Bickel Notebook Collection

Iowa Towns

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT.

Lemoliese and Blondeau Among Earliest Settlers in Lee County

SATURDAY. SEPT. 6. 1947

Editor's note: The following historical sketch of Lee County and Keokuk was written in 1937 by Essie M. Britton as part of the federal writers project and is taken from memoirs of Valencourt Van Ausdol.

In 1820, Lemoliese, a French trader, established his trading post at Sandusky, which was first known to the white settlers as Lemoliese, Maurice Blondeau was here at the same time. Isaac R. Campbell, and Captain James W. Campbell, in a speech before the "Old Settlers," previously mentioned, both refer to the improvements made by Lemoliese, as PROBABLY the first made in Southern Iowa, The extent of these improvements was not given, but in all likihood they consisted of nothing more than his trader's cabin and a small patch cultivated in garden vegetables, corn and pumpkin, etc.

To Keokuk in 1827

In 1879, Valencourt Vanausdol, of Keokuk, was, beyond question, the oldest continuous white citizen in the state of Iowa. In 1827, Mr. Vanausdol was a boy ten years of age, living with his brother-in-law, Moses stillwell, a carpenter by trade, at St. Louis, Mo. In the fall of 1827, Stillwell concluded to change his residence from St. Louis to what was then called Indian Territory, at the foot of the Lower Rapids where Keokuk now stands. He placed himself and family and young Vanausdol on board the old steamboat Indiana, lying at the wharf at St. Louis, and after six weeks trip the boat landed them at the site of the present city of Quincy, Illinois. The steamer was a small concern, of little power, and so very slow that a keelboat coming up the river passed her several times during the trip. The same fall Stillwell and family, including Vanausdol, came in an ox-wagon from Quincy to old Fort Edwards, now Warsaw, Illinois, and wintered in the Fort. In the spring of 1828, they moved from that fort in canoe to the opposite side of the river, and settled at the foot of the rapids, where Vanausdol has lived ever since. During the winter, Stillwell had come over to the foot of the falls and built two cabins, one of which he occupied with his family when they removed from Fort Edwards at the time mentioned.

Indians Numerous

In those days. Indians were numerous on both sides of the Mississippi River, but were friendly and inoffensive to the few whites amongst them. Vanausdol says that Moses Stillwell and his wife, and their four children and himself, were the only white residents at the foot of the rapids in the spring of 1828, and if there was a white inhabitant besides them in any portion of the country which now constitutes the State of Iowa, he was not aware of the fact. Stillwell's cabin, where he first located, stood near where is now the foot of Main Street, Keokuk, and a little farther up the hill he cut off the trees and cleared and fenced some ground and raised potatoes and corn in the summer of 1828, He lived there two years, and then built a cabin on the bank of the river near the foot of High Street, which he made the residence of himself and family until his death, about 1834.

When Vanausdol came to the present site of Keokuk with Stillwell in the spring of 1828, the ground was covered with heavy timber. The woods were full of wild turkeys, deer, squirrels and other wild game native to the country. He saw any number of turkeys and deer killed on the ground now occupied by Keokuk. A person could go out at any time and without going over half a mile from the river, in an hour's hunt load himself down with game.

For several years after their arrival here, their only meat was wild game. There was plenty of honey. The woods were full of wild bees, and Vanausdol helped cut down many trees with hives of bees and rich stores of honey in them on the present plat of Keokuk. Stillwell's business between his arrival here and the time of his death, was in cutting wood and selling it to steamboats which occasionally passed up the river, and selling to the Indians calicoes, blankets, knives and trinkets, which he received from St. Louis.

Galland Came in 1829

Dr. Isaac Galland came next in the list of early white settlers. He came from Edgar County, Illinois, in 1829. Those who knew him say he was a man of rare genius, and that his busy brain was always busy forming new schemes, and that his ready pen could describe anything in which he was interester, in glowing colors. He was quite a character in his time, and achieved an almost national reputation because of a number of public and prominent transactions in which he took a leading part especially when he became opposed to the New York Land Company. Dr. Galland died in Fort Madison, in 1858. Eleanor, his daughter (now Mrs. McPherson, at Ottumwa), says Mrs. Isaac R. Campbell, was the first white female child born in the territory of Lee County.

In 1830, Isaac R. Campbell and family moved over from Nauvoo, or Commerce, as it was then called, and settled at the site of Galland's ideal city—Nashville. He remained there until March, 1831, and then removed to the foot of the falls and occupied a log house that had been built by Dr. Muir. In his letter to Hon. Edward Johnstone and published in the July (1867) number of the ANNALS OF IOWA, Mr. Campbell mentioned the name of Berryman Jennings' who taught a school at Nashville in 1830. There was also a Dedman family, who first came to the Mississippi River in 1828, and to Nashville in 1830, and remained there until the Black Hawk War excitement when they re-crossed the Mississippi River and sought safety and protection at Fort Edwards. Tollifer Dedman, one of the sons, was a resident of Clark County Missouri.

Samuel Brierly, the father of James Brierly, one of Lee County's first Legislative representatives, occupied the old Lemoliese cabin in 1831.

To this list of early first settlers might be added the name of the present well-known and highly esteemed Capt. James W. Campbell, although he was a mere lad then. He grew to manhood on this part of the Black Hawk Purchase, and saw it redeemed from the Indian wild and made a garden of beauty, wealth and intelligence.

Tesson Here in 1796

The names herein quoted, according to the best souces of information, represent the entire white and civilized population of what was Lee County: at the close of the year 1831. Counting from the time it is believed Tesson settled at the "Old Orchard" (in 1796), thirty-five years had passed since the first attempt was made to plant the standard of civilization in Southern Iowa, instruct the Indians in the arts of agricultural industry and convert them to the religion of the Roman Catholic Church. The progress of settlement was slow, but there were many hindrances. When Tesson first came here, all that vast region west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean was under the domination of Spain. From April, 1803, until after the Black Hawk Purchase was opened to white settlement in 1833, it was as effectually barred against white occupancy as if it had remained under the ownership and government of foreign powers. It was an Indian wild—nothing more—into which a few Indian traders like Tesson, and honest white men whom the Indians liked, as Mr. Isaac R. Campbell, occasionally found their way, and in that condition it remained until the Indian right to possession expired in 1833.

Mr. Valencourt Vanausdol, whom we have quoted, says, after the American Fur Company commenced business at Puck-e-she-tuck, now Keokuk, large crowds of Sac

2.

and Fox Indians were generally about the foot of the rapids, when not on a hunt, Winnebago, Chippewa and Menominee Indians came here with their furs to trade, sometimes, but as they were not on very friendly terms with the Sacs and Foxes, they were rather watchful when they came about.

The Indians brought immense quantities of buffalo, elk, deer, wolf, coon, mink, otter, beaver and muskrat skins to trade to the whites for such things as suited them in exchange, especially blankets, knives, trinkets and whisky.

Favorite Drinking Place

They were exceedingly fond of whisky, but not much in the habit of drinking to excess unless by prearrangement to get on a "big drunk," when a certain number were appointed to stay sober and protect the drunken ones from doing harm to themselves or others. Their favorite places for having "big drunks" were at what was known as the mouth of Bloody Run, and on the bank of the Mississippi River, where Anchutz's brewery was built later. During these sprees the days and nights were made hideous with the howls and war-hoops of the Indian bacchanalians.

At the commencement of the Black Hawk War in the early summer of 1832, there was only about a dozen families at Puck-e-she-tuck. There were a number of unmarried men, but the entire male population did not exceed fifty. including boys large enough to be made available in repelling an Indian attack. The American Fur Company sold their buildings, etc., to Isaac R. Campbell, and all the traders adandoned the place. This reduced the resident male population to Mr. Campbell and thirty-four employes. Jenifer T. Spriggs, who had come on to survey the Half-Breed Tract of land, and who was an inmate of Mr. Campbell's family, thought it advisable to garrison the place, and a stockade was built. The men were organized into a company to do duty in case of an attack, and Mr. Spriggs was elected Captain. Mr. Campbell wrote to the commandant at St. Louis for arms, and the company was furnished with one swivil gun, thirty-four muskets and 500 rounds of amunition. Vanausdol then a boy, was made to do duty as a scout, and carried a weekly express to what was then known as Fort Pike, now St. Francisville, Missouri. But the Indians did not come and no one was injured by them during those troubles.

During the excitement consequent upon the Black Hawk War, the Government intrusted to Mr. Campbell's care 1,500 barrels of flour and a large quantity of other stores. The company was promised pay for guarding this property, and orders were given to make out a muster-roll for the purpose of payment. Capt. Spriggs took the roll and went to St. Louis to draw the money, but on the way to St. Louis he lost the roll, and that was the end of it.

DAILY GATE CITY

BIG MOUND GETS NAME CORRECTLY

OCT. 30, 1937

Community Called After Elevation in Earth—Had Postoffice For Half a Century But This Was Closed in 1903.

BIG MOUND, Iowa,—This little rural community, located in Cedar township in northwestern Lee county is quite properly called.

The name—Big Mound—is taken from an elevation of earth in the Frank Taylor field west of the cross roads around which the community has developed.

Comparing in this respect with many other small towns and communities founded in the pioneer days, Big Mound at one time showed signs of being a prosperous center. It had a postoffice, several stores from time to time, churches, schools and gave other indications of active and progressive settlement, but most of these have long since disappeared.

Mail Service.

The postoffice was established here before the Civil war and a Mr. Coffindaffer was the first postmaster. At that time mail was brought here twice a week from Bonaparte. After the war, mail was received each week and later, three times a week.

John Sivil was the last postmaster before the office was closed in 1903.

After the discontinuance of this office, mail was brought here from Mt. Hamill. Now the community is provided with postal service from Hillsboro, Bonaparte, Farmington and Donnellson.

Although several stores have been operated here in the past, Big Mound has none now. Among the storekeepers of the community's history are Heaton and Reed, J. Coffindaffer Jim Anderson, Eli Heaton & Son, James Peaee, T. Bridgemier, Levi Reeder, Charles Blair, George Wiemer and a Mr. Collins.

Levi Reeder also was a blacksmith.

Two churches have been built here since the Civil war but only one of them is still active. The Christian church was built in 1867 on the west side of the crossroad, but has had no service for several years.

William Hemmings. Sr., and the Rev. A. B. Hightshoe, with the help of others, organized the Methodist church here in 1894. Mrs. Margaret Moore donated the ground and the new Methodist Episcopal church was built on the east side of the crossroad in 1896.

The Rev. John Pool was the first minister of the church and the Rev. Charles Orcutt is the present minister. He preaches here each Sunday at 9:30. Archie Hemmings, grandson of the church's founder, is superintendent. The church is a part of the Salem charge.

School Discontinued.

A district school was once located east of the crossroad and this school had its own extra district. It was discontinued about 1919.

Another school which a good many of the older residents attended was the singing school in the Christian church.

Morning Star school is located a mile and a quarter north of here and the Washington school is a mile and a quarter south.

Young folk of this community now attend high school at Salem. Farmington, Bonaparte, Donnellson, Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield and other places.

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1938

OLD LANDMARK PASSES

—Gate City Staff Photo

THE M. BARNES HOMESTEAD
. . . Built of Native Brick . . .

Gutted by fire three weeks ago ,this ancient Charleston township landmark three-quarters of a mile south of Charleston, on U. S. highway 218, is scheduled to become a pile of brick. One of the oldest and most substantial farm residences in that section of Lee county, the five-room house was buitl of hard brick which were made in the yard not more than 100 yards away.

Although legal papers and records were destroyed in the fire, it was said to have been built 90 years ago by Abe Lamb who moved west a few years later and sold the place to John L. Sporr. Before the fire two brothers and two sisters, Hugh, Harry, Kate and Emma Barnes, lived in the house which was still known as the place of their mother, Mrs. Margaret Barnes, who died seven years ago. Another brother, James, lives at Charleston.

In the above photo James and Harry Barnes and Hugh Moodie are looking over the place before work was started razing the walls this week.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION

Did You Know?— FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 1946

Lee Almost Divided Into Two Counties Hundred Years Ago

Many historical events have been reviewed in this year of Iowa's Centennial and among the most interesting in the history of Lee county is the battle over a county seat which raged for several years before and after Iowa became a state.

Almost every town in the county with the exception of Donnellson figured in the political scrap at one time or another in those days and the county seat actually shifted back and forth between Fort Madison and West Point before courts were established in both Keokuk and Fort Madison with concurrent jurisdiction.

Fort Madison in 1837.

Back in 1937 West Point became a thriving little trading center and when the governor of Wisconsin territory decreed that Fort Madison be established as the seat of county justice, West Point objected —and strenuously. Facts in the case are related by a West Point historian as follows:

In 1838 the government of Wisconsin territory approved an act locating the county seat in Fort Madison and early sessions of the court were held there where the principal business of the county was transacted. Settlements farther back in the county, however, began to complain that the seat was too far removed from the center and influence was brought to bear on the legistlative session in 1839 with a result that on January 14, 1840, the governor appointed three commissioners to investigate and recommend a permanent location.

Recommend Franklin.

The commissioners recommended Franklin as the site. Difficulty and delay resulted in the sale of lots in the proposed town of Franklin and at the next session of legislature the question was brought up again with the result that an act was passed January 15, 1841, submitting the matter to an election to be held the following March.

On election day Fort Madison received 465 votes, Franklin 435 and West Point 320. Although Fort Madison failed to receive a majority, it was in the lead and at the election held April 19, 1841, the vote stood 730 for Fort Madison and 477 for Franklin.

Most people now thought the issue was settled. But while the town of Fort Madison was carrying out its contract to erect a courthouse, the advocates of Franklin and West Point got together and presented a petition to the next legislature to reopen the question by again presenting the matter to the people. Fort Madison protested, but the protest was ignored.

On Jan. 13, 1843, the government approved an act to relocate the seat of justice in Lee county. Three men, one each from Henry, Van Buren and Des Moines counties, were named to visit Lee county and make an examination of the situation and surroundings and to locate the county seat at such place as would seem best, taking into consideration future as well as current populations.

The commission met at Franklin March 20, 1843, and after completing their investigation reported that their survey led them to consider West Point the best location for a county seat.

Wins It.

Along with their report the commissioners submitted a document signed by several leading West Point citizens agreeing to build a courthouse by Steptember, 1844, in consideration of the commissioners locating the court house in West Point.

The report and accompanying papers were filed with the board of county commissioners March 28, 1843. The commissioners then issued an order that "the district courts of Lee county from and after the first day of April next shall be held in the town of West Point."

Reach Agreement.

It was mutually agreed by the people of West Point and Fort Madison that the county seat should remain in the latter place for one year, after which a location should be selected by the commissioners appointed by the legislature and that the court house erected by the people of Fort Madison, who had borne at least two-thirds of the cost of the erection, should be sold at public auction and two-thirds of the proceeds refunded to the town.

J. A. Drake was appointed to take care of the building, which was ordered to be leased for religious meetings until the auction sale, which never took place.

(Here the records are not quite clear. This was the spring of 1843 and the courts were to remain in Fort Madison for one year after the question of a location was settled, yet some records reveal that the courts were held in West Point from April 1, 1843, to the fall of 1845.)

Removal of the county seat to West Point failed to settle the question. In the summer of 1843, a movement was begun to have the county divided. A petition was presented at the next session of the legislature, and in February, 1844, the government approved "an act for the formation of the county of Madison." The question was submitted to the voters of Lee county at the April election in 1844, when those in favor of the new county should write upon their ballots "For division" and those opposed "No division." The proposition was defeated by a vote of 952 to 713, and the county seat fight was renewed.

The people had become so used to a disturbed condition of county affairs by this time, that it seemed they couldn't be content unless the wagons on which the county records had been hauled from Fort Madison to West Point were again put in action. The legislature voted on the question of relocation.

They Vote Again.

Those who favored Fort Madison began the circulation of a petition to the legislature asking that body to submit the question once more to the voters of the county.

In response to this petition, an act to relocate the seat of justice of Lee county was approved January 10, 1845, by which the question was to be voted on at a special election, the first Monday in August.

It was provided that if no point received a majority of all the votes cast the three places receiving the highest number of votes should be voted for at another election on the first Monday of September.

Keokuk in Field.

Six places entered the list and the results were: Fort Madison, 664 votes; West Point, 308; Franklin, 326; Keokuk, 208; Montrose, 287 and Charleston, 41.

As no place received a majority the second election was ordered with the three leaders contesting.

At the election in September the vote was: Fort Madison, 969; West Point, 535, and Franklin, 378.

Fort Madison then was declared the county seat and in October the county officers were all back in their old quarters in the court house in Ft. Madison.

Although defeated in the election, Keokuk soon entered the field as a serious contender. In 1847 its residents, pleading the difficulty of travel over the primitive roads of that era and the weight of legal activity growing out of increased business, persuaded the state legislature to award them equal rights with Fort Madison in the matter of a court house.

Concurrent Jurisdiction.

Thus was born the county's unique plan of two county seats. The two courts have concurrent jurisdiction although criminal actions which arise in the south half of the county embracing Charleston, Van Buren, Des Moines, Montrose and Jackson townships are triable only in Keokuk. All land lying south of the old Half-breed line is recorded in Keokuk and the remainder in Fort Madison.

The present Keokuk court house was erected in 1856 by Dr. John Sanford to be used as a medical college and was sold to the county for $14,000.

Since then there has been some agitation for a single county seat from time to time but inasmuch as it would probably go to some more centrally located town, Keokuk and Fort Madison generally have been content to let matters rest as they are, agreeing on this if not on most other things.

The Gate City.

OCTOBER 4, 1891.

AN INDIAN GHOST.

It Arrises to Vex Property Holders in Keokuk and This Vicinity.

Like Banquo's Spirit, the Half-Breed Tract Litigation Will Not Down—Valuable Properties Claimed by St. Louis Parties.

Here is a surprise. Do you own your own home? That's a question that will be asked several people in this city and vicinity soon. And it's all on account of those pesky half breeds of long ago. The people of Keokuk have wished many a time that the Sac and Fox Indians hadn't been born and they may not be through wishing it; for out of the government's acts of care for the Indians, and particularly the half breeds, has grown an endless amount of litigation. Yet everybody seemed certain that titles to lands in the half-breed tract were no more to be questioned. But that seems not to be the case. For now comes certain St. Louis parties claiming an interest in over 1,100 acres of land in this vicinity and many of the best town lots in Keokuk.

Yesterday Henry C. Withers, a St. Louis attorney, filed with the recorder an affidavit and power of attorney of much interest to Keokukians. In the papers he claims for parties in St. Louis an undivided one-fourth part of all the lands and lots embraced in share No. 49 under decree of partition of the half bred Sac and Fox reservation, rendered in 1840. The lots embraced in this share lie in the heart of the city and are now very valuable. Some of them are owned by many of our most prominent citizens.

Mr. Withers was seen at the Hotel Keokuk last evening by a GATE CITY reporter. He has spent some time on the case and claims that it appears from the records that in 1837 one Henry McKee, who then owned a full share in the reservation (by deed book 1, page 281,) conveyed to the then minor children of John P. Reily, a St. Louis merchant, an undivided one-fourth part of his share, No. 49. These children were Margaret Elizabeth Reily, Mary Hannah Drain Reily and Ada Byron Reily. This deed was recorded April 24, 1838. Soon afterward the father died. Afterward, in 1840, the court sitting at Fort Madison, by a partition decree the full share was assigned to Henry McKee. But his grantees, the minor children, were not made parties to the suit for partition, nor was McKee. But he came in and answered and set up the claim that he had bought the whole share and a decree entitling him to possession, and ignoring the rights of the minors, was rendered. In August, 1842, McKee executed a trust deed to Collier & Glasgow, of St. Louis, for the undivided three-fourths of share 49. Which act, Mr. Withers interprets, signifies that McKee still recognized the rights of the Reily children to an undivided one-fourth, although the court did not, probably through mistake. The records do not show that McKee ever made any other deed, conveying the undivided one-fourth.

Subsequently under a suit of attachment brought by W. R. Clark against McKee, the property was sold at sheriff's sale; and in 1843 deeds were executed by Wm. Stotts, sheriff by Guy Wells, deputy, and acknowledged by Guy Wells as notary. And passing from one party to another the property has come into the possession of the present occupants.

Mr. Withers represents the claimants, who are now Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Reily Primm, the only one of the original minor children of John P. Reily living, and Octavia L. Warren, another John P. Reily, and the St. Louis Hospital association, all of St. Louis, to whom the rights of the deceased original minors have descended. The Hospital association is better known as the Mulanphy, or Sisters' hospital.

The grounds on which Mr. Withers bases his claims are these: That the interests he represents are not barred by the statute of limitation because the interest is an undivided one and has been and is now held in trust for his clients. He asserts that the minor children were not affected by the decree of partition, they not being parties to the suit and no guardian having been appointed by the court. Unless a court of equity should hold that McKee had the whole of the share assigned to him the deed would not be binding. Mr. Withers claims that McKee, in fact, became a trustee for the minors; and the purchasers of the property succeeded to the office of trustees. Some very fine legal points are presented in the claim and no one but the court can understand them.

The property involved in this case is scattered and is very valuable and the whole is worth between $300,000 and $400,000. The city lots are these: Block 54—Lot 1, Michael McDermot estate; lot 2, Charles Gilespie; lot 3, Parson's College, Fairfield. Block 50—Lots 7 and 8, Mrs. Clara B. Wolcott; lot 9, A. H. Jewett. Block 51—Lots 5 and 6. C. E. Phillips; lot 7, Mrs. P. L. Moore; lots 8 and 9, A. L. Connable. Block 95—Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, John and Eliza Maxwell. All of block 96, lots in which are owned by Chas. Hubbell, Albert and John Hill, Clara B. Davis, Daniel Moore, Mrs. Jane Laughrey, Seventh street Baptist Church, Andrew Beuey, Morris Inman and Geo. Engelhardt. Lots 29 and 94 in the town of Nashville are also involved.

THE 1.152.34 ACRES.

