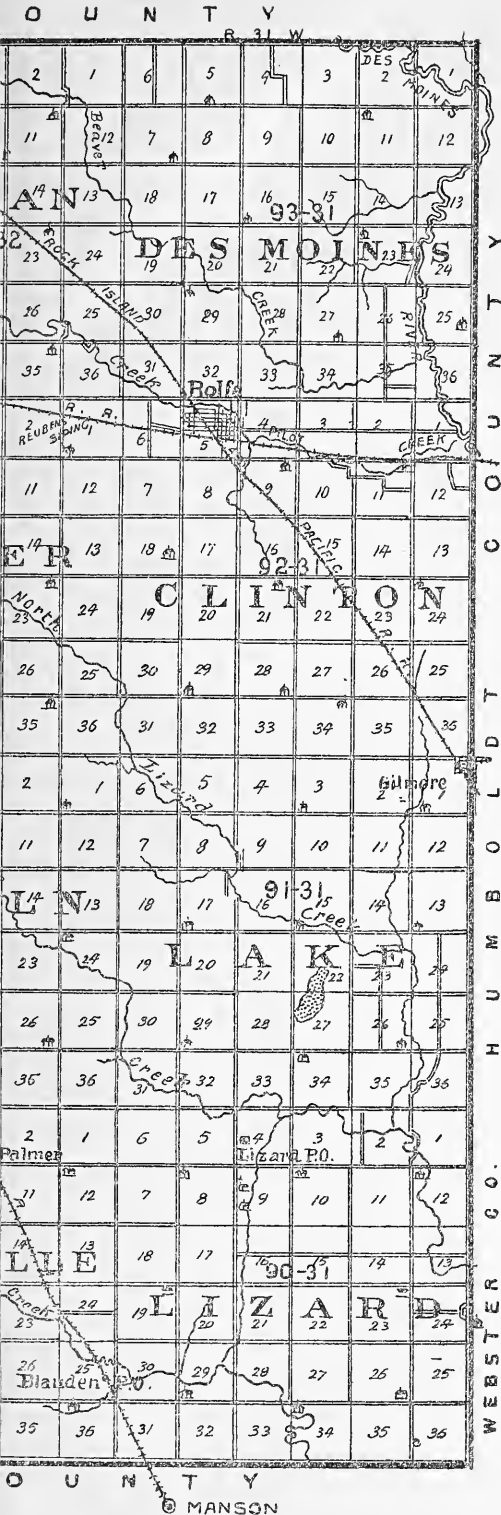


# Pocahontas County, Io

Per favor of J. H. Lighter, editor and proprietor of the F







### THE TOWNSHIPS.

Arranged according to the date of their establishment, and their population, including their towus, in 1890 and 1900.

Township	Date Estab.	1890 Pop.	1900
Des Moines, 93-31	Feb. 19, 1859	474	658
Lizard, 90-31	Feb. 19, 1859	624	682
Clinton, 92-31	Sept. 15, 1860	1077	1731
Rolf	1881	529	994
Powhatan, 93-32	Sept. 3, 1866	618	920
Plover	1883	100	187
Bellville, 90-32	June 6, 1870	576	801
Palmer	1899		30
Blenden	1901		
Cedar, 90-34	June 6, 1870	1069	1775
Fonda	1870	625	1180
Grant, 91-33	June 6, 1870	455	695
Rusk	1892		15
Dover, 91-34	Sept. 6, 1870	552	804
Lilly	1897		10
Varina	1899		30
Colfax, 90-33	Sept. 4, 1871	621	765
Swan Lake, 93-34	Sept. 4, 1871	899	1661
Laurens	1881	318	853
Lincoln, 91-32	June 4, 1872	396	660
Center, 92-32	Sept. 8, 1874	506	1171
Pocahontas	1870	300	625
Washington (93-33)	Sept. 5, 1876	450	1201
Havelock	1882	200	397
Lake, 91-31	June 5, 1877	490	776
Gilmore City	1884	100	204
Sherman, 92-33	Apr. 5, 1880	341	629
Ware	1900		20
Marshall, 92-34	June 5, 1882	420	604
Garfield, 92-31, -sec 5	Sept 11, 1903	548	737
Clinton, sec 5, 92-31	Nov 12, 1903	529	994
Pocahontas county, Feb. 19, 1859	9553	15339	

### NATIVITY OF THE POPULATION OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

	1880	1885	1895	1900
England	107	135	128	
Ireland	188	208	226	
Scotland	30	26	34	
Wales	4	8	7	
Canada	143	165	148	
Norway	117	202	171	
Sweden	282	581	496	
Germany	433	781	986	
Bohemia	144	145	116	
Holland	2	5	9	
Denmark	117	189	211	
Other countries	33	43	91	
Total foreign born	1015	1565	2488	2623
" native born	2698	4587	9954	12716
" population	3713	6154	12442	15339



## **The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County Reviewed and Commended.**

Mr. C. H. Tollefsrude, ex-County Auditor, and compiler of the early history of Grant township.