Following are the lands involved:

	Sec	Twp	Range	Acres
*Sw¼	30	66	4	63.61
S½	25	66	5	320
E½	20	66	6	320
Ne¼	24	66	7	160
*S½	24	66	7	48.73
W½ ne¼	7	65	5	80
Nw¼	7	65	5	160
Total				1,152.34

*Fractional.

Mr. Withers says he does not intend to bring suit for possession if he can get a satisfactory settlement out of the occupants. If that cannot be done, and it is not at all probable that the property holders will give up either property or money unless they have to, suit will be brought against one of the parties as a test case. The matter is bound to be highly interesting in any event.

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

AUGUST 27, 1891.

WED AN INDIAN.

A Handsome and Wealthy Iowa Girl Becomes White Wolf's Bride.

PRIMROSE, IA., Aug. 26.—Special.

Dr. "White Wolf" M. Hickey and Miss Gillie G. Graham, of Moravia, Iowa, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony early this morning. The "doctor" is an Indian "medicine man" and is a half-breed Choctaw. His bride is the daughter of a prominent citizen of Moravia, and has been organist for the doctor since May 4. The pair have been greatly attached to each other for more than a year and decided to be married at Primrose. The wedding took place in "White Wolf's" tent at 3:30 a. m. Mr. and Mrs. Van Dorn were groomsman and bridesmaid respectively. The officiating clergyman was Rev. L. M. Scroggs, of the Primrose Presbyterian church. The happy couple were taken to Farmington by Mr. Leager, "mine host," who had served a wedding breakfast to the bridal party, and immediately afterward they started on their journey. They go to Moravia by way of Ottumwa and return to Primrose next Thursday, where the doctor's troupe await his coming. The bride was handsomely dressed and her great natural beauty was increased by the wearing of several valuable diamonds.

DAILY GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 10, 1875

DR. GALLAND.

Reminiscences of His Connection with the Early History of Keokuk.

Some Exciting Scenes at a Public Sale of Town Lots.

EDITOR GATE CITY: I see in a late number of your valuable paper, copied from a Carthage paper, an incident in the life of Dr. Isaac Galland.

The life of the Doctor was a remarkable one. In early life he was a brilliant and successful Methodist preacher, after that he was a successful physician, as well as a large land speculator. At one time, following the example of others, he issued a large supply of shinplasters. I suppose that he might then have been termed an inflationist. He figured as a Mormon, and held so high a position in the Church that the Lord set apart a special set of rooms in the great "Nauvoo Hotel" (commenced but never finished by the Mormons) "for the special use of *my beloved servant Isaac Galland*," at least the revelations given in the Mormon paper of that day said so. He had enough wives to have made him a respectable Mormon of the present day. He was ready to sell the whole "Half Breed Tract" at any time from 1837 up to the day of his death, and he did sell it by wholesale to the Mormons, and a great deal of it by retail afterwards, and his interest was sold several times by the Sheriff on execution at the instance of the N. Y. Company. He was the originator of the N. Y. Company that afterwards held 41 of the 108 shares in the Tract, and was an original owner in the Company, but after quarrelling with his co-trustees and lawing with them, wherein there was much hard swearing both in and out of Court, the Doctor was out lawed. I have often heard the version of both sides to the controversy, and believed the story of both parties as told against the other. The Doctor preached no more after being a partner of the N. Y. Company, but he did do a lively amount of regular old settler Keokuk swearing.

In early Spring of 1837 the Doctor laid off the town of Keokuk, giving it good wide streets and plenty of public squares; but through the greed of the decree party or for some other cause the people have been robbed of the squares that Dr. Galland intended them to have, and with the St. Louis owners of Half Breed interests a general sale was advertised in newspapers and by hand bills far and near, to take place in May or June, 1837. In that advertisement the future greatness of Keokuk was puffed beyond the wildest dreams of the wild days of 1857, a time that a good many of us are not anxious to think about just now. Everybody came to that sale; two steamboats were chartered expressly to bring people from St. Louis, the down boats landed passengers for days in advance, and delegations attended from Springfield, Jacksonville and many other points in Illinois. I, with two or three others, went from West Point. Rat Row—that few of your present citizens ever saw—I pity all such—but it cannot be helped now, for Rat Row, like John Antichrist, is of the past and gone, and the principal building in the town—was the headquarters. The first man that attracted my attention was Peter A. Labamm, some six feet and a half high, large in body and loud of voice. He was making a speech, denouncing as cheats and swindlers the parties who had advertised the sale. Bill Price, who had a Half Breed wife and lived above town on the rapids, a sort of giant and desperado, had a rifle, and in a great bag of a shot pouch had half a dozen or more pistols, old fashioned, single barreled, and two or three butcher knives. Price seemed to be aid of Labamm and the commander of about a dozen river rats of the most approved pattern of cut throats, all flourishing some sort of weapon and full of rifle whisky and swearing that they would shoot any man that bid off a lot that day. I very soon concluded not to be a purchaser, and a large majority of the crowd came to the same conclusion. Up to that time I had never seen so much whisky drank and heard so much brutal swearing and seen so much brutal action as I did on that day. Gamble of St. Louis was the spokesman of the lot sellers. He acted the gentleman and tried to harmonize. Galland was for war, and I could not see why they did not fight some of them. No outsider objected. Gamble finally got up a stand on the hill side above and back of the stone pork house and mill between Main and Johnson streets, and got the people together to make them a speech. The audience below him was a perfect jam. Labamm and Price and their cut-throats were above and back of the speaker, and out of sight of most of the audience, and from the start of Gamble's speech Labeaume commenced interrupting him, and occasionally Price and his crowd would give an Indian yell. When the excitement was at fever heat a horse of Nathan Smith's and one or two other horses hitched to a tree in the rear of the speaker, took up the quarrel and went at it in earnest. The crowd below supposing that it was Price and his party that had commenced the fight, stampeded down the hill, no one caring about the order of going. At the foot of the hill few were on their feet, still no one was seriously hurt. That was the end of the speech. Galland insisted that the sale should go on, and the corner lot below and adjoining Main street was put up and bid off by him.

Price stood by, swearing vengeance to any one that bid, but he did not shoot; but that ended the sale. Galland had defied Lebamm, Price and their party, and no one else desired to try it.

At that time the Des Moines Valley had a full share of the worst characters of a new settled country. Amongst the worst of the lot was Ross and Sullivan, of Bentonsport. Scarcely any crime from murder down that Ross had not been a party to. Among his last exploits was going to Commerce, now Nauvoo, and kidnapping an old negro named Dave. If he ever had any other name I never recollect to have heard it. You must recollect that in '37 and up to a much later period, it was not common for a negro to have more than one name, and it was far more respectable to be known as a horsethief than to be known as an abolitionist at any point near Keokuk. Ross started down the river for a market with Dave, but it happened that Henry White, who lived at Commerce and knew Dave, was the pilot on the boat, and at Quincy had Ross arrested, who was at once taken to Carthage for trial. The news of the kidnapping and arrest of Ross spread rapidly and created the most intense excitement. Ross's friends congregated at Carthage, and Dr. Galland also went as a politician. You could never know whether the Doctor would support the Whigs or Democrats, being about as often on the one as the other side, but he was always and under all circumstances a *radical abolitionist*. His enemies said it was out of pure cussedness, but he at any rate was always reliable as an abolitionist; but unfortunately he died without seeing the end of the accursed institution. Court was in session when Ross got to Carthage, and the Grand Jury had indicted him for kidnapping.

The Des Moines Valley, Missouri, Warsaw, and Carthage, all furnished a quota of Ross' defenders. The most conspicuous were old Dedman and Bledsoe, of Missouri, and John Ratliff and two butchers by the name of Alfro-gambles, of Carthage, Sullivan and others, from the Des Moines. Ratliff kept a whisky shop, which was the headquarters of the Ross party. They were fully armed, and swearing vengence against all abolitionists. Ross was then claiming that Dave was a fugitive slave, and that he (Ross) had been employed to capture him for the master. Until the arrival of Galland the Ross party had things their own way. It seemed as much as a man's life was worth to say a word against the kidnapper, but when the Doctor entered the field he was armed with a large pistol in each of his pantaloons' pockets, the buts projecting out, and a large bowie knife, and he at once went to Ratliff's den and invited everybody to drink, all the time denouncing all slaveholders, and especially Ross and his party as a party of kidnappers, thieves and cowards. Of all the men that I ever knew the Doctor had the worst tongue when he opened his vials of wrath, and at this time it was worse than I ever

heard it before or after. When he went into Ratliff's the Ross party would leave and he would follow them wherever they went. I never saw such excitement as there was that evening and night. I expected to see the Doctor killed by some of the party, but no one said a word to nor molested him. The next Monday at the opening of court, Ross plead not guilty and had his trial continued to the next term of court, and Dedman and Monday went his bail in $3,000 for his appearance at the next term of court, Dedman swearing that over and above his debts that he was worth the amount of bail. Galland denounced him in open court as a bankrupt and perjurer, but the court took the bail and Ross was relieved, when the whole party went down to the East front door of the court house, Galland following them down. When he stepped into the door in the middle of them, there then being fourteen or fifteen of the Ross crowd, and with a pistol in each hand and in a loud voice he cried out "Umbrellas over you, umbrellas over you; D. D. Kidnappers about," and he continued to repeat the words until the party mounted their horses and left. At the next term of the court a man by the name of Butler put in an appearance with the *needed evidence* to prove that Dave was a slave belonging to himself or his father's estate, and that Ross had been employed to capture him. Dave was sent to slavery and Ross set free, and went to that worldly heaven for all such men—Texas, where he furnished two or more sons to the rebel army, one of them figuring as a General.

I have seen the Doctor in many other interesting scenes. Few men ever wasted so much talent as did Doctor Galland, but no person ever went to the Docter for assistance and left him empty handed if the Doctor had anything to give. If he sold a tract of Half Breed land, and he never failed to do so when he could find a purchaser, he was sure to give the proceeds to some one else. He never seemed to care for money except to give it away. I hope and trust that he is now where all good "Old Settlers" are sure to go.

HAWKINS TAYLOR.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, MONDAY, MARCH 17.

VINDICATING HISTORY.

The Facts Show that Lee County was Not Named for Col. Albert Lea.

From a correspondence between Mr. Justice Miller and Col. Albert M. Lea of a recent date it seems that the latter claims that Lee county was named for him at the first sitting of the Legislature at Burlington. He says in his letter to Justice Miller:

"In 1840–41, I visited Iowa with an agent of a company organized by me in Baltimore to establish a German colony at and about Ellenborough, to make that venture realize its early promises. The first Legislative Assembly ever held at Burlington then being in session, I applied for a charter for my immigration company, and drew it up in the office of Grimes & Starr, where I met the chairman of the Committee on counties, who told us all in the office that he had put my name down to the first county in the territory, as he was then using the map of the territory made by me for the purpose of designating boundaries. It is easy to see how the spelling was changed by transcribing clerks, as my mode of spelling with the final "a" was unusual; and as I had disappeared mainly from that theater and Captain Lee had come upon it, the name was naturally attributed to him."

Now the records show that the bill establishing the county of Lee was passed at the first session of the Legislative Assembly of the territory of Wisconsin, of which Iowa was then a part, begun and held in the Council Chamber and House of Representatives, at Belmont, Wisconsin, on Tuesday the 25th day of October, in the year 1836. The first section of the bill reads as follows:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the council and House of Representatives of the territory of Wisconsin, That the country included within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the most southern outlet of Skunk river, on the Mississippi; then in a northern direction, passing through the grove on the head of the northern branch of Lost creek; and thence to a point corresponing with the range line, dividing range seven and eight, and thence south with said line to the Des Moines river, thence down the middle of same to the Mississippi, and thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning, be and the same is hereby set off into a separate county by the name of Lee.

The bill, of which the above is the first section, was approved December 7, 1836.

The bill eslablishing the Ellenborough Immigration and Ferry company which authorized Col. Lea to receive subscriptions from time to time, was passed at the session of the legislature commencing on the first Monday of November 1839, and was approved January 14, 1841.

These facts are taken from the printed journals of the two houses and substantiate the fact that there must be some error in the story that the chairman of the committee on counties at the Burlington session in 1840-41 told Col. Lea that he had put his name down to the first county in the territory, when Lee county had been established and named at the Belmont legislature four years before this conversation.

In conversation with two members of the Burlington Legislature, we find that neither of them have any recollection of any such occurrence and the journals of the House do not show such action. It may be that Col. Lea was told by the members of the Committee on Counties, that the first county of the territory was named Lee, and Col. Lea misconstrued the words of the committeemen as a more important compliment than it really was. The first county might very properly have been named Lee, Col. Lea informed of the fact, and yet that county not be named as a compliment to the Colonel.

As the matter stands at present, with all the light that we can obtain upon the subject, it seems that the name of Lee county is spelled correctly—just as the members of the Legislature at Belmont, who established it, intended it to be spelled.

THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 1879.

TRACED TO THE RECORDS.

Definite Information as to the Person for Whom Lee County was Named.

(To the Editor.)

BURLINGTON, Ia., July 2.—In regrad to the name of Lee county, allew me to say, that, although I had been fully impressed since 1841, with the idea that my name had been given it I am now satisfied that I was mistaken. I find here, in the library of my friend, Judge Charles Mason, a copy of the "Laws of Wisconsin, 1836," containing an act for the division of Des Moines county into two other counties, of which the first was named "Lee." Judge Mason and Gen. A. C. Dodge concur in saying that it was so named for William E. Lee, of New York.

Hon. Alfred Hebard, who gave me the information that the county was named for me, says that he has always been under that impression. As I would not wish to be supposed capable of claiming an honor under false pretenses, I hasten to correct the unintentional error, and to settle the question as to the name. It certainly was not named for R. E. Lee, who had not, in 1836, been in any wise connected with this county; and it is now equally certain that it was not named for me, although I had that year published a map and description of the county, in which the name of Iowa was first applied to it. Respectfully,

A M. LEA.

1879

Keokuk Constitution.
KEOKUK CONSTITUTION CO.,
MARCH 31, 1887

PIONEER HISTORY.

DEATH OF CLARK MEEKER.

From a letter recently received by Mrs. Henry D. Bartlett from a relative in California, it is learned that Aaron Clark Meeker, once known to the remaining few early settlers of Keokuk, died at his home at Lodi, California, and was buried at Woodbridge, San Joaquin county, February 27th, 1887. Mr. Meeker and his wife were here on a visit two years ago and at that time gave the writer the following sketch of himself and some early reminiscences of Keokuk, which may be interesting to your readers now:

"I was born in Millersburg, Schoharie county, New York, August 16th, 1813. Two years after my birth, my father, Ephraim Meeker, moved to Ohio, and settled at Millersburg, Cuyhoga county, and was a common laborer. I was the oldest child of my parents. When I was 9 years of age, my father moved back to New York state and lived six years at Coxaskie, on the Hudson river. During this time I ran away from home, went to sea on a merchant vessel from New York City and made a trip to Liverpool, England. My father notified the police of New York, and on the return of the vessel I was arrested and sent home. My father then moved back to Millersburg, Ohio, and in the spring of 1837, to Chilicothe. I received no education except the early instruction my mother could give, and the occasional pedagogue at the log school house. I learned something from the few books at home, reading at night by the light of a tallow candle, which I helped "dip" from the tallow of a deer killed by my father in the neighborhood. At 17 years of age I went to Strongville and served 3 years at the carpenter's trade with Ebenezer Pomroy. On February 17th, 1836, I was married to Lydia Gardner at Millersburg, Ohio, we having known each other from childhood. I engaged in business as an undertaker at Chilicothe until 1840, when, with my father's family, and in company of Dr. Isaac Galland and others, we moved to Keokuk, Iowa territory. We landed at Keokuk on May 5th, 1840. At that time there were about seven log cabins and the leading citizens were Mrs. Gaines, Wm. McBride, Henry J. Campbell, Paul DuShaun (Paul Bressett), Louisa Hood, Ed. Brishnell, Val Van Orsdall and others. When I landed my family, consisting of myself, wife and two children, father, mother and three sisters, the only accommodation we could get, was a log cabin, 10x12 feet, near the foot of Main street, owned by Mrs. Gaines, used as a turkey roost, and it was a constant fight between us and the turkeys as to which should occupy the cabin for the first night. We paid $3 per month rent. The first work I got was on the old Keokuk house, then being built on the levee, between Main and Johnson streets.

"My father, mother and sisters were all taken sick, and I secured a place for them at Joe Robert's place about three miles above town, near the mouth of Price's creek. My wife walked there every day to see and take care of them while I was working to keep them all in provisions and medicines. This first summer we were unfortunate in the loss by death of both of our children, one dying on the 8th and the other on the 9th of July, and were buried in the same grave on the farm of Wright & Touse, afterwards owned by Breckenridge. Sammy Wright and Major Touse were two Englishmen, bachelors, living together on their farm, which included what is now Kilbourne's addition, the farm house standing near where is now the corner of Sixteenth and Des Moines streets. No other children were born to us, and we are now bordering on fifty years of married life, childless.

"After the death of our children, I went to work to build me a house. There being no mill or lumber here, I went up the river towards Nashville, cut logs, rafted them to Warsaw, had them sawed by old man Chittenden, who had a saw mill there, loaded the lumber on a keel boat and towed it up by hand to Keokuk. I built a house on the southeast side of First street, between Main and Johnson, size 16x24 feet. This was the first frame dwelling built in the town. Before it was completed I rented it for $8 per month, and set up some boards on the corner of First and Johnson streets, where myself and wife remained until I built a frame house on lot 9, block 3. The next year I built the brick building now standing on the same lot, and opened it as a hotel, calling it the American House, using the frame addition as a dining room and kitchen. This was the second brick house built in Keokuk, the first one having been erected by Lyman E. Johnson on the southeast corner of Main and Second streets, then considered in the country, and afterwards sold to and occcupied by Uncle Johnny Graham as a residence. (This building is now being razed to allow the Irwin-Phillips Company to erect their fine business block.) The third brick house built in Keokuk was that now standing on lot 3, block 5, built by Chittenden & McGavic in 1846. The fourth brick house was built by "Citizen" A. Brown on lot 5, block 6, and built partly in Water street.

"About 1840, Orin Webb and Geo. Knight became possessed of a grizzly bear from the Rocky Mountains and kept it about 3 years, until it weighed about 1,000 pounds. In the summer of 1843, a circus and menagarie came to town and the men stopped at my house. They had two large Santa Fe bears and while here purchased the grizzly from Webb and Knight, paying $40 for it, and being unable to take all three with them, on their departure made me a present of one of the Santa Fe bears, I giving them $3 for the cage in which it was kept. The keeper of the bear chained him up to my sign post in front of the hotel and the cage was placed in the back yard. The bear was kept chained in front of the hotel for a month or two. The circus men put the grizzly in the same cage with the Santa Fe and started by wagon to La Grange, Mo., where they gave their next exhibition. The cage was closed, and upon arriving at La Grange, and opening it, they found only the grizzly inside with the bones of the other. During the time my bear was chained to the sign post, I went off on a hunt in Missouri, and while gone, a carpenter named Thurman, "Old Chips," as he was called, got on a spree, taking a bundle of coon skins under his arm, went from house to house trying to sell them. Finally he came around to where the bear was chained and began teasing him, when the bear made one grab for him taking out the seat of his pantaloons. Thurman then swore vengeance against his bearship, and fearing trouble, I put him in his cage, intending later to serve him up on my table. I left home again for another hunt and and during my absence, Thurman, Capt. Bill Holliday, "Bucket" Campbell and Bill Clark concluded to have some fun by releasing the bear. Holliday kept some hounds, and they expected the bear to take to the woods, and have a nice chase. They went to work with an auger and bored out a place large enough for the bear to escape. As soon as released the bear went to the kitchen window, putting his paws against it, broke it in with a crash and aroused the neighborhood. A crowd soon gathered with rifles and shot guns, shooting the poor bear to death in the yard, thus spoiling the fun of the party who was anticipating an exciting bear chase.

"In 1848-9 the discovery of gold in California induced a large emigration to the Pacific coast. I caught the fever, and on the 3d day of December, 1849, in company with Ross B. Hughes, —— Fulsom, Z. P. Meeker, W. F. Meeker, John Billings and others, left Keokuk by steamboat for New Orleans, thence by way of Panama to San Francisco. We were detained on the isthmus about 6 weeks and arrived at San Francisco March 1st, 1850. I went direct to Sacramento and there found work at my trade as carpenter at twenty dollars per day. After four weeks' work I went to the mines at Auburn and thence to Eldorado, where I met Dr. Todd, an old settler on the Des Moines river, who was keeping a ranch and boarding house. He charged us four dollars per meal, and on account

of old acquaintance and the respect he had for my family he offered to sell me beef at one dollar and a half per pound. Having been a good rifle shot and hunter all my life, I took my gun and went out a short distance, killed two deer, brought them in and my old friend, the doctor, would only offer me 75c. per pound for the meat. I took possession of a stump near by, using it for a meat block, cut up my venison and sold it out to the miners at one dollar per pound. After mining some time, in the fall of 1850, I came to Sacramento with the intention of returning to Iowa. There I found "Old Split Log" Mitchell and his family. The cholera broke out about that time and I concluded to stay on land rather than take my chances on board a crowded ship. I took up my home with "Old Split Log." While there Mitchell was taken with cholera and died. I then went to Feather river, where I was elected alcalde or justice of the peace. I returned to Iowa by way of Panama and New Orleans, arriving at Keokuk in the winter of 1852. In April, 1853, I left my Iowa home again for California, this time going overland by ox team, with my wife, father, mother, and brother Wesley. In our train were also Val Vanorsdall, his sister, Mrs. Stillwell, Lizzie Stillwell, her niece and daughter of Louisa Hood; W. F. Meeker, wife and children, Bird and wife, a man named Braffet and a blacksmith who worked for Charlie Moore. We were six months on the road, arriving at Placerville in October, 1853. From there I went to Elkhorn township, San Joaquin county, and have lived there ever since. In 1865, I was elected justice of the peace, and commenced the study of law which I continued during my nine years' service in that position. I am now engaged in the practice of law and real estate business at Lodi, San Joaquin county, and at this date, June 16th, 1884, am back to my old Keokuk home on a visit with my wife, enjoying for a few days the company of such of our old friends as still remain here, before going back to our California home, where we have accumulated enough of this world's goods to enable us to spend the remainder of our days there in comfort and happiness."

An incident of early times in which Meeker was a prominent actor is related by an old settler. In May 1849, a strange woman came to Keokuk and stopped at the house of "Citizen" Brown. He was called "Citizen," to distinguish him from another, Andy Brown. No one knew whence the woman came, but it was soon discovered that she was mentally deficient or partially insane, and there being at that time no suitable place (poor house) for the care of such persons, she became a great burden, and the city authorities were appealed to to make some disposition of her. Upon consultation it was decided to put her on a steamboat and send her to Rock Island. It was necessary, however, to send some discreet person to accompany her and so place her in Rock Island that the manner of her arrival and where from should not be known. Clark Meeker was the man selected for this delicate duty. All expenses and his per diem was to be paid from the city treasury. Some instructions were being given him as to the best mode of accomplishing the object of his trip, when Meeker remarked that their advice and instructions were entirely gratuitous and unnecessary, saying: "I have been to mill three times and to church once and I know a thing or two, and think myself amply qualified to manage a little thing like this." Meeker started with his charge and on the arrival of the boat at Rock Island found a place to "put up," and leave the woman. To throw the people off his track it was his intention to proceed on up the river, but before the boat left the landing the attempted injustice to Rock Island became known and Meeker was arrested. Without any legal ceremony, they took him and the woman, placed them both in an old queensware crate, fastened down the top, placed the crate on a two-wheeled cart, drove around town on exhibition, then to the wharf where there was another boat going down the river, placed the crate on board and had it regularly billed for Keokuk, where in due time they arrived in safety. The woman was then placed with a family here to be cared for, and soon after died of cholera. Meeker was ever after reminded of his experience in going to mill and church. At that time our city council consisted of six alderman, presided over by Mayor Uriah Raplee. There is but one member of that council living to day, A. B. Chittenden, Esq., who has been a continuous resident of the city since 1840.

1887 C. F. D.

THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 17, '79.

SHE SHOT.

Revival of the Old Crow-Grant Feud in Van Buren Township.

Kate Grant Indulges In Nocturnal Pistol Practice — Knives, Revolvers and Knock Downs—A Court Under Arrest.

The old Crow-Grant feud, which has been the source of so much trouble and litigation in Van Buren Township, has been revived and a new chapter in the imbroglio is presented — probably the most exciting one that has yet been enacted. It seems that a few days ago Mrs. Grant took up some cattle belonging to Crow, which had invaded her premises, and held them for damages.

On Tuesday night last Crow and another man, supposed to have been a fellow named Beecher, who works for him, went to Mrs. Grant's about the middle of the night and attempted to recover the cattle by stealth. Kate Grant, daughter of Mrs. Grant, discovered them in the act and opened fire upon them with a revolver, firing three and possibly more shots at them. None of them took effect but Crow is reported to have said that the bullets whistled past him and struck the boards in rather unpleasant proximity to him.

On the following day, Wednesday, Mrs. Grant applied to Wm. Shepherd, a Justice of the Peace, to have the cattle taken charge of and disposed of according to law. Shepherd gave instructions to Constable Jim Herron to take charge of the cattle, but the latter claimed that he had no authority for so doing and refused to execute the order. An altercation arose between the Constable and the Justice about the matter in which Herron drew a knife and assailed Shepherd. The latter whipped out a revolver, but, finding that he did not have time to cock it, struck Herron over the head with it, knocking him senseless. He soon recovered and renewed the attack, whereupon Shepherd cocked his revolver and leveled it upon his assailant, but a bystander interfered and put a stop to the deadly conflict.

Herron went before Squire Garvick in Des Moines Township, swore out a warrant against Shepherd and had him arrested. Shepherd gave bond for his appearance, was released from custody and there the case stands. The matter will go into the courts we presume and another long siege of litigation in this neighborhood strife will no doubt ensue. We learn the facts from a citizen of Van Buren Township who was in the city yesterday.

1879

KEOKUK DAILY CONSTITUTION,

MARCH 26, 1885.

WARREN, IOWA.

The New Depot of the C. B. & K. C. R'y—Postoffice Removed—A Business Change—Revival Meetings.

WARREN, Iowa, March 26.—The Chicago, Burlington and Kansas City railway company have completed a very neat new office here and the company's effects have been moved into it from the Ford & McCulloch building, which they have occupied for the past eight years.

Russell Bros. have dissolved partnership. J. B. remains in charge of the store, while Benton removes to his farm.

The Revs. Martin and Tenant, of Farmington, are holding a series of revival meetings at the Union church near this place, with good success.

The postoffice has been removed from the Ford & McCulloch building to J. B. Russell's store. J. G. Rube, Jr., is still in charge.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
APRIL 11. 1889

HANDLE THE MAILS.

The People Who Look After this Work in Lee County.

Some of Them Have been in the Postal Service a Quarter of a Century—Several Ladies in Charge of Offices.

As there is always considerable curiosity among people of all classes to learn as much as possible about those who occupy public positions, and with whom the people come in daily contact THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT has secured short biographical sketches of the men and women who are in charge of the post offices of Lee county. First in the list comes

RICHARD ROOT

in charge of the Keokuk office. Dick Root, as he is familiarly known, is a little new at the busines having received his appointment March 13th, taking possession of the office April 2d. However, he has had considerable experience in Uncle Sam's service and has settled into the work as if he grew up in it. Everybody likes Root personally, but politically he is a terror to democrats. This is the only bad trait he possesses. It has been said of Root that when he set out to work in the interest of a candidate, and the worst of it is he always works, it took one-half the democrats of the county to find out what scheme he was working, and the other half to devise a method wherewith to head him off and overcome the evil effects of the plans he would arrange. Lee county democrats, while glad to see Root rewarded by his party, would have been tickled almost to death if he had been given an appointment with a fat salary that would have taken him to some distant locality. Colonel Root was born in Carroll county, Md., January 27th, 1834. He came to Iowa during 1860. Was married at Charleston, S. C., December 22d, 1853, to Miss Anna P. Brockman. He served as deputy United States marshal under Marshal Watkins, of Baltimore; as deputy under Marshal Chapman, and as marshal under President Arthur. He was sheriff of Lee county one term.

CHARLES DOERR.

Every man woman and child in Lee county knows Charlie Doerr, who looks after past office affairs at Fort Madison. Charles Doerr was born January 13th, 1831 at Sonnerberg, duchy of Nassau, Germany. He came to this country in March 1851. Came to Iowa in August 1855 locating at Fort Madison where he has since resided. Was married August 20th 1857 to Catherine Magerkurth. Appointed postmaster at Fort Madison November 1st 1885, and confirmed by the senate January 12th 1886. Mr. Doerr was for several terms the efficient clerk of the district and circuit court; was county clerk under the old law when the clerk of the courts was also clerk of the board of supervisors; was a member of the twentieth general assembly of Iowa, and for six years a school director at Fort Madison.

THOMAS WARD.

Thomas Ward has been postmaster at Montrose for many years. He first saw the light of day in England, November 1, 1832. Came to Iowa during 1865. Was married in December, 1858, to E. S. Casbourn. Appointed postmaster May 25, 1875. Mr. Ward located in St. Louis during the spring of 1853, where he remained until 1865, when he removed to Montrose. For many years he was a pilot on the river. He has been in the drug business at Montrose since September, 1873.

JAMES F. PEASE.

This gentleman, postmaster at Mt. Hamill, was born in Washington county, Pa., November 6th, 1854. He came to Iowa early in 1855. Was married to Miss Sarah E. Kile, December 25th, 1879. Appointed postmaster July 29th, 1886. He never held any other public office.

HOWARD M. DEWEY.

The postmaster at Sawyer was born in this county January 23d, 1852. He was married February 14th, 1881, to Flora M. Sawyer. Was appointed postmaster during July, 1886. He is at present a school director and president of the board.

JOHN W. MIDDAUGH.

Postoffice affairs at Cottonwood are looked after by John W. Middaugh, who was born during July, 1847, at Lafayette, Ind. He located in Iowa during 1853, and was married January 28th, 1872 to Mary A. Doan. Was made postmaster during 1883. He acts as railroad and express agent, and is a notary public.

JOSEPH KARHOFF.

This gentleman hands out the mail at Houghton. He is a native of Hollensted, Hanover, Germany, where he was born January 6th, 1839. He came to Iowa during May, 1857, and was married May 23d, 1871, to Mary Hesse, of Fort Madison. Has been postmaster three years.

JOHN F. RUSSELL.

At Warren John F. Russell sells stamps and distributes the mail to the people of that burg. He is a native of this state, born during the year 1849. He was appointed postmaster in 1885.

FRED LANG

looks after Uncle Sam's postal interests at Franklin. He was born in Bavaria, May 12th, 1833. Came to Iowa November 15th, 1850. Married Katie Armknecht December 29th, 1856. Appointed postmaster March 1st, 1887. Has been township trustee, school director and president of the independent school district.

ADAM WEIGNER.

The postmaster at Donnellson is a native of Worms, Germany, where he was born November 29th, 1820. He came to Iowa in the spring of 1838. He has been twice married, first to Katharina Koch, July 4th, 1840, and again to Agnes Miessner, November 29th, 1880. Was appointed postmaster February 11th, 1886. Was township trustee several terms, and school director for a number of years.

JOSIAH HEMINGWAY.

At Galland this gentleman looks after postal matters. He was born in Canada during February, 1831. Came to Iowa in 1845. Was married to Martha Gore during 1854. Was appointed postmaster May 14th, 1883. Has never held any other public office, and has always been a democrat.

OTTO FITZJUNKER.

The postmaster at St. Paul, was born in Germany, January 26th, 1852. Came to Iowa October 14th, 1868. Was married to Katie Fedler September 25th, 1877. Appointed postmaster January 18th, 1886.

HENRY J. MEIROTTO.

Postoffice affairs at Pilot Grove are in charge of Henry J. Meirotto, who was born at St. Paul, Ia., June 21st 1860. He was married to Maggie H. Kelly, December 29th, 1885. Appointed postmaster during December, 1886. Has been justice of the peace.

JACOB RENWALD.

The postmaster at Summitville, was born in Baden, Germany, July 21st, 1831. He came to Iowa July 15th, 1853. Was married July 19th, 1864, to Elizabeth Seibert. Has been postmaster twenty-five years. having been appointed during March, 1864. Has held the offices of justice of the peace and secretary of the school board.

THOMAS MOORE,

postmaster at Argyle, was born in Washington county, Pa., February 3d, 1836. Came to Iowa in October, 1849. Was married November 27th, 1866, to Jane Matthews. Appointed postmaster March

16th, 1888. Served in the army four years. Has held the offices of township clerk and assessor.

LUELLA NIGHTINGALE.

At Sandusky this lady has given satisfaction to local postoffice patrons. She was born in Henry county, Mo., October 6th, 1858, and came to Iowa in 1862. She was appointed postmistress September 27th, 1883.

HATTIE J. MILLER.

This lady, whose maiden name was Hattie J. Bauder, is postmistress at Primrose. She was born near that place January 5th, 1861. Was married to Emanuel J. Miller February 16th, 1887. Appointed to her present position about February 1st, 1887. Prior to assuming its duties she was a teacher and had been engaged in the millinery and dressmaking business.

BARBARA DICKEY.

The maiden name of the postmistress at Dover was Barbara Lindemuth. She was born at Mt. Joy, Lancaster county, Pa., December 19th, 1813. Came to Iowa during 1841. Was married to Edmund A. Dickey June 15th, 1841. Has been postmistress twenty-five years, having been first appointed during 1864.

MARY BALL.

This lady was appointed postmistress at New Boston in 1884. She is a native of this state, having been born here during the year 1855.

MINERVA BRIGGS

has charge of postoffice affairs at Croton. She was born at Rochester, Vermont, January 5th, 1825. Came to Iowa during 1838. Has been postmistress at Croton since 1870.

1889

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
C. F. Skirvin .....Manager

SOME HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY

Compiled in Two Interesting Volumes by the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company of Chicago.

FIRST EARLY HISTORY

Second is Biography of Men Who Were Prominent in Making History of This Locality.

There lies on The Gate City book table, two new volumes, "History of Lee County, Iowa," illustrated, attractive in appearance and instructive in their perusal. They are very substantially bound in half morocco, handsomely illustrated and were issued under the editorial supervision of Dr. S. W. Moorhead of Keokuk and Nelson C. Roberts of Fort Madison, from the S. J. Clarke publishing house of Chicago. The first volume is devoted to a carefully prepared detailed history of Lee county, in which are included the physical features and geology, an account of the aboriginal inhabitants, mound builders, the Indians, early explorations by Spanish, English and French, an interesting story of the exploits of Marquette and Joliet, and vivid stories of the various early wars, in which Iowans and the early settlers of the northwestern territory were intersted participants. This volume leads the reader along in an interested way to a recent period, closing with a useful statistical review and a carefully prepared chronology of the principal events leading up to the settlement and organization of the county, having some bearing upon its history, which will be found full of interest and an admirable help for ready reference which cannot fail to be appreciated for the information it imparts.

The second volume is devoted to biography of men who were prominent in making the history of this locality—men whose achievements and worth gave prominence and publicity to the advantages of this special region in the great Mississippi valley and who by their industry, energy, ability and skill were instrumental in the great and rapid progress that has been made in this garden spot since the Indian war whoop was hushed along the shores of the Mississippi river.

In these two volumes there are many familiar faces and notable scenes presented—faces of pioneers and old settlers who were familiarly known and are still tenderly remembered by many of the younger settlers who are still living.

It is an interesting and valuable contribution to the historical and biographical literature of Keokuk and Lee county and will no doubt be highly appreciated by those into whose hands it may fortunately fall. The editorial work shows skill and care, while the publishing house has clothed the volumes in a pretty, substantial garb worthy to adorn a work of such importance and interest. It can be conscientiously commended to the attention of that large class of readers in Keokuk and Lee county, who are always interested in anything connected with the history or incidents of Lee county or the city of Keokuk. It will adorn any library.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 10 1872.

THE Postoffice changes in the State during the month of December were as follows:

ESTABLISHED.

Donnellson, Lee county.
Turkey River, Clayton county.
Waupaton, Dubuque county.
Carpenter, Mitchell county.

DISCONTINUED.

Botany, Shelby county.
Sheffield, Dubuque county.
Christianburg, Wapello county.
Smead, Lyon county.
Gibraltar, Lyon county.
Linden, Dallas county.

NAME CHANGED.

Boone Springs, Clinton county, to Goose Lake.

Brookfield Center, Clinton county, to Elmwood.

The Daily Gate City.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1872.

Sale of the Franklin Mills.

THE former sale of the Franklin Flouring Mills, (Lots No. 201, 206, Franklin, Lee county, Iowa,) having been set aside by order of Hon. J. M. Love, Judge of the U. S. District Court for Iowa, for reason of the non-payment of the purchase money, I hereby again offer the same for sale, and if not privately sold before, I will offer said Mills to the highest bidder at public auction, on the premises in Franklin Centre, Lee county, State of Iowa, on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th, 1872, at 1 o'clock p. m of said day. Private bids will be received from now until the day of sale.

All desired information regarding the property will be furnished upon application to the undersigned. CHARLES DOERR,

Assignee in Bankruptcy of J. B. Weigner.

Fort Madison, Iowa, March 21, 1872-mch27-dtd

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE GATE CITY

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1868

V. JULY 16, 1868.

LEE COUNTY GAZETEER, containg a historical and descriptive sketch of the county, and sketches of the several townships, together with City Directories of Keokuk and Fort Madison, and a complete Business Register, and Register of City and County Organizations, Societies, Public Buildings, &c.; also, a list of Post Offices in Iowa, and a list of Money Order Offices throughout the United States. Compiled and published by J. F. Coffman & Co., Chicago, Ill.: Printed at the GATE CITY Book and Job Rooms, Keokuk, Iowa, 1868.

There it is. There is a full statement of the case, as appears in the title page. Now, were we to say that the work done in the body of the book justifies the promise of the title page: that the publishers have been pains-taking, thoroughly accurate, and have performed their task admirably well: and that in its mechanical execution the book is everything that could be desired: that were probably enough in the way of notice. Yet do we make more. For Keokuk needed a Directory. So we are glad that our business men gave Mr. Coffman such encouragement and support as enabled him to carry out his enterprise. And we are glad that Mr. Coffman proved to be so well fitted for his undertaking, and that he has performed it so satisfactorily. Now let our dealers and business men, and citizens generally, not only in Keokuk and Fort Madison, but throughout the county, make large purchases, and distribute the book extensively.

The historical sketches are well written. Thus much of the sketch of Keokuk, reproducing the phases of our early social life, we reproduce:

"In the early pioneer days there was not the reserve or restraint in society that there is at the present day. When their red friends presented them with a painted stick, they asked for no explanation, but followed them to their wigwams, and fared sumptuously on dog meat. Their amusements in winter were the commingling of the whites and half breeds in the mazy dance—their favorite dancing tune, being original, was called "*Guilmah*, or *stump-tail dog*." Those who did not participate in the dance could be found in an adjoining room engaged at cards—the favorite game was "*bragg*," played with three cards, and any one who was so stupid as not to understand or appreciate its beauties was considered ineligible to the *best* society. Horse racing was another great source of amusement. In this sport the Indians were ever ready to participate, and at times lost on the result every article they possessed on earth. After this ceased to be entertaining they called on their pugilistic friends, Hood, McBride and Price, to further enliven the scene by a friendly exhibition of their prowess by knocking down and dragging out a few of the uninterested spectators. They had no prize belt to award the victor, as the science and courtesies of the ring had not then arrived to the perfection they have since. Before this era civil law was unknown, and their only salutary mode of punishment for crime was by prohibiting the criminal from the use of intoxicating liquors, this being the greatest punishment that they could inflict. As they had no churches or church members, when the Missionary visited them, Isaac R. Campbell welcomed him in behalf of the citizens, and tendered him the use of a part of his house for church services, and in the capacity of warden he would announce in his bar room, to the loafers who were to compose the audience, the hour of service. The first school was taught by Jesse Crayton, in 1833. As his pupils were few, he was enabled to devote a large portion of his time to the mending of boots and shoes—his legitimate occupation. Also, in connection with the early settlement, we may mention the names of Peter Avery, Wm. Phelps, James Jordon and brothers, McMullen, Bedelle, Nathan Smith and Wm. Harrison, most of whom were Indian traders, and a portion, if not all, have since died, but will ever be remembered, more especially John Gaines, whose name will ever be held in grateful remembrance, as he possessed sterling qualities, being honest and upright in all his dealings, and, owing to his integrity, was appointed the first Justice or Notary of Lee county. He was born Dec. 23d, 1803, in Bloomfield street, New York, and died April 21st, 1839. All that remains to perpetuate his name is a rough limestone monument, standing on the south-east corner of Blondeau and Second streets. This is the only remaining tomb indicating a hallowed spot of ground, once held sacred by every pioneer, which stands like a sentinel upon the watch-tower of time, warning the new-comers that they are only lingering in the foot-prints of the pioneers, and like tabernacles of earth, must soon crumble and pass away."

The work, it will be noticed, was printed at the GATE CITY Book and Job Office, and is such an excellent specimen of book-making as would do credit to any office. It is done in the best style of that skilfull printer, Mr. Henry W. Clendenin, and that is proof conclusive that it is in the best style of the art typographic.

THE GATE CITY

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1869

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 17.

THE Lake City *Leader* is published up on Lake Pepin, in Minnesota. A stray copy of it finds its way to our office. Finds its way because it has been sent; and has been sent because the editor has been excursioning recently and been in parts hearabouts. He has made some notes, which he rightly thinks we would like to see. We scissors some of them. Here is a remark about a friend of ours:

Capt. Abe Hutchinson, of Phil. Sheridan notoriety, was around with the "boys" in the evening, making himself generally "not bad to take." He is the N. W. U. Packet Company Superintendent in St. Louis, and looks as if he enjoyed good living. He reports "white collars" in that region a succes. But we reluctantly bid adieu to St. Louis.

And there is a remark about another friend of ours, which remark although complimentary doesn't fully do justice in the premises. It is the steamer Muscatine of the Northern Line that is talked about. And that we know to be one of the neatest, cleanest, good going and best conditioned crafts that has run since the Ark. We know, too, that its Master, Captain Jenks, and its Clerk, our friend Mr. William Van Dyke, are princes among gentlemen and steamboatmen. And then there is thus much of other matters:

KEOKUK,

at the foot of the lower rapids, the commercial point for Southern Iowa, was reached on Friday at midnight. It is a city of about 14,000, at the southeast corner of the State, the Des Moines river, which empties here, forming the boundary thirty or forty miles between Iowa and Missouri. This town enjoyed a mushroom growth at an early day, at one time the largest city above St. Louis, suffering of course a severe reaction, from which it is gradually recovering.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

Saturday morning on the cars and up the beautiful and picturesque Des Moines valley, which we remember hearing much of years ago as an attractive field for settlement before Minnesota was particularly known. When within about sixty miles of Des Moines, the road passes through a most magnificent stretch of thickly settled rolling country for many miles, a view we might perhaps have gone into ecstacies over had we not before gazed on nearly similar scenes through the central and southern counties of our own State. The finest orchards, the immense fields of waving grain now being bountifully harvested, and the many thriving towns and villages were well adapted to please the eye and swell the heart.

"This world is very lovely. Oh, my God,
I thank Thee that I live."

We stopped over the Sabbath near Monroe in Jasper county, thirty miles east of Des Moines city, in the midst of a splendid region, spending that and the succeeding day with friends and associates of our school days, whom we had not seen since then, and who had removed to Iowa since we came to Minnesota; and we lived over again in freshly awakened recollections the halcyon days when life was young and cares were few.