ROLFE, IOWA, July 23, 1904.

REV. R. E. FLICKINGER, My Dear Sir:

Having had an opportunity to thoroughly examine the advance sheets of the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, and having followed with much interest the serial as published in the Fonda Times, I wish to say that I find it a meritorious work. Its fullness, accuracy, freedom from prejudice, literary style and the excellent character of the portrait work will make it a volume of much worth to Pocahontas county people. It seems to cover, in a happy manner, everything desirable in a work of this kind, and places on record for the future an interesting and true story of our people, our past and present, our material, educational and religious growth to the present time.

Your labor, research and perseverance, I trust, will be correspondingly appreciated by our people. For one I want to thank you very much for having undertaken and so excellently carried the work through. Personally I feel under obligation to you for the conscientious and thorough work you have done for our county and for future generations of our people. I shall certainly be delighted when the book is in my hands.

Yours Truly,  
C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE.

REV. J. F. BRENNAN, Pastor of Saint Mary's Catholic church, Fonda:

Allow me to congratulate you on the excellence of your Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, Iowa. This history interested me very much as it appeared from week to week in the columns of the Fonda Times. It must have taken a vast amount of time and labor to accomplish the work. Let me express the hope, that an educated and enlightened public, such as we have, will appreciate the great work you have done in rescuing from oblivion the early history of one of Iowa's fairest counties. With best wishes.

Aug. 1, 1904.

Respectfully yours,  
J. F. BRENNAN.

HON. JAMES J. BRUCE, Rolfe, Representative in the 21st General Assembly of Iowa, and many years a member of the Board of County Supervisors:

To the People of Pocahontas County: Rev. R. E. Flickinger has in course of publication a comprehensive history of Pocahontas county. I am well acquainted with the scope of the work from first to last, and cheerfully recommend the book to you as a very important and interesting history of the county and its people. Often we pay more than the cost of this history for a work of fiction to satisfy our natural desire for something new. Shall we not find in this record of facts and history of our people something interesting and valuable? Get a copy and you will appreciate it, as well as help a good work.

Aug. 1, 1904.

JAMES J. BRUCE.

WILLIAM D. McEWEN, Esq., Rolfe, Ex-county Auditor, Clerk of the Court, County Judge and Treasurer of Pocahontas County:

The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County is a work of great merit. The author has displayed a thoroughness of research seldom equaled in a work of this kind. It is a clear, lucid and truthful history of the settlement and development of Pocahontas county. It is with pleasure, therefore, that I commend it to the people of Pocahontas county.

Aug. 8, 1904.

Yours truly,  
W. D. McEWEN.

## A Few Unsolicited Testimonials,

to the correctness, completeness and general acceptableness of the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, selected from many that have been received while the work was going through the press.

---

REV. W. M. BEARDSHEAR, D. D., L. L. D., Ames, President of the Iowa State Agricultural College:

Many thanks for the copies of your historic serial. I appreciate most fully the good work you are doing in the historic line.

Nov. 12, 1904.

Sincerely,

W. M. BEARDSHEAR.

---

REV. WILLIAM Y. BROWN, D. D., former pastor of the Boone Presbyterian church, to a friend:

I have glanced through the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, a double column octavo volume, having now 800 pages printed, and I have been charmed with it. I have been perfectly amazed at the amount of work and its quality which Brother Flickinger has been able to do.

July 12, 1902.

Fraternally,

W. Y. BROWN.

---

REV. O. S. BRYAN, Pastor of the M. E. church, Rolfe:

Accept thanks for the copies of the Fonda Times, containing history of the Rolfe M. E. church. Your sketch is correct so far as I can see. I don't think I have anything to add.

Jan. 15, 1901.