Monday evening we left our friends after a very short visit, going up to the State Capitol, Des Moines City, which we found to be a neat and well built city of 15,000 inhabitants, with a very modest appearing State House, journeying thence to Davenport, the handsomest city in the State, where we arrived late Tuesday evening, seeing by the way more beautiful country than in the same distance anywhere in the west.

IOWA.

In all essential respects Iowa is a glorious State. Her railroad system is perfect and rapidly approaching completion, one line already stretching across the State from Clinton to the Missouri, and three other lines under way, in addition to the numerous branch roads and the road running north and south, which will in two or three years connect us closely with St. Louis. Iowa has no large commercial center to which the entire State pays tribute, as in many of the States, but her wealth seems to be well distributed. Dubuque, Davenport and Keokuk on the river, and Des Moines and Council Bluffs in the center and west, are important commercial and manufacturing cities of populations ranging from 14,000 to 22,000 each: while Clinton, Muscatine, Burlington, McGregor, Fort Madison, Iowa City, and other places ranging from 6,000 to 12,000, and are equally important places in their several localities. Her record during the war is second to no State, and her triumphs in peace are no less renowned, being free from debt, a pleasing commentary on continental Republican rule in her councils—and she continues to be the most reliably radical State in the Union.

12.

The Gate City.

NOVEMBER 18, 1897.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

A LEE COUNTY PIONEER.

Captain J. W. Campbell of Fort Madi-on Talks Interestingly of Early Times.

Des Moines Capital: If a visitor of Fort Madison is fortunate enough to have as guide Capt. J. W. Campbell, much may be learned about the old fort. He will show where the line of sawn oak pickets that formed the 12-foot stockade, began and ended; will locate the old parade ground, and the spot, a little farther up the bend of the river, where the block house was placed as a protection against covert attacks from the Indians at this particularly exposed point. He will hand you a drink from the first well ever dug on Iowa soil, the one made by the soldiers in 1808, which has been carefully preserved through his efforts. So thoroughly and exhaustively has Capt. Campbell studied the site and construction of the old fort that he has recently drawn, in collaboration with Mr. W. I. Morrison, a "Conceptional Bird's-eye View of Old Fort Madison." This will be further elaborated and probably painted in oils by his gifted wife, thus preserving an exact and accurate reproduction of the ground plan of the first fort built on Iowa soil. Capt. Campbell has himself had an interesting history, and although the facts have been recorded by his own facile pen in the 'History of Lee County" and in many newspaper articles, it is interesting to sit with him before a bright wood fire (the handsome brass andirons, by the way, once belonged to the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith) on a chilly November afternoon and hear the story from his own lips.

His grandfather, Capt. James White, once owned the land where now stands the town of Nauvoo, Ill., having bought it of a French trader, Julien, in 1825. He built, in 1828, the old stone mansion which is still preserved standing high up on the bluff at Nauvoo. The visitor in these parts may stop at Montrose, take the ferry boat that plies across the river and spend a pleasant half hour exploring this historic building for himself. Capt. White was a genial, jovial man, keeping "open house" the year round his decanters on the sideboard always filled with the best of whiskey, with a barrel in reserve against need.

Once a stranger, evidently well-to-do, dressed in finest broadcloth and carrying an ivory headed cane, after a night's netertainment, made the great mistake of asking for his bill. The captain's wrath rose at once. "By the eternal God," he said, "I want you to know we make no charges." During the Black Hawk war this building was a refuge for the people for fifty miles around. It has, at one time and another, sheltered many famous people, the Indian chiefs Wapello and Black Hawk, General Scott, General Henry Dodge, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Daniel F. Miller and Will Carleton the poet. Joseph Smith also "had many a revelation within its walls." The first court held in Hancock county, Ill. ,was held in this same house October, 1829. Capt. White eventually sold it to Isaac Galland, and he in turn to Sidney Rigdon, chief apostle of the Latter Day Saints, who moved into it in 1839. A fine oil painting of the old house, executed by his wife, now hangs in Capt. Campbell's home.

Capt. Campbell's father, I. R. Campbell, established a trading house in what is now Keokuk as early as 1831. He was a very handsome man. A large picture frame in his son's house contains his photograph, together with eight of his associates and friends—Capt. Wm. Phelps, Capt. D. S. Harris, Capt. James May, H. L. Dousman, Antoine Le Claire, Brisboe, Black Hawk and Keokuk. Most of the white men named were, like himself, river men and Indian traders. Isaac Campbell was a close friend of Black Hawk and the last time that brave old Indian was at Fort Madison, July 4, 1838, he went with him to view the place, where with his braves in 1812 he tried to fire the old fort. Soon after that Black Hawk was taken ill. Mr. Campbell visited him a few days before he died, and was presented as a dying gift from the old chief, with a handsome buckskin purse.

Capt. Campbell himself was born about forty miles below what is now Keokuk. Black Hawk's wigwam was but 100 yards from his father's house and it is no wonder that when a boy he could speak the Indian language as readily as the English. He received his early education in the first school house ever built in Iowa, with Berryman Jennings, the pioneer school teacher, as his instructor. Later he had as teacher Hon. Wm. Patterson, who was about that time writing his Life of Black Hawk. In 1844 the captain began his river life as cook in a keel boat, the "Des Moines Belle," which ran between the mouth of the Des Moines river and the Raccoon Forks. At that time only a military post existed on the site of the city of Des Moines and the Indians often hailed the boat from the shore, "Give us whisky—fire water." In 1848 the captain witnessed the burning of the old Mormon temple. He has many interesting relics, and shows with pride a flint lock gun given by Black Hawk to his father in 1834, " the first gun I ever shot after I was through with the bow and arrow."

Capt. Campbell has always realized the importance of preserving early Iowa history, and the fact that he has done what he could for his part of the state in this direction is attested by his scrap books which have been in much demand and have traveled many hundred miles to aid in historical research. The character of his collections may be shown by the following titles gleaned in turning over the pages, "Nauvoo Mormon Temple," "Up the Mississippi," "Pioneer Reminiscences," "First Side Wheeler Built in Iowa," "Iowa District of Wisconsin T'y.," "Iowa's First Fort," "Memories of Black Hawk," "Montrose History," "Wit and Wisdom of Chief Keokuk," "Exodus of Iowa Tribes," "Territorial Days in Iowa," etc., etc.

Although it is 67 years since Capt. Campbell first stepped foot on Iowa soil he is an erect, vigorous man, and can boast of but few gray hairs. He is, as has been said, "doubtless the best posted man now living on the history of the Upper Mississippi."

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

APRIL 15, 1899.

GALLAND SHORT A POSTMASTER

The Office is Vacant and Hedge is Trying to Find a Man for It.

Galland, perhaps better known as Nashville, just above town, is short a postmaster and is industriously searching for one. The strange condition of a vacancy and no applicants was disclosed by a letter received by Congressman Hedge at Burlington yesterday. It was in the form of a protest from the postmaster general at Washington, asking him to recommend some one for the appointment as postmaster for that village. The former postmaster tendered a resignation to the department some time ago, and for several weeks the town has been without postal facilities.

Galland has two hundred inhabitants and the postoffice department has been waiting in vain for the usual rush of applications for a federal appointment, and finally in despair notified the congressman from this district of the vacancy, and the failure to fill the place.

As no one seems to be anxious for the position, and in view of the strange and unparalleled reluctance of the officeholders, Mr. Hedge is in a quandary as to whom to appoint, and a visit to Galland may be necessary before Uncle Sam will be satisfied that his business is being properly transacted at that point.

As the salary for postmaster at Galland is only $46 per annum, there may be more difficulty in making the proper recommendation.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DAILY GATE CITY
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1929

LOCATING OF COUNTY SEAT OF LEE COUNTY

Montrose Woman's Civic Club Studies History of County, Facts of Interest.

MONTROSE, Iowa, April 2.—The Montrose Woman's Civic club has had during the past winter the study of the counties of Iowa as answer to roll call at alternate meetings. The study of Lee county brought out the following facts in regard to the early location of the county seat.

From the Laws of the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa we learn that "Lee County was established December 7, 1836, when the original county of Demoine was divided. The law which established the county provided that court should be held at the town of "Madison." January 18, 1838 the governor of the Territory of Wisconsin approved an act which provided that the seat of justice should be established at Ft. Madison. It was not long however, until the people in the western part of the county began to complain that the county seat was too far away and a movement was instituted to secure a re-location. Accordingly, at a session of the legislature in 1840, a commission was appointed, to investigate the conditions in Lee county and recommend a location for a permanent seat of justice. Two of the members of the locating commission met at Ft. Madison on the first Monday in March, 1840, and after examining several proposed sites recommended almost the exact geographic center of the county. As the locating commissioners were acting under the authorization of the territorial legislature, the county authorities had no recourse in the matter but to accept their decision. The location was therefore accepted by the county, the county commissioners and the name "Franklin," was selected for the new seat of justice. The owners of the land selected agreed to donate the site to the county on condition that when the town was laid out every other lot should be reconveyed to the original owners. Accordingly the site was surveyed and platted, and a sale of lots was advertised to take place July 13, 1840. No record is found of this sale and it is not certain that any lots were sold.

Dissatisfaction increased until at the next session of the legislature a law was passed which provided for submitting the whole matter to a vote of the people on the second Monday in March, 1841. Provision was further made that in case no location received a majority of the votes cast at ensuing election, the two places receiving the highest number of votes should be voted upon at a second special election in April. Immediately after the passage of this act the people of Fort Madison became active in their effort to secure the seat of justice. The town authorities passed an ordinance donating the sum of $8,000, for the purpose of erecting a court house in the town of Fort Madison, provided the county seat should be located there.

Not only was this ordinance passed but the money was actually turned over to the county treasurer as an indication of an intention to carry out the proposed plan. As a further guarantee that the proposed donation would be available a number of citizens executed and filed a bond for twice the amount donated, guaranteeing it's payment. In addition to this, Danield McConn, an ex-treasurer of Fort Madison, certified that $5,000 had been paid from the sale of town lots, which sum it was proposed should be added to the public building fund. Other public spirited citizens purchased lots to the amount of $560, for the location of the courthouse. These were conveyed to the county upon the consideration of one dollar, which brought the building fund up to $13,559 before the election was held. This had its effect on election day. Ft. Madison received 465 votes, Franklin 435 and West Point 320. No location received a majority but Ft. Madison was in the lead, and at the second election held April 19, 1841 the vote stood 730 for Fort Madison and 477 for Franklin. Many people thought the question was now settled but they were mistaken. While the town of Fort Madison was erecting the courthouse, the advocates of Franklin and West Point united in presenting a petition to the legislature asking that the question be again submitted to the people. On January 13, 1843, the governor approved an act "to relocate the seat of justice of Lee County." By the terms of this act commissioners were appointed and authorized to select such location as to them seemed best, "taking into consideration the future as well as the present population." The commissioners met at the town of Franklin on March 20, 1843, and after making their investigation reported the selection of the east half of the southeast quarter of section 5, township 68 north of range 5 west. This was the land on which the town of West Point was located. The commissioners in presenting their report included a document signed by a considerable number of citizens of West Point, in which they agreed to build a courthouse at that place. This building was to be forty-five by fifty feet in size, constructed of brick with a stone foundation, and was to be completed by September 1, 1844. It was to be given to the county "in consideration of the commissioners locating the county seat of Lee at West Point."

On March 28, 1843, the report of locating commissioners and its accompanying document was filed with the board of county commissioners who issued an order on the same day "that the district courts for Lee County, from and after the first day of April next shall be held at the Town of West Point." It was mutually agreed by the people of West Point and the people of Fort Madison that the county seat should remain at the latter place for one year also that the courthouse in Fort Madison should be sold at public auction and such part of the money as had been donated by citizens of Fort Madison should be refunded to the town. John A. Drake was appointed to take care of the building until it should be sold but the sale never occurred. The people of West Point, true to their promise, built a court house on the site of the new location, and thus there were two courthouses in Lee county. In the summer of 1843 a movement was started to have the county divided. A petition was presented to the next session of the legislature and on February 5, 1844, the governor approved "An act for the formation of the County of Madison." By the provision of this act the question was to be submitted to the voters of Lee county at the following election in April. The proposition, however, was defeated by a vote of 952 to 713, and the county seat fight was again renewed. Those who favored Fort Madison as the seat of justice started the circulation of a petition asking the legislature to submit the question again to the vote of the people. Accordingly "An act to relocate the seat of justice of Lee County" was approved on June 10, 1845, by which the question was to be voted upon at a special election to be held in August.

It was further provided that if no place received a majority of all the votes cast, the three paces receiving the highest number should be voted upon at another election to be held in September. Six places entered the contest at the August election: Fort Madison received 664 votes, West Point 308, Franklin 326, Keokuk 208, Montrose 287 and Charleston 41.

Since no place received a majority, another election was held on the first Monday of September at which time Fort Madison, West Point, and Franklin were the three contestants. The time intervening between the election was one of strenuous campaigning in Lee county. Whenever two neighbors met the county seat question was the topic of discussion. Many bitter arguments ensued and fist fights occurred occassionally during this short but all-absorbing campaign. At the election in September the vote stood 969 for Fort Madison, 535 for West Point, and 378 for Franklin. Fort Madison having a majority of 56 out of a total of 1882 votes was again declared to be the county seat. For a time it appeared that the people generally were willing to acquiesce in the decision reached at this election. Again in 1856, however, a petition was signed asking for an election to vote upon the question of removing the county seat to Charleston. This request was granted and again the matter was submitted to a vote of the people. No returns of this elec-

ion are available. It is known, however, that Fort Madison was victorious and it has continued to be the county seat of Lee county.

It should be noted in this connection that a law was passed in 1847 creating certain courts in Keokuk which have concurrent jurisdiction with those of Fort Madison. Accordingly part of the litigation arising in the county is adjudicated at Keokuk. Officers are also maintained there, county treasurer, recorder, and clerk of the district court.

Lee-Clark County Boundary Settlement Recalls Old War

APRIL 17, 1939

DAILY GATE CITY

The amicable settlement of the latest Iowa-Missouri boundary dispute, the pending by joint action of the two legislatures in recognizing the present course of the Des Moines river as the dividing line between Lee and Clark counties, serves to recall that such peaceful methods were not always adopted by the two states and that 100 years ago armed men were encamped hereabouts, ready to battle over a nine-mile strip of land claimed by both Iowa and Missouri.

Following like action on the part of the house, the Iowa senate Friday passed a bill relinquishing jurisdiction over certain lands lying in Lee county (approximately 325 acres) to the state of Missouri, providing Missouri at the same time waive title to some 200 acres in Clark county. The Missouri bill is now in the hands of the legislature of that state.

Conferences Here

The joint bills grew out of a number of conferences, held here last summer, between the assistant attorney generals of the two states, interested land owners and their representatives and followed action instituted by Missouri in the U. S. Supreme court for the purpose of determining the boundary line between Clark and Lee counties. A shift in the course of the Des Moines river many years ago had resulted in a dispute over the jurisdiction over some 500 acres of land.

It was felt by those interested that the trial of the suit in the Supreme court would necessitate great expense to both states and could bring about little more than a redetermination of the true boundary line as the Des Moines river so the bills were drawn up, one for presentation in the Iowa and another in the Missouri legislature.

"Old Iowa War"

One hundred years ago, however, vastly different methods were resorted to. Complications first developed in 1936 when an act of congress on April 12 of that year established the territory of Wisconsin, of which Iowa was a part. Then on April 12, 1838, congress established the territory of Iowa and declared that its southern boundary would coincide with the northern limits of Missouri.

After that first act the Missouri legislature directed its governor to appoint commissioners to survey the northern boundary of the state and to ask the president, as well as the governor of Wisconsin territory, to cooperate by appointing similar commissions to assist in the matter. When neither the president nor the Wisconsin executive responded, the Missouri commission acted alone and fixed the northern boundary of that state at a point nearly opposite Bentonsport, in Van Buren county, to include a strip of land which extended about nine miles beyond the present boundary of Missouri. The legislature approved this survey on February 11, 1839.

The Iowa Survey

Meanwhile congress authorized a survey of its own and appointed Major Albert Miller Lea to handle the task with the assistance of Iowa and Missouri commissioners. This time Missouri refused to act, but Iowa named Dr. James Davis and with the U. S. civil engineers he set the southern boundary of Iowa where it now remains.

Missouri refused to recognize the Davis survey, however, and maintained its claim to the nine-mile strip of land which its commission had regarded as a part of the "Show-Me" state. Then came the important matter of taxation and the "war" was on, with both states insisting upon their rights to collect taxes within the disputed boundary strip.

Armies Encamped

The situation reached a climax when Clark, Lewis and Knox counties mustered troops and established an armed camp of about 600 men along the Fox river. At the same time 300 Iowans were under arms at Farmington.

Fortunately no shots were fired and on December 4, 1839, both sides appointed a peace commission which reached an agreement on December 12. And in March of 1840 congress ended the difficulty by establishing the northern boundary of Missouri on the old Indian line originally surveyed by Dr. Davis of Iowa.

This boundary followed the Des Moines river between Lee and Clark counties and continued to use the old bed—although the river had shifted its course considerably—as the dividing line until the present time when the states got together on their compromise.

THE DAILY GATE CITY

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1914

GRAVE OF SOLDIER OF '76 IS FOUND

Lost Creek Cemetery Near Green Bay is Resting Place for Second Old Continental.

After a few weeks of work the local chapter of the D. A. R. has succeeded in locating the grave of a soldier of the revolutionary war, located about seven miles north of here in Lost Creek cemetery near Green Bay, says the Fort Madison Gem City. The ladies of the D. A. R. organization of this city were told of this grave some time ago and efforts to locate it definitely were immediately begun with the result that after a week or two of hunting the resting place of the fighter of '76 was discovered.

Mrs. J. M. Casey put herself into communication with the war department in Washington and from that office discovered the record of the dead man. The occupant of the neglected grave was one Timothy Breece who fought with a New Jersey regiment all during the struggle for independence. Many years ago, before the memory of any now living in this city the man moved to this county and was buried here. His grave has now gone to ruin and neglect.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
C. L. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

15.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

Beautiful New Stone Church at Houghton Dedicated Today

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1951

BUILT BY THE REV. ALBERT GOETZMAN and his parishioners, largely with their own hands, this beautiful stone church, St. John's at Houghton, was dedicated today with two archbishops and a bishop among the dignitaries on hand for the ceremonies. The Romanesque structure faces south and has a wide flagstone walk leading to the five archways in front. —Cam-Art Studio, West Point, Photo

By CAROLYN MENKE

WEST POINT, Iowa, June 4—People of St. John's church, Houghton, on Highway 16, today witnessed the dedication of their beautiful new church built with the cooperation of 150 men of the parish, under the leadership of their pastor, the Rev. Albert R. Goetzman.

Father Goetzman was appointed pastor of St. John's in 1944, a parish without a church, less than one month after fire had destroyed the former brick structure. Over the ashes was left a big question mark, "What to do, with materials scarce and costs at a peak."

Services were held in the school building since that January fire, and later in the church basement, during the five and one-half years of construction and finishing of the new church which rose out of the ashes of '44, to a modern, massive beautiful edifice, a real show place in Lee county.

Lannon Limestone.

Father Goetzman took a leading part in the 100 different tasks of building, and chief helper was Louis Schneider of Milwaukee, Wis., an old limestone cutter.

Built of Lannon limestone shipped from Sussex, Wis., the fireproof structure is 134 feet long and 52 feet wide. The ornate bell tower stands 57½ feet tall. Its historical bell is from Ottumwa's Wapello county court house. The enclosed entrance stands nearly the full width of the building. The ambulatory will seat 520 people.

No pillars were used. The red-metal, all-weather baked tile roof is supported by a network of steel reinforcements concealed in the walls. The side walls are 20 inches thick and the front walls two feet thick. On the front doors is the sandblasted inscription, "Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord."

The floors of terrazzo were laid by experts from St. Louis.

Ten Stained Glass Windows.

Ten of the 82 windows are of stained glass, depicting the parables of the Lord.

Inscribed in the main isle of the floor is Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and in the sanctuary floor, His heavenly entrance into Jerusalem.

Three and a half tons of Carrara marble from Italy forms the main altar, of which there are two sacristies on either side, one for the clergy and one for the acolytes, all modernly equipped. There are unique confessionals and a silence room for parents and small children. There is also a complete basement.

The tall dark complexioned robust pastor saw his dream come true yesterday, that of "as beautiful a house of God that could be made possible," regardless of the labor and spare time which he and his people put into it. It is a monument of combined effort, and "the cathedral on Highway 16" is so called by some of its neighbors.

Procession at 10 A. M.

Clergy came from far and near and the parishioners formed a procession for the solemn high mass at 10 a. m. Father Goetzman was the celebrant, assisted by Father Karl Holtkamp, Davenport, Ia., deacon, and Father Raymond Sanders, S. V. D., sub-deacon, Techny, Ill., both natich sons of the parish. His excellency Bishop Ralph L. Hayes, of Davenport, delivered the dedication address. His excellency, the archbishop of Dubuque, Henry P. Rohlman and his excellency, the coadjutor archbishop of Dubuque, Leo Bins, were present in the sanctuary.

A dinner for the clergy, sisters and invited guests was served at noon and there was entertainment for the parshioners at 7:30 in the evening.

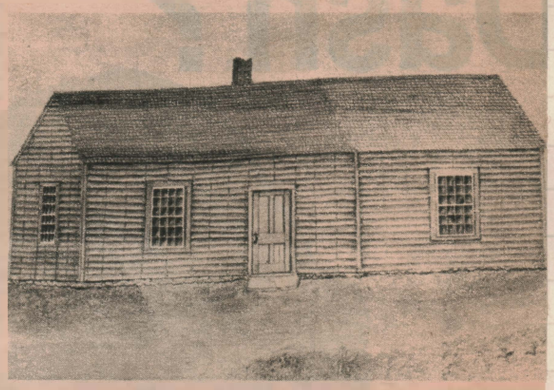
16.

'The Harvest Truly Is Plenteous'

Historic Eastern Iowa Church Plan's 20th God's Portion Day

THE OLDEST Congregational Church west of the Mississippi River will hold its twentieth God's Portion Day next Saturday at Denmark, Ia., and if the past is any precedent about $8,000 will be donated by parishioners from the crops they grew or from wages they earned.

"The first God's Portion day started here," says The Rev. Vernon Clausing, 34, pastor at Denmark. Three other churches in the area — United Presbyterian at West Point, the Wever Christian Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church at Augusta—also participate in the big day, which includes a parade at 10 a.m., a dinner at 11:30 a.m., a dedication service at 12:45 p.m., and an auction at 1:30 p.m.



FIRST Denmark church and school was this log structure built in 1837.

IT WAS WIND, AGE AND OLD SQUARE NAILS

Besides thinking about God's Portion, the 340 members of the Denmark Congregational Church will be pondering the fate of their historic church erected in 1863 as a replacement for the one burned by arsonists in 1861.

Since Feb. 15, the congregation has held services in the basement because the ceiling of the main room fell in. Fortunately, no one was in the church at the time the 60-foot by 40-foot slab of plaster fell in one piece before shattering on the pews.

"It was a combination of wind, age and the square nails used in construction that caused the ceiling to collapse," says Pastor Clausing, who dislikes being called "reverend" because "I look on the job as that of a pastor."

"We'll study the mission and purpose we have in the community and then decide what is the best solution — whether to repair the ceiling, rebuild or build another structure. We'll make the decision not on the past but on the future. The congregation will vote on the decision. That's why we're called Congregationalists."

Since 1957, the church has been a member of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ and of the Southeast Iowa Association of the United Church. And since that date it has been formally known as Congregational United Church of Christ, rather than the Denmark Congregational Church.

THE NAME OF THE HYMN WAS DENMARK

Situated in the unincorporated town of Denmark (population about 350) nine miles north of Fort Madison, the church is rich in history and heritage. In 1836 a group of New Englanders came to Iowa and settled near the present town site of Denmark. The first winter the settlers lived in a double log cabin. In the spring each family built a home of its own and colony was called "Haystack" because the colonists had a common forage pile, the most conspicuous thing in the region, since it could be seen for miles.

In 1837 the site was surveyed and the name Denmark chosen, not because the residents were Danes but because church members at a choir practice liked a hymn tune called "Denmark."

First church services were held in a cabin. The Rev. Asa Turner came to Denmark from Illinois and the Denmark Congregational Church was organized May 5, 1838. Turner became the first pastor.

In 1843 nine young ministers who had just been graduated from the Andover (Mass.) Theological Seminary heard about the first Congregational church west of the Mississippi and decided to come to Denmark. Two were ordained in the east; seven were ordained in Denmark on Nov. 5, 1843, the first Congregational ministers to be ordained in Iowa.

This group of nine is known in church history as the "Iowa Band." The nine served and established many churches in the mission country of Iowa. The start of Grinnell College can be traced to the efforts of these men.

The first church at Denmark, built in 1837, was a log cabin, 20 by 24 feet, covered with split boards. In 1843 a brick church was erected. The church members participated in an "underground railway" by which slaves escaped the south to the free north. Escaping slaves considered themselves safe when they reached Denmark. Arsonists unsympathetic with the "underground railway" set fire to the church in 1861. It was rebuilt in 1863 at a cost of between $4,000 and $5,000. The steeple was added nine years later.

Oct 5, 1967 - page #1
(Historic Church in Denmark)

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

In 1958 an educational wing was added.

The church-connected Denmark Academy, incorporated in 1843, was the first school of higher education west of the Mississippi. It operated for about 70 years until it became federated with the public school system as the Denmark Academy High School. In 1963 it became part of the Fort Madison Community School district.

Clausing is the twentieth pastor to serve the church. He had a student assistant, Francis Ellis of Kettering, Ohio, during the past summer. Clausing and his wife, Kay, formerly of Newcastle, Neb., have a son, Jon, 6 months old. Clausing was graduated from the United Theological Seminary at New Brighton, Minn., in 1957. He served at Tilden, Neb., before coming to Denmark three years ago.

The congregation had its first day camp during the past summer and 50 of its young members participated in summer work camps in Montana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

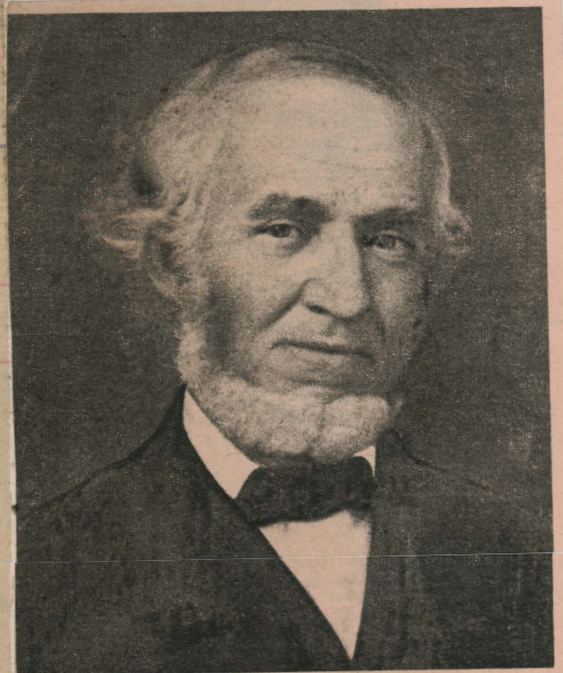
The theme for the 1967 God's Portion Day is taken from Matthew (9:37): "The harvest truly is plenteous."

No higher tribute can be paid the Denmark Congregational Church than one written by T. O. Douglas in "Pilgrims of Iowa": "It is doubtful whether any community within the state, so small as this, has been a greater force in the world, and in the Kingdom of God than this community of Denmark."

(Oct. 8, 1967 - page 2 Christmas Church in Denmark)

BRICK CHURCH was built in 1843, burned in 1861 and rebuilt two years later. The educational wing added in 1958 is at the left.

TWENTIETH pastor is the Rev. Vernon Clausing. His church has 340 members.



FIRST PASTOR was The Rev. Asa Turner. His church had 33 members.

WHEN THE CEILING fell down and shattered on the pews last February, these wooden rafters held firm.
(Register photographs by George Ceolla)

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

19-

Retired Lee County Farmer Has Given Quarter Million to Build Paved Road

THE DAILY GATE CITY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1926

Alexander Coleman of Cedar Township Takes This Unique Method of Leaving Monument to Himself in This Vicinity.

Alexander Coleman, wealthy Iowa farmer, has made an outright gift of a quarter of a million dollars to build a road.

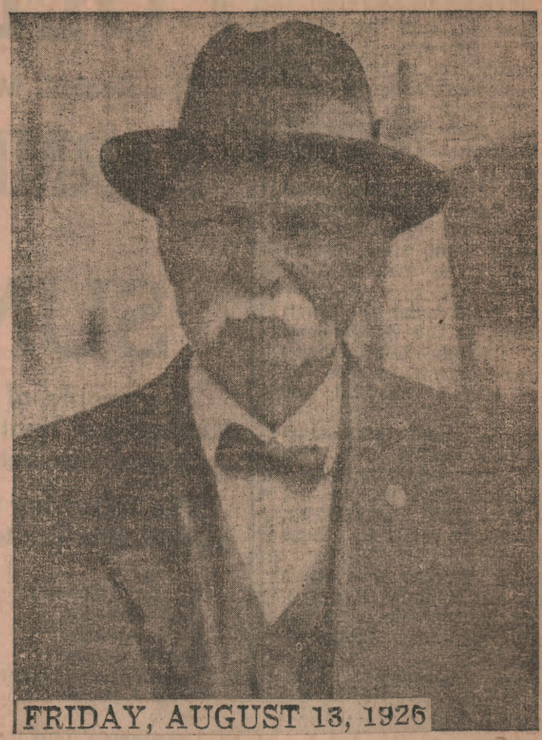
The road itself is to be built in Iowa and is to be paved. One section of this road will connect the old Coleman homestead in northwest Lee county with the country town of Hillsboro, three and one-half miles to the north, the market place of the Coleman family in pioneer days. The second section of the road, and the longest, will link the Coleman farm with the rest of the world through a connection, seven miles away to the east, with the federal U. S. highway No. 161.

Old settlers of Hillsboro and community will hardly recognize U. S. highway No. 161. So long as the old timers live it will remain, in their minds at least, as the old Mt. Pleasant-Fort Madison trail. Its present yellow and black primary road No. 40 markers borne now for five years past are to be surrendered soon for the new black and white U. S. shield and its new U. S. number. The neighborhood folk familiarly call the road which is to be built past the old homestead and leading to the main road, the Blue Grass trail. It is only a county road but when the pavement is finished it will undoubtedly be christened the "Coleman road" and be distinguished perhaps for years as the longest stretch of secondary road pavement in Iowa.

This road is the generosity of one of the pioneer citizens of the community on whom fortune has smiled and who has chosen this very practical way to bestow aa part of his fortune for the benefit of the public as a memorial to the family name.

The offer was made by Mr. Coleman on May 7th to the Lee board of supervisors at Fort Madison, through a board of trustees named by Mr. Coleman to handle the funds and in a general way to supervise the building of the road. The offer was at once accepted by the supervisors of Henry county at Mt. Pleasant. The Lee county road, specified by Mr. Coleman in the terms of his gift, enters the county in the northwest corner of Cedar township and follows the route of the Blue Grass road as indicated on the accompanying diagram to a point east of Houghton where it connects with the present primary road No. 40.

Mr. Coleman's proposition briefly is that he has established a trust fund of $250,000 for the purpose of building a hard surfaced road in certain portions of Lee and Henry counties. He has appointed P. A. Blackford, president of the Hillsboro Savings bank, William Thornton, a prominent farmer residing south of Hillsboro, and J. R. Frailey, ex-senator and attorney from Fort Madison, as trustees and has assigned and turned over to them the sum of $250,000 to be used as specified by the terms of the gift.



ALEXANDER COLEMAN.
Lee County Philanthropist Who Gives Money for Paved Highway.

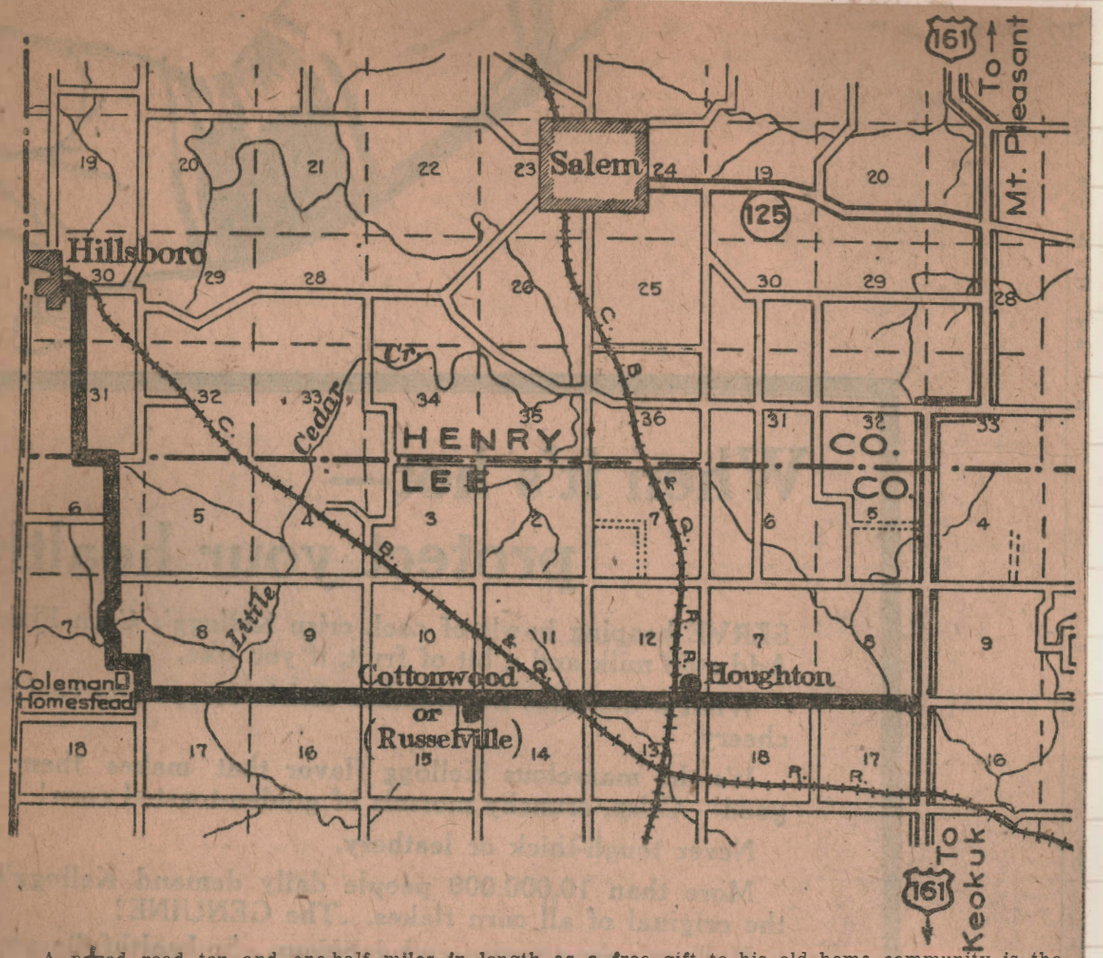
In order to accept the gift it will be necessary for both counties to bring the road which is to be paved to proper grade. Each board of supervisors has power to act in its respective county. It is specified that "any highway engineer of the state appointed or designated to act or carry out the provisions of this gift is to have power to act in all matters in both Lee and Henry counties." Mr. Coleman desires that the State Highway Commission shall determine the cost per mile of the paving contract in the two counties.

If a vacancy occurs among the trustees the remaining two trustees shall act and carry on the work. If a second vacancy occurs it shall be filled by appointment by a judge in either county in which such vacancy occurs.

Mr. Coleman is well known in Lee county. He emigrated to Iowa with his father in 1847 from Zanesville, Ohio, settling in 1848 on the farm in Cedar township which became the Coleman homestead. This farm is indicated on the drawing in connection with this article. The year after settling on the farm the father died during an epidemic of cholera leaving a large family.

Mr. Coleman served in the civil war, after which he settled in Aurora, Neb., where he operated a farm of 1,500 acres for many years. In the spring of 1919 he sold his holdings in Nebraska and invested in government securities. In 1900 he returned to Iowa and has lived in Lee county for the past twenty-five years. Three unmarried sisters resided on the farm with him, south of Hillsboro, until three years ago. These three sisters died within about two years of each other and Mr. Coleman then moved to Hillsboro. He is 87 years of age.

Surveys have already been made and plans are being prepared for the grading and preliminary work necessary before the actual construction of the paved road can begin. Following the customary procedure in Iowa, it is likely that the grading will be completed during the present 1926 season, allowed to settle and pack during the winter and spring months and the contract for the actual paving be let in the spring of 1927 for completion next year. Mr. Coleman, after making the gift, left soon after for California where he will remain for some time for the benefit of his health. His gift is unique and unusual and it is to be hoped that he may fully recover and live to enjoy many more years of good health and satisfaction in the use of the splendid road which his generosity and thoughtfulness is to provide for his old home community. It is doubtful if any man ever devised a better or more practical type of memorial to build for himself than has Mr. Coleman.



A paved road ten and one-half miles in length as a free gift to his old home community is the monument which Alexander Coleman, retired Iowa farmer, has chosen to erect for himself. The road which will cost approximately $250,000 will lead from Hillsboro in Henry county south 3½ miles to the old Coleman Homestead ir Lee county and thence east 7 miles through the towns of Cottonwood or Russellville and Houghton to Primary Road No. 40, the main road from Mt. Pleasant to Keokuk. The road to be built is part of the old Bluegrass Trail and will join the Coleman homestead to the old family market place Hillsboro and the Mt. Pleasant-Keokuk pioneer Trail. There are no strings to the gift except such as are necessary to insure that the money will be properly spent in the building of the road.

The Gate City

COURT APPROVES USE OF COLEMAN CASH ON HIGHWAY

In an order issued in the Fort Madison district court yesterday, Judge J. R. Leary authorized the use of available cash in the Alexander Coleman estate for grading and bridging the new Coleman road which is being built in Cedar township.

In his will the late Alexander Coleman left his entire estate to the county for road building purposes.

P. A. Blackford, executor of the Coleman estate, and the Lee county board of supervisors were authorized in the order, to let contracts for this grading and bridge construction work.

All contracts for this road work must be let under the supervision of the State Highway Commission and it was announced this afternoon that the contracts will be granted in the courthouse here at 10:30 a. m., Thursday, July 18.

A representative of the commission will meet with Mr. Blackford and the board of supervisors when these contracts are let.

Grubbing and clearing of the road which joins with the present Coleman road and will extend to the Van Buren county line about four miles through Cedar township, has been completed with WPA crews.

JULY 6, 1940

DAILY GATE CITY

DONOR OF ROAD DIES TODAY AT FORT MADISON

DEC. 18 ___ 1933

Alex Coleman Passes Away in Hospital at Age of 94 Years —Gave Money For Paved Highway in Cedar Township.

(Special to the Gate City)

SALEM, Iowa, Dec. 18—Alec Colman, age 94, died at the Sacred Heart hospital at Ft. Madison early this morning.

Mr. Colman is the man who gave the money for the Colman highway. He lived with his great-niece, Mrs. Rohdy.

The body was brought from Ft. Madison to the C. A. Stevens undertaking parlors in Salem.

The funeral arrangements have not been made as yet.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

21

THE GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1879.

NOT LEE.

The Source From Which Lee County Derived its Name.

It was Given in Honor of Col. Albert Lea, Instead of Gen. R. E. Lee.

An Interesting Reminiscence of Early Times Hereabouts---History of the Half-Breed Tract.

Mr. Justice Miller, of the United States Supreme Court, recently visited the South and spent a portion of his time in Texas. The distinguished jurist was received with the utmost courtesy by the people of that section. During his stay at Galveston, he received the following letter, which explains itself:

CORSICANA, TEXAS, Feb. 9, 1879.

Mr. Justice Miller, Galveston, Texas.

SIR:—Some years ago I began a conversation with Mr. Ballinger about you, to ascertain whether you were the person of the same name whom I had the pleasure of knowing in Iowa at an early day; but his statements and my recollections were so diverse that I was led to distrust the identity. Nevertheless, I am persuaded that you are the rather grave young lawyer who shared his bed with the young Lietenant of Dragoons about the first fall of snow in the winter of 1835-6, at Fort Madison, when that now handsome city did not afford the convenience of a public house.

If I am not mistaken in this, you will allow me to express my pleasure at hearing, through the *News*, of your visit to Texas, and to hope that the relaxation may conduce to the restoration of your health. You may scarce be able to identify the retired old citizen of Texas with the active Lieutenant of Dragoons of your earlier days in the infant State of Iowa; but Judge B. can tell you enough of me to identify the history; and, if I am right, in identifying your distinguished personage with my quandom bed-fellow, to justify me in asking you to tell me the name of the chairman of the Committee on Counties in the first legislature that assembled at Burlington (winter of 1840-41), who drew up the bill that divided the Territory of Iowa into counties. He was a fine looking young man, a graduate of Yale, a farmer who drove his own wagon with produce into the city of Burlington, and in 1841 married the daughter of Senator Huntington, of Connecticut, and came to see me when I was chief clerk of the War office under John Bell. He, Starr, Grimes and I slept in the same room when he drew up that bill and he put my name down for the first county (now known as Lee), in consideration of my having mapped, described and named the area now known as Iowa and Minnesota. As I purpose to visit my namesake, the village of "Albert Lea," in Minnesota, next summer, I may also visit the capital of Iowa, and get my friends to have the spelling of my namesake in Iowa restored, as the only memorial of my services to a region first brought into notice by my publications. So much for the vanity and egotism of your friend, A. M. LEA.

Justice Miller replied to the letter of Col. Lea, informing him that he was not the person alluded to. In answer to this letter, which does not appear here, he received the following:

ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

CORSICANA, TEXAS, Feb. 17, 1878.

Mr. Justice Miller, Galveston, Texas:

Many thanks to you, my dear sir, for your kind and full answer to my inquiry about my quandom bed fellow at Fort Madison. You ask for a more specific statement of the origin of the name of the county in Iowa lying in the fork of the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers.

A detachment of three companies of the First Regiment of Dragoons was hutted at the place now known as Montrose. Having been transferred to that regiment in 1834, I was attached to one of those companies and reported there to Lieut. Col. S. W. Kearney in November. This detachment made an expedition in 1835, into the Sioux country, on the waters of the St. Peter's (now Minnesota) river. On this march, of my own volition, I meandered the route with a pocket compass, taking distances from the time and rate of marching on each course, and sketched and noted all topographical features, and kept a full journal of all incidents. This was in addition to my duties as the sole officer of my company, and the care of the ordnance stores. We crossed the Des Moines above the forks and came down the west side to the mouth of Raccoon Fork, whence by order, I descended by a dug-out, to ascertain the practicability of taking supplies by water, for a fort projected at that point. I meandered the stream, sketched its shores, sounded all its shoals, made sections of its bluffs, noting its coal and other minerals, by the aid of one soldier (Holliday) and an Indian. We left our canoe at Captain White's trading post, near the foot of Des Moines Rapids, and went afoot to the post at the head of the rapids, then called Fort Des Moines. One house of rough stone was the only building where the city of Keokuk now stands.

The notes and sketches taken on this march were combined into a map upon a basis of Tanner's map of the United States, the best delineation of that region then accessible. Known names were retained, and others invented and applied. A formal memoir of my reconnoisance of Des Moines river, with this map, was handed to Lt. Col. Kearney, who forwarded it to the Adjutant General. It was made the basis of the first appropriation for the improvement of that river, being considered an official survey.