Your Bro.,

O. S. BRYAN.

---

REV. GEO. H. DUTY, former pastor of the Presbyterian church at Rolfe:

I was pleased through the history of the Rolfe (Presbyterian) church, and I must confess that the story as you have put it sounds much better than it seemed to me to be when those days were going by. I have passed through so many days since, which were so much harder, and with no seeming result, that the travels and the work of those days are accounted among my happiest.

Feb. 20, 1901.

Very Truly,

GEO. H. DUTY.

---

HON. PHINEAS M. CASADY, Des Moines, ex-senator of Iowa:

Copy of Fonda Times received. Accept thanks. The citizens of Pocahontas county will certainly appreciate the well written history of their county.

Jan. 4, 1899.

Yours Truly,

P. M. CASADY.

---

HON. SAMUEL CALVIN, Director of the Iowa Geological Survey, Des Moines:

I have taken pleasure in looking over your manuscript; find it correct and think it will present a very clear and very short statement of the Paleozoic formations as found in Iowa.

Jan. 30, 1899,

Very Truly Yours,

SAMUEL CALVIN, State Geologist.

---

PROF. AMOS N. CURRIER, Acting President of the Iowa State University, Iowa City:

I have looked over your description of the Iowa State University and find it correct. I send you the newly made cut of the old Capitol building for your County History. I am well pleased with the appearance of the other cuts in the papers you have sent me.

Nov. 21, 1898.

Very Truly Yours,

AMOS N. CURRIER, Acting President.

---

HON. MERTON E. DEWOLF, Laurens, representative in the 27th General Assembly of Iowa:

The proof you sent is very satisfactory. I hear many favorable com-

TESTIMONIALS.

907

ments on your work. I can but wonder how you find time for such exhaustive research.

Jan. 10, 1899.

Yours Truly,

M. E. DEWOLF.

MR. GEORGE FAIRBURN, President and Proprietor of Pocahontas County Bank, Fonda:

I am very much pleased with the proofs of the portraits sent me for the Pioneer History. I have no doubt your history will be highly appreciated.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 4, 1899.

Respectfully,

GEO. FAIRBURN.

MR. WALTER FORD, Clare, a pioneer of Lizard township, an early member of the Board of County Supervisors:

I am in receipt of a copy of the Fonda Times, showing the early (1859) transactions in Pocahontas county. The article is very correct and the facts are carefully given. You surely ought to have great credit for your work and the pains taken.

May 2, 1899.

Respectfully,

WALTER FORD,

PROF. JAMES C. GILCHRIST, Havelock, ex-President of the Iowa State Normal School, at Cedar Falls:

I cannot refrain from complimenting the good work which you have done and are doing for the Christian cause, for society and good government. May you have health and strength to continue.

Feb. 18, 1897.

Very Cordially Yours,

J. C. GILCHRIST.

HON. FRED C. GILCHRIST, Laurens, Representative in the 29th General Assembly of Iowa:

I am exceedingly well pleased with your account of my father's life and works. The facts are correctly stated.

Nov. 19, 1902.

Yours Truly,

FRED C. GILCHRIST.

COL. JOHN B. KENT, Rolfe, Representative in the 28th General Assembly of Iowa:

I think you are doing a good work in writing an accurate history of Pocahontas county. A work such as you are writing, in which you gather the early history of our county before a great deal of it is forever obliterated, is of great value not only for the present but for future generations.

Feb. 21, 1901.

Yours Truly,

J. B. KENT.

MR. THOMAS L. MACVEY, Jennings, Louisiana, ex-Recorder of Pocahontas County:

I have read your history of Pocahontas County up to date and must congratulate you on its correctness. It is a grand work and should be in the library of every home in the county.

Nov. 24, 1902,

Yours in Haste,

THOMAS L. MACVEY.

MR. JOHN M. RUSSELL, San Francisco, Cal., a former resident of Lizard township:

I sincerely wish your reverence much success in your laudable task of producing the History of Pocahontas County. It was much like a letter from my distant home to receive the Fonda Times with your interesting narrative.

April 2, 1902.

JOHN M. RUSSELL.

MISS MARGARET E. RUSSELL, Lizard township:

I am so well pleased with the sketch of my father's life, Philip Russell, since he arrived on the Lizard, that I would like you would send me several copies of the Fonda Times containing it. I have looked carefully over all the proofs of the portraits sent me and I think they are excellent. I hope

## TESTIMONIALS.

you will meet with success in your good work.