In the Summer of 1834, having taken some recruits to Rock Island, I was presented the treaty with the Sacs and Foxes, made on the site of Davenport, by which was extinguished the Indian title to a strip forty miles wide entending along the "Ioway" river from its mouth upward to some forgotten limit. Settlers rapidly occupied this strip.

In making the map, I saw the value of the point at the extreme Western bend of the Mississippi, as shown by Tanner's map. On a short leave of absence I rode up the river in very cold weather alone, exploring. At the head of Muscatine bayou I was offered a squatter's claim, a cabin and two stacks of hay for $50. The fair city of Muscatine now covers the vicinity. Passing thence in the night to old Mr. Nye's, at the mouth of Pine river, where we then all thought was the extreme point of the Western bend of the river, no surveys having been made, I purchased from him his squatter's claim on the North side of the Pine for $50 and then rode on to Rock Island, where I met Capt. Wm. Gordon, who had just traveled from Council Bluffs across the country, was aiming to secure the same locality. We joined interests and made further purchases. During that winter I resigned my commission, at Washington got leave to use the map sent in by Lt. Col. Kearney in filling out a larger one with corrections, designed to accompany a description of the country embraced. A pamphlet of some forty to fifty pages, with this corrected map, was published by H. S. Tanner early in 1836, entitled, "Notes on the Iowa District of Wisconsin Territory." The country between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers had been by Congress attached to the Territory of Wisconsin. The name of "Iowa District" was first written on this map; and the spelling was then unhappily changed to Iowa instead of Ioway, as it had been theretofore spelled in all treaties, laws and maps. When this district came to be organized as a territory the same name was retained, after a sharp contest between Geo. W. Jones, the delegate from Wisconsin, and the Committee on Territories. Jones had aided in the preparation of the "Notes" which was prefaced by a letter from him.

In the autumn of 1836 I laid out a site for a town at the mouth of Pine river and called Ellenborough, and had a map and letter press description printed, designed to be used by my trusted partner Gordon, who was drawn away, however, by the Florida war, and afterward justified his Pocahontas blood by wandering off to the Rocky Mountains, where he died. Whilst absorbed in the duties of chief engineer for the State of Tennessee I was first made aware of the mistaken location of my projected city by a surveyor of the public lands, who sent me a transcript of surveys, which showed me that Muscatine occupied the prized position. Thus was dispelled the vision of necessary greatness; and the need of adventitious aid became but too evident.

In 1838 I was engaged as U. S. commissioner and astronomer in determining the southern boundary of Iowa, and took observations at the old fort at the head of the rapids. I have a vague recollection that a rumour reached me there that "Capt. Lee" had made some survey of the rapids that season. He had charge of the improvements at St. Louis, and had incidentally been ordered to make this reconnoisance, but no work was done on the ground for many years afterward. R. E. Lee graduated second in the class headed by Judge Charles Mason, of Burlington, in 1829, and through an increase of his corps about 1833 had already become a captain.

In 1840-41, I visited Iowa with an agent of a company organized by me in Baltimore to establish a German colony

at and about Ellenborough, to make that venture realize its early promises. The first Legislative Assembly ever held at Burlington being then in session, I applied for a charter for my immigration company, and drew it up in the office of Grimes & Starr, where I met the Chairman of the Committee on Counties, who told us all in the office that he had put my name down to the first county in the Territory, as he was then using the map of the Territory made by me for purpose of designating boundaries. It is easy to see how the spelling was changed by transcribing clerks, as my mode of spelling with the final "a" was unusual; and as I had disappeared mainly from that theater and Captain Lee had come upon it, the name was naturally attributed to him.

Your friend of the GATE CITY is welcome to the use of this narrative, if he wishes, to correct an error so old and so difficult, but Iowa may justly prefer to let her first county still bear the name of that great and good man.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. M. LEA.

THE HALF BREED TRACT.

CORSICANA, Texas, Feb. 18, 1879.

Mr. Justice Miller, Galveston, Texas.

Dear sir:

Yesterday I alluded to the disputed boundary between Missouri and Iowa. There is an unwritten history connected therewith that may be worth preserving. Whilst serving at Fort Des Moines (Montrose) I heard that a few persons, including the land officers at Palmyra, had united to purchase the usufruct title of certain half breed Indians, to the reservation lying between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, and south of the northern boundary of Missouri extended, and that they intended to Congress for the release of the fee simple title, ostensibly for the benefit of the half breeds, who were mostly in the Rocky Mountains, but really for the benefit of the secret purchasers of their interests. They especially relied on the co-operation of Senator Benton, who was then especially powerful. This little game was quietly checked by a letter from me to Judge H. L. White, then Senator from Tennessee and Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Meantime the conspirators, not content with the profit to be derived from the area of the tract as it had been surveyed and settled, sought greatly to enlarge its area by removing the northern boundary of Missouri further north and consequently that of the reservation. With this view they set the pride and covetousness of the Missourians to work, and stirred up a strife that eventually led to bloodshed. Gen. Geo. W. Jones, delegate in Congress, had endeavored to settle this controversy soon after its origin, by procuring the appointment of the commission on which I served in 1838. The report made by me showed that the line long recognized had been erroneously run by reason of using the same variation of the needle from the old N. W. corner, 100 miles north of the mouth of Kansas river, to the Des Moines, thus throwing it gradually southward more and more, whilst the call was for a line due east; but it was shown also that the line was so run prior to the admission of Missouri as a State, and that it was the actual boundary with which she came into the Union. Had the correction been made as desired the northern boundary of the half breed tract would have passed to to the north of Burlington. The speculation promised to be magnificent.

My report was sent to the Senate during the winter of 1838-9. The appropriation for the survey was exhausted, and it was expected that Congress would make a further appropriation, and designate which of the several lines presented should be marked as the true boundary. Late in the session I asked Senator Linn, of Missouri, why he did not call up that matter and have it settled. He pleasantly and frankly answered that if pressed it would be settled as I had indicated, and that he did not intend that such result should take place whilst he should remain in the Senate. So, the survey was dropped, and the controversy went on until it was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, after the admission of Iowa as a State had given her a legal standing in that tribunal. Many years after I had retired to my paternal acres in Tennessee a request came to me from Judge Charles Mason, as attorney for Iowa, for information to enable him to assert the claim of his client; and I sent such as greatly conduced to the favorable result.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. M. LEA.

Mem.—Although not conscious of having ever been guilty of a dishonorable action, yet I am not entitled to the prefix of "Hon." which you have been pleased to give me.

I was only a Lieutenant when I left the old army; and although I have a commission as Brigadier General of militia from Gov. Chambers, of Iowa, I never exercised its functions, and was only a Major in the staff of the Confederate army, and am generally known as such in Texas, that title having been widely noted in connection with the capture of Galveston by Magruder, when I met my oldest son, who was First Lieutenant of the Harriet Lane, and was buried with Wainwright.

After that, when I was serving with General Ben at Brownsville, Magruder issued an order promoting me to Lieut. Colonel, but that was never confirmed at Richmond, although I was thence officially known as Lieut. Colonel, and have since been recognized in society as "Col. Lea," as I am now here generally known. My service in the War Department under John Tyler, when I was for six weeks Acting Secretary of War, may afford some color to the style, but it has not been generally so given. As to the title of General, I think there should be but one General Lee (or Lea), and have declined the prefix. A. M. LEA.

CORSICANA, Texas, Feb. 17, 1879.

These letters not only furnish some very interesting historical remeniscences of early times, but give the only details as to the source from which our county derived its name that have ever been published. The belief has generally prevailed that it was named in honor of Gen. R. E. Lee, but this it will be seen was not the case.

The town of Albert Lea, in Minnesota, is also named for the author of these letters. Col. Lea is a gentleman of high standing in Texas, and his statements concerning the matters referred to can be relied upon. Two of his brothers were members of Congress from Tennessee in early times.

THE GATE CITY.
THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7.

An Old Settler's Record.

In answer to the circular addressed by Hon. Edward Johnstone, President of the Lee County, Iowa, Old Settlers' Association, Hugh R. Withrow, of Croton, writes:

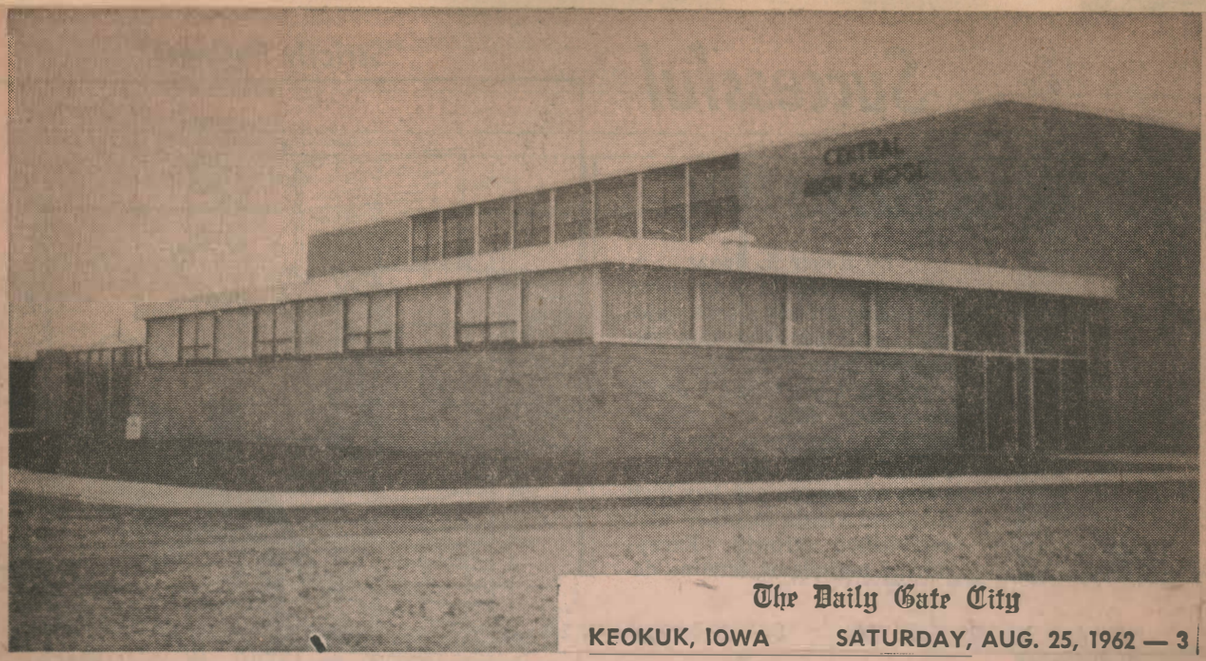
I was born in Holmes County, Ohio; came to Lee County, Iowa, before Christmas in 1835; crossed the Mississippi River on the ice from Commerce, now Nauvoo, Ill., to what is now Montrose, then a dragoon station, and settled at the Dillon place above what is now Sandusky. The first settlers in that neighborhood were Calvin Dillon, James Brierly and Sam Brierly, who kept a grocery store at Nashville, John Spain, Stephen E. James and Burtis Frazer. In the neighborhood were many Sac and Fox Indians, and we were visited occasionally by roving bands of Pottawottamies and other tribes. The houses were then built of round logs and hewed logs covered with clapboards. The first religious services were held at the house of Joseph Taylor, near Nashville, by the United Brethren. The first preachers were Cartwright and Everhart.

The first day school was taught by a Miss Layton at Nashville, and the first Sunday School was at Sandusky. The nearest mills were a water-mill at Newton Waggoner's place (across the river), and a one-horse mill at what is now Montrose. We had game, such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and coons. The crops were corn, buckwheat and potatoes. When we could do no better we pounded corn in a wooden mortar and ground buckwheat in a coffee mill. The principal amusements were drinking whisky, free fights and sometimes a dance. We lived on corn bread, hominy, hog meat and game, and got a barrel of flour occasionally from a steamboat. My father, Hugh Withrow, was the first Justice of the Peace I remember. Disputes were generally settled, when not amicably, by fisticuff. The first fight I saw was between Harrison Taylor and Bob Hamilton.

When my father settled below Nashville there was only a path over the bluffs towards Puck-e-che-tuck (Keokuk); the Indian name of Nashville was Awri-pe-tuck. There was a United States dragoon station at Montrose; General Jesse B. Brown, then a Captain in the United States army, was one of the officers. The first doctors were Dr. Isaac Galland and Dr. J. C. Goode.

H. R. WITHROW.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL
KEOKUK, IOWA



The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, AUG. 25, 1962 — 3

CENTRAL COMMUNITY DISTRICT high school building, serving the area. Its postoffice address is Argyle. —Daily Gate City Photo

Lee County was mecca for 'town platters' in mid 19th century

By Dorothy Pickett

Shortly after the turn of the century a prominent Lee county historian wrote, "In the early days of Lee county history there seems to have been sort of a mania for laying out towns, the principal object having been the sale of lots to newcomers."

Much earlier, Hawkins Taylor, Lee county pioneer, wrote an article which was published in the Annals of Iowa for October 1870, saying, "Speculation was running high in the spring of 1836, and everybody we met had a town plat. And every man with a town plat had a map of the county marked out to suit his town as a county seat."

So, it is easy to understand why there are so many towns and villages scattered over the county, and these being only a small part of the communities once holding the prestige of a town name, but long since faded into oblivion.

Forgotten names

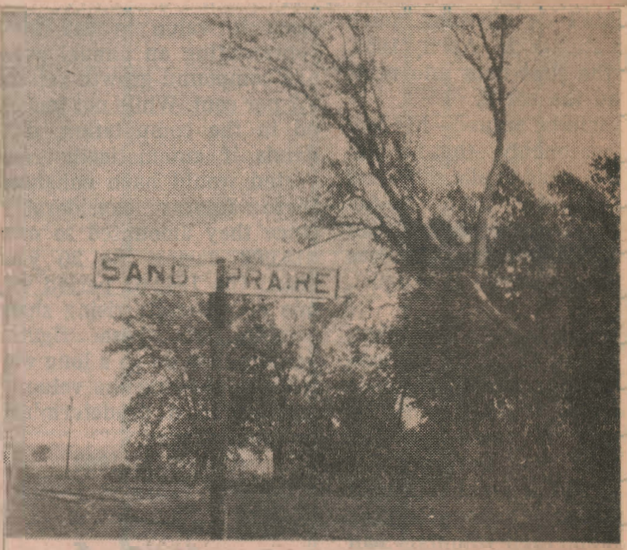
Space forbids mention of all such defunct villages, but scarcely a Lee countian alive today could recall such sites as Ballinger, Benbow Siding, Buena Vista, Courtright, Jollyville, Ketchum Switch, Macuta, Nixon Station, Summit Siding, Tuscarora . . . and the list might go on and on ad infinitum, enumerating hamlets that at one time dotted the Lee county countryside.

There were other early settlements that had auspicious beginnings, holding promise of becoming prosperous cities, but in the course of events and circumstances, lost out in the race and today are pleasant little villages, but each bearing a tinge of early glory.

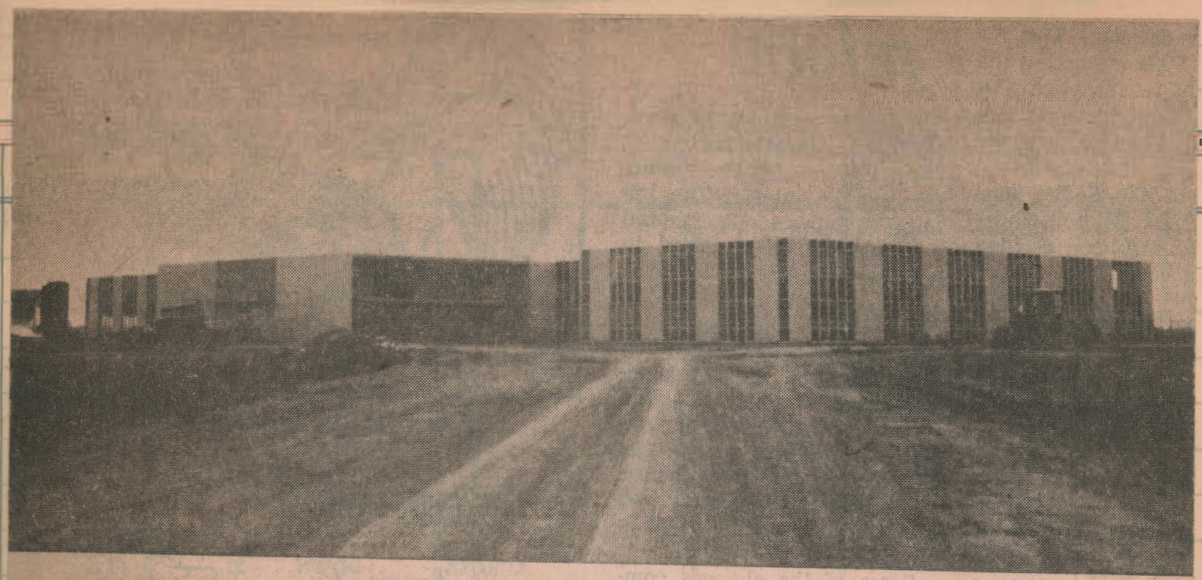
Argyle

Communities falling under this category would include Argyle, which at one time seemed destined for a healthy growth, with its three general stores, a flour and grist mill, plus several other sound establishments and when it became a station on the Santa Fe route, everything looked rosy.

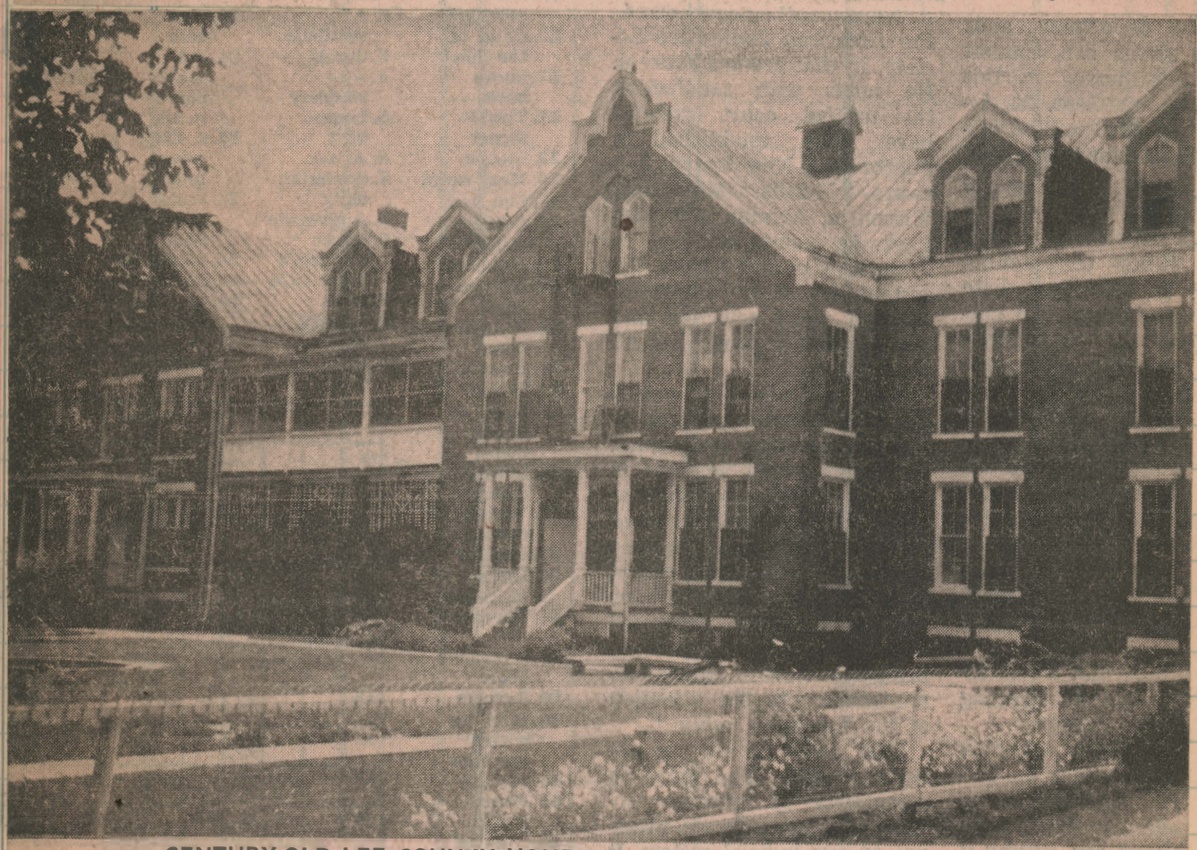
Although never reaching the heights once predicted, Argyle today is the center of a prosperous farming area and retains its place in the list of "happy midwest villages."



ALMOST DESERTED RAILROAD SIGN at entrance to Vincennes. 'Sand Prairie' was the original railroad name for the town. —Daily Gate City Photo



ULTRA MODERN COUNTY HOME. —Daily Gate City Photo



CENTURY-OLD LEE COUNTY HOME will soon give way to new building to be opened in September. —Daily Gate City Photo

Charleston, too, was a site of some importance in its earlier days. The town was laid out by George Berry in 1848 with the plat being filed in the recorder's office the following year. Due to its central location it became a popular mecca for conventions.

Around 1855, in the zenith of its glory, Charleston was seriously considered as the site for the county's seat of government. In a special election it received 14 votes.

Near-by New Boston, dating back to 1855, was for a time a shipping point of some importance.

County home

Like Charleston and New Boston, Summitville had the advantage of being strategically located on both the railroad line, and a main highway. It was selected as the site of Lee county's first county farm. The original building, to cost $35,000 was ordered in 1857. Numerous additions were added from time to time, and today an ultra modern home is almost completed, which will replace the antiquated building.

Near the banks of the Des Moines river is the quaint little village of Vincennes, now but a shadow of its former self. The railroad name for the site was Sand Prairie.

None of the above communities, nor others that might be mentioned, are, in any sense of the word passe. They simply have not expanded as did some of the more metropolitan cities, but each is home to many contented citizens, not many of whom would change residence for all the cities of the world.

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF
CREDITS
Aug 23, 1963 Lee County Mecca - page #1
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY" R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

ARGYLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, which is the center for many of the community's activities. —Daily Gate City Photo

at reasonable rates to parties desiring to open up business here. The latest rumor is that Argyle will get the Keokuk branch of the Santa Fe instead of it going to New Boston.—H. C. Sargent, Jr., is soon to move his store building and stock of merchandise from Vincennes to Argyle.—Mr. and Mrs. Dora Powell, of LaCrew, spent part of last week at Captain Moore's. Mr. Powell thinks of starting into the mercantile business at the new town.—The Santa Fe pay car came through here the 19th, and now all the boys are rich.—Harry Washburn and sisters, Clara and Maria, spent Saturday and Sunday at Farmington. — John Doherty has just recovered from a three weeks' spell of pneumonia.—Malissa Carr is on the sick list; also the youngest child of Joel and Kate Ames.—Jim. Rickey met with a painful accident while chopping wood, by a stick glancing up and striking him on the nose.—Quite a number of our pleasure-seeking young folks attended a select dancing party at the commodious residence of H. C. Sargent, Sr., last Wednesday evening, and report a grand time.—The spelling school at Hoosier Green Friday evening was largely attended and quite an interest taken.

The Daily Constitution.
JANUARY 24, 1868.
KEOKUK PASSENGER TRAINS.

ARGYLE, IOWA.

Some Interesting Information About the New Town on the Santa Fe in Lee County —News Items.

ARGYLE, Iowa, Jan. 23.—Argyle is the name of the station on the Santa Fe on String Prarie, and can boast of the finest depot in the county, when completed. Southerland & Larne have a large force of men and teams at work grading for the side tracks, while the company have a work train here with 150 to 200 men at work widening cuts and surfacing the road. Messrs Horace Washburne and Capt. Thos. Moore have laid out a town site, and are now prepared to furnish lots

HICKORY GROVE SCHOOL HOUSE built in 1870, with old adjoining cemetery, stands on the Main Street Road near Summitville. —Daily Gate City Photo

Lee Co. Media #2 Aug 25, 1962

The Gate City.

KEOKUK: 1860

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 19

[From the Davenport Gazette, Nov. 17.]

Western Towns---Keokuk.

An impression has gone abroad, and is continually aggravated by the disparaging remarks each of the other, that the towns on the Upper Mississippi river are dead.—That having indulged in unwarranted speculation during the prosperity of 1856, they are now reaping a just harvest in a crop of empty houses and grass grown streets. The report may retard immigration by preventing those desiring a change of homes from coming to Iowa. But men who have so little confidence in the resources of this great Western State as to be induced to emigrate elsewhere under the conviction of the truth of the rumor, had better not come to Iowa. The fact of the untold wealth of this State, as exhibited in its exhaustless soil and well watered surface alone, would be sufficient to drive them into the speculation of buying up all the lands they could see from the highest knoll of our undulating prairies,—the rock, by the way, upon which many a farmer split during the excitement of 1856.

Notwithstanding the report, many persons induced by interest or curiosity, or with a few surplus dollars in their pockets and a modicum of faith in their bosoms, are visiting us, and when they happen down in Davenport, the great central entrance to the State, express as much surprise and gape with as much astonishment as our immaculate self did a few weeks since, when one Saturday evening we were dropped down in the whilom city of Keokuk. We had read and heard so much of the terrible condition of affairs in that city that we had almost persuaded ourself we should find the stores closed, houses tenantless and the citizens, like the dogs of Constantinople, preying upon one another and snarling at every passer by.

Keokuk has repudiated her indebtedness, said we, and has become a reproach to all upright and prompt paying corporations, therefore must her trade have ceased, her manufactories become silent and her citizens idle. We walked through her main street, and on every side saw fine buildings, all occupied; huge stocks of goods and every evidence of that prosperity which for years has marked Keokuk as one of the great and growing cities of the West.

If Keokuk be now dead, we reasoned, what must she have been when alive? We felt no feeling of local jealousy, but pleased to see a point, where those who seek our State by steamboat, first reach it; the "Gate of Iowa"—as the lamented John Russell termed her before the double-doors of the State were thrown open at Davenport—in a condition to favorably impress the stranger. Reports more injurious to Keokuk, we thought, have gone out than in relation to any other western city, and if she can sustain herself under them and still present a fair side to the stranger, a view of other cities of the belied West may remove them altogether.

We extended our walk up her principal street to the colossus hotel, which stands as a monument of the folly to which even wise men will be led in a time of general prosperity. Unfinished, unfurnished and unoccupied, it stands overlooking the city, the representative of one hundred thousand dollars badly, very badly invested. And where, if we may except Dubuque, the especial favorite of the Democratic office-holders of Iowa, who "there most did congregate," where is there a city of like dimensions in the West, that can show so little real advantage for so large an amount of money expended? Look at *her* Rapids—she can claim them as her progenitor—how many thousands of dollars have been squandered in the vain effort to improve them, and yet at this day they are no better, no safer to navigate, than twenty years ago when first we crossed them at low water without touching keel to bottom. Fortunes have been expended there, and how much more remains to be invested in the bottom of the Mississippi, we cannot tell. If government would really benefit the steamboat interest let it build a canal around the Rapids; that is the only way in which these obstructions ever can be overcome. All steamboat men would respond amen to this improvement, while to Keokuk it would open up a richer placer than the gold mines of the Peak.

But we are off. Keokuk at this day, in spacious buildings and various avenues of wealth, is a sign hung out at the corner of Iowa to tell the passing traveler where one day he may expect to find one of the largest cities in the West. A city, which, if that canal be constructed, and no similar improvement be made at the Upper Rapids, will be called the Lowell of the West. Dull as Keokuk now is comparatively, a view of her would satisfy any reasonable man that, the pressure of hard times removed, and she will rebound with new elasticity. Follow up the river and look next upon Burlington, then upon Muscatine, and lastly upon Davenport, and the stranger will be prepared to say, that the reports so industriously circulated at the East of the prostration of Western towns, if not without foundation, are nearly so, or else the towns show an amount of recuperation as unexpected as praiseworthy.

LOST CHILD.

JOHN HILES, aged between five and six years, has not been seen since Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when he was observed on the Levee, near Main-st. He is a son of Geo. Hiles, and was staying at the house of Jas. Alton, corner of 6th and Concert. Any person who will return him to me or to Mr. Alton, or furnish any information concerning him, shall be well rewarded.

April 17-d6t GEO. HILES.

ESTRAY.

AS I was passing the ferry at Buena Vista on Saturday last, a bay horse, said by judges to be 5 years old, swam across the Des Moines and followed my horse to my stable in Keokuk, and believing him an estray, I put him up. The owner is requested to come and prove property and take him away. W. F. THOMSON.

April 17, 1860-d3t

JOHN T. WILKINSON

(Successor to J. Braden,)

NO. 81 MAIN-ST.,

DEALER IN

Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals,

PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES,

Window Glass and Glass-Ware:

WHERE MAY ALSO BE FOUND

ALL OTHER ARTICLES NECESSARY TO MAKE

A NEW AND COMPLETE STOCK,

READY FOR THE INSPECTION OF

CLOSE BUYERS.

Attention is Solicited to the

LOW PRICES!

Apr17'60d&w1y

1000 MEN WANTED!

1,000 LABORERS can find IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT on the line of the Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad between Philadelphia and Eddyville. Payments MONTHLY IN CASH. Application can be made at the office of the Company in Keokuk, or to Col. D. F. McIntosh, Philadelphia, Iowa.

SMITH, LEIGHTON & CO., Keokuk.

April 16, 1860-d1w-w1m

SHEET NO. 26

The Gate City.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 20. 1860

THE LOST BOY FOUND.—The little boy advertised by Geo. Hiles as lost, has turned up, It seems he mistook the Minnesota Belle for the Ferry boat, and instead of going to Hamilton, as he intended, he found himself going down stream, last Friday night. Arriving at St. Louis, he was recognized by some of the men on the Ferry boat Gate City, which was then in port, to which boat he was transferred. The Gate City was expected last night.

Constitution-Democrat.

AUGUST 7, 1901.

FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN LEE COUNTY

John H. Douglas, who recently died at St. Louis of cancer, was at one time a resident of southeastern Iowa. Mr. Douglas, it is stated was the first white child born in Lee county, the event taking place at Fort Madison June 20, 1836, one year prior to which his parents had removed to Fort Madison from Elmira, N. Y. There he secured such education as could be gained in the common schools of that section of the west, which was supplemented later by courses of study at the Denmark academy, at Knox college, Galesburg, Ill., and at a commercial college in St. Louis. Going to Elmira, he obtained a clerkship in a general store in that city, but in 1853 he returned to Fort Madison and began his career as a lumberman in the employ of Knapp, Tainter & Co., now the Knapp, Stout & Co. company, and stayed with them, selling lumber for several years. He began his permanent residence in St. Louis in January, 1872, and established and has continuously since that time had charge of the Knapp, Stout & Co. company's yards at that city. He is survived by two sons, Archibald and J. H. Douglas, Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Shelton. Mr. Douglas' mother, one of Fort Madison's earliest settlers, is still living with the family at St. Louis.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

27-

KEOKUK MEN OF OLDEN DAYS.

They are Remembered by R. B. Ogden, Pioneer, Literateur and Observer.

R. B. Ogden is back in Keokuk, and those who know him are delighted that he has returned from an absence all too long. He says he is an old man, and then he talks in a way that shows an acquaintance with fin de siecle things generally considered the characteristic of the young man in college. He was always literary himself, and he keeps up to the current month in literature yet. He has been a part of Keokuk for fifty-two years, and as a reconteur of Keokuk affairs and painter of character sketches of old residents of Keokuk he is unexcelled. He paints with oil only, too, and there is never a trace of vinegar in his pigments as the stories unroll in a panorama. A Gate City representative went to ask Mr. Ogden for his estimate of some men intimately connected with Keokuk in the older days, and the conversation was a delightful one. It began with the poet cropping out in remarks upon the unexcelled beauties of the Mississippi river here, and then Mr. Ogden was led into reminiscent fields; and the readers of The Gate City have the following as a result:

GUY B. WELLS.

My acquaintance with Mr. Wells dates from 1848. Shortly after he came to Keokuk he procured a minor position as civil engineer on the government improvement of the Des Moines river. He remained in that position until 1851, I believe, when he became a prominent citizen. He certainly was loyal to the city and its interests, and the people knowing his value and worth, rewarded him with positions of trust. His first office was that of city surveyor, a very important position at that time. Everybody liked Mr. Wells; they could not help it. He was the leading builder of the public schools. He was its best and ablest friend, having the confidence of teachers, children and parents. I knew him intimately, and I admired and loved him. He was sagacious, quickly saw the coming prosperity of the city and his first purchase of property was on the corner of Second and Main, I joining him in the adjoining lot, each being twenty-five feet by sixty feet.

SOME EARLY PROFITS.

There was a two-story frame building on his lot. The first story he rented to Conn & Brown, dry goods merchants, at $1,000; the second floor to the city for offices at $600. In 1854 or 1855 he sold the building, which was removed to Main street between Eighth and Ninth, for $1,000. In the meantime he had sold his lot to Colonel William Thompson for $10,000 in gold. He paid James Mackley $2,000 for his purchase of this lot, twenty-five by sixty feet.

The Gate City.
SEPTEMBER 17, 1899.
Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

Colonel Thompson in 1855 built the house which is now occupied by the Iowa State Insurance company. You can figure Guy Wells' profits on this investment.

I came to Keokuk in 1847. I remember it as a clear spring day, the river frozen; the Missouri House, Madam Geiger, proprietress, assissted by her husband, and the Rapids Hotel, by Wm. Coleman, commonly known as "Sweet William," catered to the traveling public. Both houses were full to overflowing waiting for a packet from St. Louis. I. G. Wickersham was stopping at the Rapids, while I was stationed at the Mansion, and both houses situated on Front street. At Iowa City I met Col. Wallace from Fairfield. We roomed together at the Galt House, including Representative Goodrell of Washington. Wallace was brilliant, glorious, was in the capital city seeking office, but unsuccessful. Went to Oregon and was prominently spoken of as a successful candidate for United States senator.

WHEM MR. OGDEN CAME.

When I left Iowa City, Col. Wallace said, "I can help you in Keokuk. Here is a letter to Col. Munger, a prominent lawyer there. He at one time was a partner of mine at the law. He is a good lawyer and I hear doing well. Cultivate his acquaintance and he may be of advantage to you."

Fortified with the colonel's letter, I sought for Norton G. Munger, attorney-at-law, and found his office on Second street, a one-story frame. There were several other law offices adjoining, among the number I. G. Wickersham. I suppose I went to Lawyer Munger's office a half dozen times in the morning, but always found the door locked. Finally, Mr. Wickersham discovered my disappointment and came to my relief. Approaching me, he said: "Stranger, you seem to be seeking some one?" I replied: "Yes, I would like to see Mr. Munger, but I fear he is out of town." "Is your business professional, and do you seek a lawyer?" I said "No; I merely have a letter of introduction to Col. Munger." He looked up Second, toward Main, and descried the gentleman. He yelled:

MORTON G. MUNGER.

"Hey, Munger! Come here! A gentleman wants you!" He came, but with no hurried step, and I thought reluctantly. I noticed he was headed down Main street when hailed. I handed him the letter. He read it silently, Wickersham standing by. Finishing the introductory, he handed it back, without a word, run his arm through mine, and led me to Main street, down Main to Front street, walked up three steps into a room on the corner of the street, up to the bar: "Shaunessy, give us your best; what will you take, Mr. Ogden?"

"Thank you, Mr. Munger, I do not drink," I replied.

He swallowed his whisky, then said: "By ——, you had better not locate in Keokuk." We went out from the saloon together, separated, he going up the street, and I on the levee, to think and meditate.

Munger had legal ability, and was considered the leading attorney of the town. I went to his funeral in 1852; his was the first body buried in the new cemetery—Oakland.

MADE A MILLION.

Wickersham was always the best dressed gentleman in the town; he never wore his breeches in his bootlegs. He was parsimonious; he knew the value of a dollar; was a better banker than lawyer, and died leaving a million dollars.

Who is there in Keokuk remembers Norton B. Munger and I. G. Wickersham? I can only think of Henry Butler and Israel Anderson.

Constitution-Democrat.
CONS MAY 18, 1892

OLD MEMORIES.

Incidents of the Early Days in Keokuk.

During this rainy season is a pertinent occasion to reproduce a story told by the late Col. J. M. Reid in his old settler book, as it begins with a description of a freshet which came near causing an old settler's death:

"An old settler butcher came from Baltimore, Md., set up a shop with knife and cleaver, and located his slaughter house at the lower end of Bloody run, sometimes called Maiden run, and again Jiggery's branch, nearthe river's bluff. Just beyond it is low ground, and not much further on the river into which it empties. The butcher always went down to the slaughter house at daylight.

One night there came a tremendous rain storm. Next morning Bloody run had overflowed its banks, and the heretofore sluggish stream was running in torrents. The butcher started to the slaughter house, driving his favorite old gray horse "Gramalkin," and in trying to cross the stream, horse wagon and driver were carried down with the flood. He said his prayers, expecting instant death, but in passing on the friendly branches of an overhanging elm tree were seen and seized by him and he was saved. The horse and wagon were carried onward by the mad waters of the resistless tide, and the wagon was found weeks afterward four miles below at Alexandria, Mo. But the faithful Gramalkin now food for catfish.

was never seen or heard of more. Like a faithful soldier he died with the harness on. He could have no funeral procession, no tomb in enduring granite to perpetuate his memory, and his master growing pathetic, instead of an epitaph wrote a poem which rhymed very much like those sweet and enphonious words Frederick and May-pole.

The butcher then rushed into speculation—bought two cub bears, was offered fifty dollars for them at home, but took them to St. Louis to market. He marched up street holding the chain fastened to the collar of each pet in either hand, feeling good and stepping higher than a blind horse. A crowd followed him; he was offered $100 for the bears. But, no! That was not enough—he had set his heart on a higher figure. The boys, now resolved on sport, got sharp sticks. and prodding the bears in the ribs they grew frantic. When he ran at one who tormented one bear some one on the outskirts prodded the other. But he held on to the chains while he was alternately jerked by the infuriated beasts, first on one side and then on the other while he pleaded and protested to no purpose. The boys were hard-hearted and resolved to have a free menagerie of their own, and they had it. The owner of the bears got sick, exhausted and disgusted; there was no rest for the wicked. A stranger now came along and benevolently offered him five dollars for the two bears, and John Hiner, of the "People's Market," sold out his show and came home with his eye-teeth cut, resolved to stick to hogs and horned cattle and let wild beasts alone.

A French milliner brought on the crisis and hurried up the sale, coming out at her door just as one of the cubs was about to charge on her show window."

WEEKLY GATE CITY

AUGUST 8, 1895.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Second Paper.

A great deal of vexation has grown out of the establishment of the Half-Breed tract and its subsequent throwing open to settlement. Before actual settlements were made in the territory of Iowa this tract was set apart by the government under the treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians of Aug. 4, 1824. It was reserved for the half-breeds, a race resulting from the intermarriages of white trappers, traders, agents of the American Fur company and governmental officers with the native Indian women. The tract embraced the territory lying between the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers south of a line drawn from the lower part of Fort Madison on the Mississippi to a point about a mile below Farmington on the Des Moines. It contained about 119,000 acres of land.

Many of these half-breeds were respectable people and some of them were quite well educated. Under the treaty they could occupy the land but could not sell it, the land being reserved to the government. Subsequently congress abolished the reversionary right and the half-breeds were allowed to hold the property in fee simple. Then the trouble began. The white men indulged in a scramble for these lands, buying them of the half-breeds often for nothing more valuable than a gallon or two of "fire-water," a pony, a blanket or a gun. It did not take the redskins long to learn a trick or two, and it often happened that they sold tracts that they hadn't a shadow of title to. No authorized surveys or established lines had been made, and titles to property became so tangled that some of them have scarcely been straightened out until this day. There were quarrels galore and sometimes bitter feuds. At length the territorial legislature of Wisconsin, of which Iowa was then a part, provided for three commissioners to settle the conflicting claims. Judge Edward Johnstone, David Brigham and Thomas S. Wilson were appointed commissioners and entered on their duties. But the next legislature repealed the act, invalidated the commissioners' deeds and deprived them of their salaries, $6 a day. However, the legislature empowered the commissioners to sue the owners for their salaries. They did so, and under judgments obtained the whole tract was sold to Hugh T. Reid. He disposed of parcels of the land to various parties and became involved in litigation. The lower courts found in his favor, but the United States supreme court reversed the findings and the titles were abrogated. The matter was finally determined by a decree of the United States court for the territory of Iowa in 1841 in which the New York Land company (for whom Francis S Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner," and Abraham Lincoln were attorneys at various times) was largely interested. By this decree the tract was divided into shares and each claimant to lands was allowed to draw his share by lot, all subscribing to abide by the result. The plat of the lands so drawn was duly recorded and forms the basis of all present titles.

In the Keokuk public library is a quaint little volume by Caleb Atwater, late of Columbus, O. It bears the title "Western Antiquities" and is more elaborately termed "A Description of the Antiquities Discovered in the Western Country Originally Communicated to the American Antiquarian Society by Caleb Atwater." One division is entitled, "Remarks Made on a Tour to Prairie Du Chien, Thence to Washington City in 1829." He was one of the commissioners appointed by President Jackson to treat with the Winnebago Indians for the cession of their territory in the Wisconsin region to the United States. He made the trip down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers. His description of that trip is of deepest interest to the present generation. The author was a man of education, clear insight and strength of character and his observations are valuable to the historian and antiquarian. In speaking of the half breeds he pays them this tribute:

"The half-breed women generally marry either half-breeds or white men. In either case they make excellent wives and many of their children are beautiful. While in the Indian country I always rejoiced when I came in sight of one of their houses as I felt assured of experiencing under their roofs hospitable and kind treatment. The half-breeds are excellent cooks and many of them have been well educated in some Catholic seminary, either in Canada or Missouri. * * * The Catholics deserve great praise for educating as they have done a great number of half-breeds. The women thus educated, in every instance, have done extremely well, and so have such of the men as have not become dissipated. The females thus educated are as well instructed in everything as any young woman in the United States. They make good wives, too, and as good mothers."

Here are some extracts from the journal of his ascent of the Mississippi:

"We * * * tarried longer in the day time at a little town called Quincy, 200 miles, perhaps above St. Louis, than anywhere else, until on the morning of the Fourth of July, we landed under discharge of cannon at Keokuck, 240 miles north of St. Louis, at the foot of the rapids of Des Moines. * * * Quincy stands mostly on a high bluff and contains some forty families of very decent looking people, but paleness of countenance told us the same sad tale that the low marshes along the river near them and the wet prairies just east of town, covered with grasses and weeds ten feet high, might have told them if properly interrogated. * * * To me the people appeared better than any I saw in Illinois as a whole; and my only regret is that such a people should have settled on a spot so insalubrious."

"Above the Missouri on the western side of the Mississipi the streams putting into the 'Great Water' were quite small ones and only valuable for mill streams until we arrived at Fort Edwards" [Now Warsaw] "on the eastern shore opposite the Des Moines river. This river is a large one compared with any we had passed above the Missouri. It may not be longer than the Illinois river but I should think it carries in its current more water, though perhaps it is not more than 300 miles in length. Fort Edwards is three miles below the foot of the rapids, on the ease side of the river and the buildings being painted white, located on a high bluff that juts out into the

Aug 8, 1895 - page #1

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

river looks beautifully from Keokuck village. The rapids are twelve miles long and in a common stage of the water present no impediment to steamboat navigation; but low as the river was when we arrived there, it was impossible for any loaded steamboat to ascend then. The river is from half a mile to a mile in width here, without any island in the river in the distance of twelve miles, an uncommon feature in the upper Mississippi, which is full of islands and sandbars in a low stage of water.