March 8, 1899.

Yours Respectfully,

MARGARET E. RUSSELL.

PRENTICE J. SHAW, Secretary and Treasurer of the Pocahontas County Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Co., Rolfe:

The write up of the Pocahontas County Mutual Insurance Co. for the Pioneer History, as it appears in the copy of the Fonda Times, is correct and in good shape. Please accept thanks not only from me but through me from our association.

Yours Very Truly,

Jan. 28, 1901.

P. J. SHAW, Secretary.

CAPT. FRANCIS E. BEERS, Gilmore City, captain of the Rolling Wave and of the first steamboat to reach Fort Dodge on the Des Moines river:

I hereby certify that the account, in the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, of the trips of the Rolling Wave, a wheelboat, in 1858; and of the Charles Rogers, up and down the Des Moines river from Keokuk to Fort Dodge, in 1859, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. This certificate is given because the accounts I have hitherto read have been inaccurate in many of their statements.

Feb 3, 1902.

F. E. BEERS.

MR. C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE, Rolfe, ex-Auditor of the county, and early resident and historian of Grant township:

I am highly pleased at the way the Pioneer Women of Grant township appear in the history, and thank you very much for arranging the matter relating to them so well. It seems to me that the Pioneer History, so far, has been admirably written in an exceptionally happy and pleasing style. It has been very interesting, and I am glad you took hold of the work as you did and at the time you did. The future at least will appreciate your work of compiling the early history of the county and it will have a good and reliable foundation on which to build continuations or future histories of Pocahontas county.

Very Truly,

June 19, 1901.

C. H. TOLLEFSRUDE.

MR. JOHN FRASER, Rolfe, a pioneer of Powhatan township:

You are taking an exceedingly great amount of labor in getting up this history of our county. I hope the citizens will appreciate your labor and interest.

Yours Respectfully,

May 26, 1898.

JOHN FRASER.

THE FONDA TIMES, Aug. 4, 1898, George Sanborn, Editor:

It is not necessary that we should say, that the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County will be as thorough and accurate as it will be possible to make it.

THE POCAHONTAS RECORD, Pocahontas, Port C. Barron, Editor, 1898:

Rev. R. E. Flickinger is now at work on a history of this county. There seems to be a demand for a complete history of the county and the old settlers have been so kind in furnishing facts in regard to its early history that the volume will probably be double the size it was first intended. Mr. Flickinger is an able writer and the book when issued will be well worth the price that may be charged; for those interested will secure a volume that will not only contain the biographies of all the leading citizens, but will have much of the early history of the county never before seen in print. We hope this venture will prove a financial success.

THE POCAHONTAS SUN, Laurens, Feb. 16, 1899, Louie E. Large, Editor:

We are in receipt of a neat booklet, entitled, The Story of Pocahontas, from the pen of Rev. R. E. Flickinger; the same being a chapter relating to Capt. John Smith and the Indian Princess, Pocahontas, from the forthcoming Pioneer History of Pocahontas County. Mr. Flickinger is a natural historian and a strong writer; no matter whether the subject requires the narrative or descriptive style, it is always interesting and instructive. He is endowed with a happy faculty of knowing just what to retain and what to omit. His history of the county will be an interesting one.

# The Fonda Times

Published at Fonda, Iowa, by the Fonda Publishing and  
Printing Company, L. W. Chandler, editor  
is the

## **The Oldest, Largest and Best Newspaper in Pocahontas County.**

**Established at Old Rolfe, April 6, 1876.**

**Transferred to Pocahontas, Oct. 10, 1876.**

**Transferred to Fonda, May 9, 1878.**

The name was changed from Pocahontas to Fonda Times, June 21, 1894. It has been published by the Fonda Publishing and Printing Company since Jan. 1, 1901.

Pocahontas County is one of the fairest in the State of Iowa. The soil of her gently rolling prairies is unsurpassed in productiveness, and the people are both intelligent and progressive. One factor that has contributed greatly to the realization of the present development has been the local county newspaper. When this county was a howling wilderness one local paper,

### **THE POCAHONTAS, now FONDA TIMES**

raised its voice and predicted its glorious future. In later years other newspapers have been established and, swelling the chorus of praise, people seeking new and comfortable homes, have heard of the attractions of Pocahontas County, believed, located and are now the possessors of happy homes, productive farms, thriving herds or flourishing business enterprises. The proprietors of the Times point with pride to the leading part performed by the Times in former years in printing frequent special editions to promote the public welfare; and now notes its valuable contribution to the literature of the county in the completion of the splendid volume, entitled, **The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County.**

The Fonda Times has the largest and best equipped printing office in Pocahontas County. All job work is done in the neatest and prettiest manner. Special workmen are employed for doing book work.

The members of the Fonda Publishing and Printing Company are

M. G. COLEMAN, President.

A. S. WOOD.

J. P. MULLEN, Vice President.

L. S. STRAIGHT.

CLAY C. PATTY, Treasurer.

E. H. FAIRBURN.

L. W. CHANDLER, Secretary and Manager.

It shall be the constant aim of its present managers to make The Fonda Times worthy the cordial support of every citizen and family in Pocahontas county.

1899.

1904.



# The Northern Telephone Co.

General Office Fonda, Iowa.

Owens and operates the following exchanges:

FONDA	NEWELL	STORM LAKE
AURELIA	SIoux RAPIDS	GILMORE CITY

**500 Miles of Pole Line**  
**1500 Miles of Wire Line**

Copper metallic circuit from Fort Dodge to Storm Lake. Toll lines in the following counties:

POCAHONTAS	HUMBOLDT	WEBSTER
BUENA VISTA	SAC	CHEROKEE

### 600 Farmer Phones

are connected with these lines and exchanges of the Northern Telephone Company. Persons who want to secure good, prompt and reliable service should talk over the Northern Telephone Company's lines.

OFFICERS:

LEE S. STRAIGHT, Fonda,	-	-	-	-	President.
M. G. COLEMAN, Fonda,	-	-	-	-	Secretary.
A. S. WOOD, Fonda	-	-	-	-	Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

LEE S. STRAIGHT.	GEORGE SANBORN.	LOUIS A. ROTHE.
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**MAP OF IOWA**  
**KENYON PRINTING & MFG. CO.**  
 MAP MAKERS  
**DES MOINES, - IOWA**  
 Copyrighted May 9, 1903  
 Revised March, 1904

SCALE OF M<sup>TS</sup>  
 10 20 30 40 50

Population by Counties  
 CENSUS 1900  
 DATE 2,231,853

Adair	16,192
Adams	13,601
Allamakee	18,711
Appanoose	25,927
Audubon	13,626
Benton	25,177
Blackhawk	32,398
Bloom	28,200
Bremer	16,985
Buchanan	21,427
Buena Vista	16,975
Butler	17,955
Calhoun	18,569
Carroll	20,319
Cass	21,274
Cedar	19,371
Charles	20,675
Cherokee	16,570
Chickasaw	17,037
Clarke	12,440
Clay	13,401
Clayton	27,750
Clinton	43,392
Crawford	21,685
Dallas	23,058
Davis	15,620
Decatur	18,115
Delaware	19,185
Des Moines	35,989
Dickinson	7,992
Dubuque	56,405
Emmet	9,936
Fayette	29,845
Floyd	17,754
Franklin	14,996
Fremont	18,546
Greene	17,820
Grundy	13,757
Guthrie	18,729
Hamilton	19,514
Hancock	13,752
Hardin	22,794
Harrison	25,497
Henry	20,022
Howard	14,512
Humboldt	12,667
Ida	12,327
Iowa	19,544
Jackson	23,615
Jasper	26,976
Jefferson	17,437
Johnson	24,817
Jones	21,954
Keokuk	24,979
Kossuth	22,720
Lee	39,719
Linn	55,392
Louisia	13,516
Lucas	16,128
Lyon	13,165
Madison	17,710
Mahaska	34,273
Marion	24,153
Marshall	29,991
Mills	16,764
Mitchell	14,916
Monona	17,950
Monroe	17,955
Montgomery	17,803
Muscatine	25,242
O'Brien	16,965
Osceola	8,725
Page	24,187
Palo Alto	14,354
Plymouth	22,009
Pocahontas	15,339
Polk	82,624
Pottawattamie	54,336
Poweshiek	19,414
Ringgold	15,325
Sac	17,639
Scott	51,558
Shelby	17,932
Sioux	23,337
Story	23,169
Tama	24,555
Taylor	18,784
Union	19,938
Van Buren	17,354
Wapello	35,426
Warren	20,376
Washington	20,718
Wayne	17,491
Webster	31,857
Winnebago	12,725
Winneshek	23,731
Woodbury	54,610
Worth	10,887
Wright	18,222





# INCORPORATED Towns and Cities in Iowa

OFFICIAL U. S. CENSUS FOR 1900.

Published by the Census Department has as yet issued only list of incorporated towns and cities in Iowa.

Towns and Cities		Population of the U. S. by States and Territories	
M4	3,777	Packwood	J6 284
E3	659	Panama	D5 221
I3	573	Parona	F5 958
C3	718	Parkersburg	I3 1,164
J3	2,007	Parnell	K5 318
K5	4,102	Paton	F4 328
D6	410	Paulina	C3 617
I4	11,544	Pella	I6 2,623
J6	332	Perry	F5 3,986
I6	322	Persia	C5 361
H2	6,746	Peterson	D3 521
E6	475	Pierson	C3 358
B3	280	Pilot Mound	F4 315
H5	810	Plainfield	I3 320
K3	495	Pleasant Plain	K6 230
L5	703	Pleasantville	H6 738
L7	725	Plover	E3 200
H5	366	Pacahontas	E3 625
H7	400	Polk	G5 438
F3	428	Pomeroy	E3 910
C3	432	Portsmouth	C5 316
B3	389	Postville	K2 984
H3	206	Prairie City	H5 808
N4	385	Prestcott	E7 446
D2	485	Preston	N4 593
H6	585	Princeton	N5 456
J7	849	Primghar	C2 814
C5	317	Pulaski	J7 302
G6	328	Rudcliffe	H4 645
C5	4,010	Randolph	C7 373
I2	245	Rathbun	I7 270
H5	768	Redding	F7 311
C5	383	Redfield	F5 509
B5	384	Red Oak	D7 4,355
M4	281	Reinbeck	I4 1,203
L2	674	Rensseny	C3 835
H5	917	Ranwick	G3 350
J5	1,210	Rhodes	H5 476
L4	2,104	Riceville	I2 804
I4	502	Richland	J6 534
L8	748	Ridgeway	I2 371
C5	200	Rippey	F5 395
I7	632	Riverside	K6 698
L6	948	Riverton	C7 687
I4	200	Rockford	H2 1,080
I7	1,420	Rock Rapids	B2 1,766
F7	1,729	Rock Valley	B2 1,054
K7	4,109	Rockwell City	E4 1,222
L5	1,629	Rockwell	H3 830
B4	507	Roland	H4 557
G7	949	Rolfe	F3 994
L6	14,073	Rome	K7 255
I7	1,758	Rose Hill	J6 253
I3	1,268	Rudd	I2 381
C6	921	Russell	H7 636
H5	2,472	Ruthven	E2 787
L2	543	Sabula	N4 1,029
E3	762	Sac City	E4 2,079
J2	2,339	St. Ansgar	I2 608
I3	570	St. Charles	G6 412
L7	1,003	Salem	K7 548
E7	600	Salix	B4 387
H4	268	Sanborn	C2 1,247
J6	1,252	Schaller	D4 661
H5	3,682	Schleswig	D4 233
L6	398	Scranton	E5 983
I2	1,209	Searsboro	I5 263
J6	683	Seymour	H7 1,703
L2	616	Shannon City	F7 380
H2	1,271	Sheffield	H3 688
G6	287	Shelby	D5 692
K5	533	Sheldahl	G5 200
D6	913	Sheldon	C2 2,282
C2	599	Shell Rock	I3 839
D4	1,432	Shellsburg	X4 511
K3	5,142	Shenandoah	D7 3,573
G4	991	Sibley	C2 1,289
L5	692	Sidney	C7 1,143
J6	238	Sigourney	J6 1,952
B4	1,933	Silver City	B6 438
L4	263	Sioux Center	C2 810
B3	1,457	Sioux City	B4 33,111
F6	359	Sioux Rapids	D3 1,005
I2	2,734	Slater	G5 426
G7	2,505	Sloan	B4 642
K6	9,212	Smithland	O4 435
J2	670	Solon	K5 397
C4	396	South English	J6 319
M4	780	Spencer	D2 3,095
K5	664	Spillville	K2 356
C7	732	Spirit Lake	D2 1,219
		Springville	L4 599
		Stacyville	J2 490
		Stanhope	G4 297
		Stanton	D7 404
		Stanwood	L5 415
		State Center	H5 1,008
		Steamboat Rock	I4 410
		Storm Lake	E3 2,169
		Story City	G4 1,197
		Stratford	G4 458
		Strawberry Point	K3 1,012
		Stuart	F6 2,079
		Sumner	J3 1,437
		Superior	D2 200
		Sutherland	D3 722
		Swaledale	H3 240
		Swan	H5 406
		Swea City	F2 322
		Tabor	C7 994
		Tama	I5 2,649
		Templeton	E5 321
		Thayer	F7 394
		Thompson	G2 450
		Thornburg	J6 267
		Thornton	H3 299
		Thor	F3 274
		Thurman	C7 409
		Tingley	F7 488
		Tipton	L5 2,519
		Titonka	F2 224
		Toledo	I5 1,941
		Traer	I4 1,458
		Tripoli	J3 655
		Union	F6 589
		Urbana	K4 223
		Vail	D4 578
		Valley Junction	G5 1,700
		Vanhorn	J5 484
		Van Meter	G5 407
		Van Wert	G7 306
		Victor	J5 612
		Villisca	E7 2,211
		Vincent	F3 200
		Vinton	J4 3,499
		Volga City	K3 444
		Walcott	M5 362
		Walker	K4 505
		Wall Lake	D4 659
		Walnut	D6 878
		Wapello	L6 1,398
		Washington	K6 4,255
		Washita	C3 431
		Waterloo	J4 12,580
		Waucoma	J2 540
		Waukee	G5 292
		Waukon	L2 2,153
		Waverly	J3 3,177
		Wayland	K6 594
		Webster City	G4 4,613
		Wellman	K6 654
		Wellsburg	I4 203
		Wesley	G2 730
		West Bend	F3 538
		West Branch	L5 647
		West Burlington	L7 1,044
		Westchester	K6 209
		Westgate	J3 260
		West Liberty	L5 1,690
		West Mitchell	I2 207
		West Point	L7 654
		Westside	D4 396
		West Union	K3 1,935
		What Cheer	J6 2,746
		Wheatland	M5 475
		Whiting	B4 572
		Whittemore	F2 522
		Whitten	I4 217
		Williamsburg	K5 1,100
		Williams	G4 500
		Wilton	M5 1,233
		Winfield	L6 820
		Winterset	G6 3,039
		Winthrop	K4 618
		Wota	E6 218
		Woodbine	C5 1,255
		Woodburn	G7 467
		Woodward	G5 550
		Woodstock	G3 274
		Worthington	L4 288
		Wyoming	L4 794
		Zearing	H4 388

Population of the U. S. by States and Territories	
STATES	
Alabama	1,828,699
Arkansas	1,311,500
California	1,485,050
Colorado	599,700
Connecticut	908,355
Delaware	184,735
Florida	528,542
Georgia	2,216,331
Idaho	161,772
Illinois	4,821,550
Indiana	2,516,462
Iowa	2,231,873
Kansas	1,470,495
Kentucky	2,147,174
Louisiana	1,981,625
Maine	604,466
Maryland	1,190,050
Massachusetts	2,805,346
Michigan	2,420,987
Minnesota	1,751,394
Mississippi	1,551,270
Missouri	3,106,665
Montana	243,320
Nebraska	1,068,520
Nevada	42,335
New Hampshire	411,588
New Jersey	1,883,660
New York	7,268,712
North Carolina	1,893,810
North Dakota	319,149
Ohio	4,157,541
Oregon	413,536
Pennsylvania	6,302,115
Rhode Island	428,556
South Carolina	1,340,316
South Dakota	401,570
Tennessee	2,020,610
Texas	3,048,710
Utah	276,749
Vermont	343,641
Virginia	1,854,184
Washington	518,103
West Virginia	958,800
Wisconsin	2,060,942
Wyoming	92,531
Total for 45 states..	74,610,523

Territories	
Alaska	63,441
Arizona	122,931
District of Columbia	278,718
Hawaii	154,001
Indian Territory	307,960
New Mexico	195,310
Oklahoma	398,245
Total for 7 territories	1,604,606

General Statistics for Iowa.	
Population	2,231,873
No. School Houses	13,861
No. Colleges	20
Miles of Railroad	9,207
Head of Cattle	4,442,012
Head of Horses and Mules	1,010,621
No. Bushels of Corn raised per year	345,065,040
No. Bushels of Wheat raised per year	21,298,350
No. Bushels of Oats raised per year	138,333,330

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