"Keokuck is in latitude about 40 degrees 20 north and belongs to the half-breeds, whose capital it is, on the western side of the Mississippi. The northern line of the state of Missouri, in running from its northwest corner eastwardly, is a straight line until it strikes the Des Moines river; thence following that river to its mouth. A triangle containing 136,000 acres of land north of and adjoining the lower end of the Des Moines by treaty has been given to the half-breeds and it is owned by about forty-two persons. Congress have passed an act to divide it into shares for them and at their own request they are to belong to the state of Missouri. From the mouth of the Des Moinés, along the Mississippi following the sinuosities of the river, their front on the river may be thirty miles. It is a very fine tract of land generally well timbered except on the bottoms of the Des Moines, which is valuable prairie land.

"The village is a small one containing twenty families perhaps. The American Fur company have a store here and there is a tavern. Many Indians were fishing and their lights on the rapids in a dark night were darting about, appearing and disappearing like so many fire flies. The constant roaring of the waters on the rapids, the occasional Indian yell, the lights of their fires on the shore and the boisterous mirth of the people at the 'doggery' attracted my attention occasionally while we were lying here. Fish were caught here in abundance.

"On the eastern side of the river the lands are all occupied by white people from Fort Edwards upwards for many miles above the rapids. Farms are opening and log houses appear almost every half mile on that shore. On the west side only a few places are opened by half-breeds. * * *

"After making every arrangement for conveying the public property over these rapids and seeing everything done here that could be done by the commissioners, I started on foot to walk over the rough hills skirting the western shore. Our provisions, though they started nearly one month before from St. Louis, were scattered along these rapids and I found a considerable part of them as I ascended the river's edge lying on the beach exposed to the sun.

"After a tiresome walk of several miles I reached Philip Blondeau's farm. Him I found sick, lying under a shade, out of doors. He was sub-agent formerly and his family are owners to a considerable extent of this fine tract of land. His wife is an Indian woman and his daughters are well educated, well read and accomplished young ladies. His farm a fine fertile one and his dwelling house is on the bank of the river within in few rods of the water's edge. His corn on the side hill covered a great space and looked finely. Here I ate as good a dinner as anyone ever did, venison just killed and fish just caught as I arrived there."

One might continue to quote extracts from this quaint old book at an indefinite length and the reading would be of great interest. But sufficient has been given for the present purpose.

WEEKLY GATE CITY.
AUGUST 15, 1895.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Third Paper.

In "The Writings of Caleb Atwater," from which interesting quotations were made in a previous sketch, is found a clear description of the way the Indians lived here in 1829, the year Mr. Atwater made his journey up the Mississippi, and of which he writes at length. He says that in ascending the rapids at this point he "reached an island in the river just above the head of the rapids and opposite an Indian town. * * * In company with Mr. Johnson, formerly an Indian trader, I visited Quasquawma's village of Fox Indians. This town was exactly opposite our island on the west bank of the river and consists of perhaps forty or fifty persons. Landing from our canoe, we went to Quasquawma's wigwam and found him and several of his wives and children at home. These Indians had joined the United States during the last war. The wigwam we visited was a fair sample of all that we saw afterwards in the Indian country and was covered with white elm bark, fastened on the outside of upright posts fixed in the ground, by ropes made of barks passed through the covering and tied on the inside around the posts. I should suppose this dwelling was 40 feet long and 20 feet wide; that 6 feet on each of the sides within the doors was occupied by the place where the family slept. Their beds consisted of a platform raised four feet from the earth, resting on poles tied at that height to posts standing upright in the ground opposite each other and touching the roof. On these poles were laid blankets and the skins of deer, bears, bisons, etc. These were the beds. Between these beds was on open space perhaps 6 or 8 feet in width running the whole length of the wigwam. In this space fires were kindled in cold and wet weather and here, at such times, the cooking was carried on and the family warmed themselves, ate their food, etc. There was no chimney and the smoke either passed through the roof or out at th doors at the ends of the wigwam. On all the waters of the upper Mississippi no better dwelling is to be found among the Indians. Quasquama was reposing himself on his bed of state when we went into his palace and the only person at work was one of his wives at the door dressing a deer skin."

The chief received the white men very kindly and later returned their call at their steamboat moored on the island. "They were dressed in their best manner," says the author, "and Quasquama introduced them one and all. One woman gaily painted, the one whom we had seen at work, remained by herself some ten rods off and would come no nearer to us. On my inquiring the cause of her not approaching us any nearer after having solemnly assured him and all of them of none but the most kind and friendly treatment from our whole company, I was informed by Quasquama that her appearance indicated that the woman so painted and dressed 'was for sale.' Not understanding him at first, he explained himself so fully by words and signs that there was no mistaking his meaning. Any one determined to believe our Indians to be 'the lost tribes of Israel' would have found proof positive in favor of such an idea in this custom of sitting by the wayside painted and dressed as this woman was on this occasion. Parallel instances in the Old Testament times and manners are not wanting."

In the middle of July, 1829, the commissioners, of whom Mr. Atwater was one, reached Prairie du Chien, the place where the conference with the Indians was appointed. Mr. Atwater gives a splendid account of this conference, in which the various tribes were represented by their chief warriors. The conference had proceeded several days and the Winnebagoes were growing ugly and threatened to "use a little switch" on the whites—in plain English, to kill them. At this juncture the chief, for whom the city of Keokuk is named, arrived and an end was put to the Winnebagoes' threats. Mr. Atwater says:

"Two hundred warriors under Keeokuk and Morgan of Sauk's and Foxes arrived and began their war dance for the United States; and they brought word that thirty steamboats with cannon and United States troops and 400 warriors of their own were near at hand. The Winnebagoes were silenced by this intelligence and by demonstrations not misunderstood by them. When Keeokuk arrived he brought two deserters from the garrison here whom he had made prisoners on his way up the river. Quasquama and his son-in-law Tiama came with Keeokuk. It was a season of great joy with me who placed more reliance on these friendly warriors than

on all our other forces. Good as our officers were, our soldiers of the army were too dissipated and worthless to be relied on one moment. Taking Keeokuk aside and alone I told him in plain English all I wanted of him, what I would do for him and what I expected from him and his good offices. He replied in good English: 'I understand you sir, perfectly, and it shall all be done.' It was all done faithfully and he turned the tide in our favor." And by Aug. 1, the Winnebagoes, the last of the tribes represented in the conference, had signed the treaty with the United States.

At that time the Sacs (Sauks, Mr. Atwater terms them) and Foxes occupied the territory south of Prairie du Chien. The principal town of the Sacs was near Rock Island and Keokuk was the principal warrior. The Foxes had their principal town near Dubuque and Morgan was their chief. Of Chief Keokuk Mr. Atwater says:

"The Sauks and Foxes were so useful to us as auxiliaries that I feel grateful to them and make a few remarks on their principal men who were with us. Keokuk," [Mr. Atwater says the name in English means "River Fox"] "the principal warrior of the Sauks, is a shrewd, politic man, as well as a brave one, and he possesses weight of character in their national councils. He is a high-minded, honorable man and never begs of the whites. While ascending the Mississippi to join us at the head of his brave troops he met and arrested two United States soldiers who were deserting from the garrison when he met them. I informed him that for this act he was entitled to a bounty in money; to which he proudly replied that he acted from motives of friendship to the United States and would accept no money for it." Mr. Atwater had portraits of Keokuk and other prominent men of these tribes, which he says were "as correct likenesses as I ever saw drawn. Gratitude towards them was my motive for being at the expense of these beautiful paintings, which have gone to London a year since."

The original name of the Foxes he says was Musquawkee, signifying "red earth," not "red fox," as some ignorant interpreter supposed. The Indians now on the Iowa reservation near Tama City, are the remnant of the Musquawkee tribe. Discussing Indian traditions he says: "The farthest back I was able to trace their traditions was up to the time when our European ancestors first settled on this continent. That story every Indian can tell, and the Sauks have some tradition of their living, as I supposed, in Rhode Island, and of King Philip's wars. Musquawkee (red earth) is the name of the Foxes, who, according to their account of themselves, must have resided in Rhode Island originally, and have been driven from thence on the death and overthrow of King Philip. I arrived at this conclusion very unexpectedly to myself, from the very correct description of the physical features of that district of country and the clear and interesting account they gave me of those wars. Beyond that period of time they know nothing." Of their religion he says: "The religion of the people of the Upper Mississippi consists in a belief in the existence of a God, in the immortality of the soul and in a state of rewards and punishments after death." "The Indians of the northwest have no ideas of a trinity; none, as I could learn, of sacrifices."

The present generation often wonder, as they stand upon the lofty bluff amid the cultivation of modern days and with evidences of civilization all about them, how these hills and valleys must have appeared in the primeval state. They are still exceedingly beautiful, but with a modified beauty. It is, therefore, of much interest to know how the scenery impressed those who saw it before the white man had wrought changes. Mr. Atwater, in describing his ascent of the river, from the head of the rapids at this point to Rock Island rapids, says:

"The beautiful country on the west side of the river opened to view and from the first moment we saw it all eyes were turned towards it. At every turn of the river as we moved along new bursts of wonder and admiration were poured out by all the passengers. The ladies were enraptured at the numerous and beautiful situations for dwelling houses where they wished one day to live in rural bliss. Sometimes the east side of the river offered as beautiful situations as the west, though, as a whole, the west was preferable. Nature had done all, man nothing, and not a human being was to be seen on either shore, nor a human habitation. That such a beautiful country was intended by its Author to be forever in the possession and occupancy of serpents, wild fowls, wild beasts and savages who derive little benefit from it, no reasonable man can for one moment believe who sees it."

He likens the river to the Connecticut river at Northampton, Mass, and says: "The bottom lands on the Mississippi are wider, they rise more regularly from the river and the hills are not so high nor so irregular as those at Northampton. They are as fertile as the bottoms and as well covered with grasses as those on the Conneticut, without one weed intermixed, until you reach the very summits where the woods, thick, lofty, green and delightful, begin and extend back west of the hills to a considerable distance from the river. Adjoining the river is grass; on the western slope of the hills are thick woods. The bottoms, covered with tall grasses, begin on the very brink of the river above high water mark and they gradually ascend from one to three miles back intersected every mile or two by never failing rivulets originating in the hills; and the ground between the hills is rounded, as if by art, and fitted for a mansion house and all its attendant buildings. Princes might dwell here, once within a mile or two of each other, fronting the Mississippi and along it, and possess handsomer seats than any one of them can boast of in the old world. We could hardly pursuade ourselves, many times, when we first saw one of these beautiful spots that all the art that man possessed and wealth could employ had not been used to fit the place for some gentleman's country seat; and every moment as we passed along, we expected to see some princely mansion erected on the rising ground. Vain illusion! Nature had done all to adorn and beautify the scenery before our eyes."

WEEKLY GATE CITY

AUGUST 22, 1895.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Fourth Paper.

In a former paper it was stated that Marquette, the explorer and missionary, was the first white man to set foot upon the soil of Lee county, which he did at a point a little above the present site of Keokuk, June 21, 1673. It was nearly 120 years later before the first settlement was made. And it was by another Frenchman, Louis Honore Tesson, at the present site of Montrose, in 1790. He received a tract of land a league square from the government of Spain which at that time owned this territory. His settlement was the second made in what is now Iowa, the first having been by Julian Dubuque near the site of the present city of that name in 1788. Tesson made quite elaborate improvements to his claim, but he fell in debt and his property was sold at public auction at the door of the parish church in the village of St. Louis in 1803. A few years later the claim passed into the possession of Thomas F. Reddick. Among the improvements made by Tesson was the planting of a large orchard, which in pioneer days became a famous one.

Jan. 1, 1805, a settlement was made on the present site of Fort Madison and a fort was erected by Z. M. Pike, who afterward distinguished himself in northwestern explorations. The fort was named in honor of President Madison. A trading post was also erected, which was given the name of Le Moine Factory. Chief Black Hawk regarded the erection of this fort a violation of the treaty of 1804 and he made an unsuccessful attempt to destroy it. Then the Indians tried another scheme. They sought by professing great friendship for the garrison to gain entrance to the fort and, while engaging in dances and other amusements to throw the soldiers off their guard, they plotted to make a sudden attack and destroy the fort and massacre the whites. This plan would probably have succeeded had it not been for a young Indian woman, who was in love with one of the officers.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

WEEKLY GATE CITY
SEPTEMBER 12, 1895.

While the festivities were in progress she came to the fort and told her lover of the plot. The commander stationed a 6-pounder cannon loaded with grape shot so as to command the entrance to the stockade surrounding the fort. A few Indians were admitted one at a time, when suddenly the mob outside paused in their dance and made a rush for the fort. Just as they did so the commander uncovered the cannon and disclosed it to the savages with a soldier standing with lighted torch ready to fire. The Indians, taken by surprise at this coup beat a hasty retreat.

When the war of 1812 with England broke out the Indians made another attack on the settlement, but, after heroic efforts, the soldiers drove them away. The same year the soldiers were again besieged and were reduced almost to starvation. They dug a tunnel to the edge of the river and boats were provided. The fort was set afire and under cover of its burning the soldiers escaped, the Indians, who were encamped about in large numbers, not detecting the strategy until the soldiers were safely out on the bosom of the Mississippi. They went down river as far as the present site of Warsaw, where they met a boat ascending the river with supplies. They stopped and built Fort Edwards. The old well at Fort Madison dug by the soldiers still exists and furnishes splendid water. It is strange that the citizens of that place do not properly guard it and erect a monument at that place, in the shape of an ornamental curb, properly inscribed. Several years ago the K. line made an excavation for lowering the tracks which run over the site of the old fort. Several feet under ground workmen came upon a stratum of charred wood, mingled with bones, and an old cannon ball and other relics of that old garrison.

Not until 1832 was another settlement attempted. It was by Peter Williams, who was driven out by the soldiers under Lieutenant Jefferson Davis (later president of the southern confederacy) who burned Williams' cabin. Davis' action was entirely legal as the territory had not then been opened to settlement. In June, 1833, however, Williams was free to return, which he did, and was joined by Richard Chaney shortly afterward. Chaney had been living in a cabin on the creek that bears his name emptying into the Mississippi from Illinois about opposite Rand park, this city. In the succeeding few years settlers began to come in quick succession, among them Augustus Horton, John H. and Nathaniel Knapp, Joseph S. Douglas, Jacob Cutler with their families, and others. The village was incorporated in 1838, with Philip Viele as president, Robert Wyman, recorder; Herbert Morris, Joseph Skinner, Charles McDill, John A. Drake and Isaac R. Atlee, trustees. The town was granted a charter in 1842, and April 4, of that year Mr. Atlee was elected the first mayor. From that date one may say that the city's modern history dates.

In the early part of 1820 a French trader named LeMoliese settled near the present village of Sandusky and the settlement bore his name for many years. About the same time another Frenchman, Maurice Blondeau, (for whom Blondeau street, this city, is named) came and settled on the river about a mile above LeMoliese's farm.

Next in order of settlement was what is now the city of Keokuk. Dr. Samuel C. Muir, a United States army surgeon who was stationed at Fort Edwards, came with his Indian wife and their children, in 1820 and built a cabin at the foot of the rapids. Later he removed to Galena and in 1832 died of cholera, as did all his children but one, a daughter, Louisa, who lived to ripe years. The history of Keokuk's settlement will be more fully treated of in a future paper. It is sufficient to now state that in 1827 Moses Stillwell and family and a lad named Valencourt Vanausdol (who died at an advanced age but a few years ago) came to Keokuk and formed the first permanent settlement.

Lee county's next pioneer was Dr. Isaac Galland (a sketch of whom was recently given in THE GATE CITY.) He came to the present site of Nashville in 1829. His daughter, Eleanor, was the first white child born in Lee county. In 1830 he was joined by Isaac R. Campbell. On what is now known as Noah Bailey's place in Des Moines township, John Talman in 1831 made a settlement. In 1833 John M. Forrest and Forsyth Morgan took up a claim in Van Buren township. John Whittaker and others settled in Denmark township the same year. In 1834 Alex Cruickshank, a Norwegian, settled in Pleasant Ridge township and burned the first kiln of lime ever burned in the county. He assisted in building the Fort Des Moines barracks on the present site of Montrose in 1834. The same year Henry Helman and John Rump came to Pleasant Ridge township, being the first Germans to settle in this county, and John Gregg, Samuel Ross, Joseph White and Benjamin Fox settled in Washington township.

By act of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin Dec. 7, 1836, Lee county was organized, and the rather vague boundaries were made definite by act of the Iowa territorial legislature Jan. 23, 1839. There is much dispute as to the origin of the name. Lieutenant Albert Lea claimed the honor, but others claim the county to have been named after a member of the New York Land company.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Sixth Paper.

While Lee county was yet sparsely settled by white men and before the wild lands had been much cultivated, there was built on the present site of Montrose a barracks for the regular army troops. Among the common people this was known as Fort Des Moines, but among the soldiers and in the government records as Des Moines barracks. They were built in 1834 under the supervision of Lieutenant Crossman. The first of November that year saw the quarters occupied by three companies of the First United States dragoons, a branch of the military service no longer maintained. Lieutenant Colonel Stephen W. Kearney was in command. Among the company commanders was Captain Nathaniel Boone, a son of the famous Daniel Boone of Kentucky and pronounced by General James C. Parrott, then a sergeant in one of the companies, one of the most remarkably clever woodsmen that ever lived. His knowledge of nature was marvelous and he read the wilderness as an open book, his understanding of nature almost amounting to intuition. Another captain was E. V. Sumner who became a general in the war for the Union. Another was Captain Jesse B. Browne.

A. W. Harlan, now living at Croton, helped build the barracks. So also did Wm. Skinner, a Pennsylvanian. He was more or less of a carpenter and he secured from Lieutenant Crossman a contract for 20,000 clapboards at $20 a thousand. These boards were hewn from trees felled along the shores of the river and were the first ever made in the county. When he had finished this contract he was engaged to superintend the erection of the log houses for the soldiers' quarters, Crossman's men not knowing how to build so simple a thing as a log house. An amusing feature of the buildings was the house built for the commandant, Colonel Kearney. It was made of willow logs. Every one knows how tenacious to life willow is and how an apparently dry twig thrust in the moist earth may take root and grow. Well, the next spring all these willow logs sprouted and the colonel's house resembled a mound overgrown with willow saplings.

The barracks were occupied by the troops three years, and from that point each season the troops made campaigns in the north and west. In 1837 the troops were transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kas. During even that short period of occupancy the barracks sheltered many famous men. Among these were General Winfield Scott, Robert E Lee and Jefferson Davis, then a lieutenant and later president of the southern confederacy. When the troops avacuated, Colonel Kearney's quarters

came into the possession of William Coleman who conducted a hotel in it known as the River house. The fort furniture came into the possession of J. B. Knight of Keokuk, and included many rare and valuable pieces. Nothing now remains of the original buildings of the barracks, but occasionally some one finds on the site, some relic of those early days of military occupation, which are highly prized.

The County Seat.

Lee county at the present day occupies a unique position. Like the state of Rhode Island it has two capitals, Keokuk and Fort Madison. The latter city was the original county seat, but West Point soon became the county's capital. West Point was laid out by Abraham Hunziker and in 1835 J. L Cotton opened a general store there. In early days the village was known as Cotton Town. Several log cabins were built in 1836 and in May of that year Colonel Wm. Patterson, who died in Keokuk some years since, with two others bought Hunziker's claim and laid the town off in regular blocks and lots and gave the town its name, in honor of the West Point military academy, from which some of the officers then stationed at the Des Moines barracks had graduated.

The seat of justice was removed from Fort Madison because of the desire to have it near the geographical center of the county. The legislature in 1840 commissioned S. C. Reid and J. L. Scott to consider a location. They recommended as a location the site of the present village of Franklin. The people of the county, however, did not like the location and at the next meeting of the legislature secured a reconsideration of the matter and the matter was referred to a vote of the people. The election resulted in no choice between Fort Madison, West Point and Franklin. On the second election, West Point dropped out of the race and Fort Madison won the day and in the fall of 1842 public buildings valued at $2,000 had been erected. But Fort Madison's victory was not secure. West Point and Franklin combined forces and on their petition the legislature reopened the question and appointed commissioners from Henry, Des Moines and Van Buren counties to settle the matter. Some West Point citizens pledged $14,000 for the erection of a court house and the commission selected that place and the building was erected.

Although defeated, Fort Madison did not give up the fight. An attempt to secure a division of the county was made, but the scheme lacked 239 votes of carrying the day. In 1845 the matter was again put to a vote with Fort Madison, Franklin, West Point, Keokuk, Montrose and Charleston in the field. No choice resulted at the election, but Fort Madison, West Point and Franklin led the others. Another election was held with but these three candidates in the field and Fort Madison won. A court house was built and the county records and offices removed to that town. The West Point court house was transformed into a school house.

By this time Keokuk was becoming a town of no mean pretensions and her people also wanted the county seat. In 1847 the legislature passed an act establishing a court at Keokuk with concurrent jurisdiction. The county was divided into two districts, Jackson, Van Buren, Des Moines, Montrose and Charleston townships being assigned to the lower district and tributary to Keokuk. A building formerly used as a medical college was secured as the court house and serves that purpose to this day. The public buildings at both Fort Madison and Keokuk are by no means a credit to the county.

WEEKLY GATE CITY:
SEPTEMBER 19, 1895.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

Seventh Paper.

The church and the school house have been wonderfully multiplied since the days of the pioneers. From the log hut at Nashville in which in 1830 Berryman Jennings taught the first school in Lee county to Keokuk's splendid new High school building; from the meetings held from house to house to such fine structures as St. John's, St. Peter's or Westminster churches in this city or St. Mary's in Fort Madison, is a far advance. The second school opened in Lee county was in Keokuk in 1833, when Jesse Creighton, a shoe maker, instructed his roll of eight pupils in his shop in a log cabin on the levee between Main and Blondeau streets. From that small beginning has developed the present admirable free public school system in which the people of Keokuk maintain nine commodious and well equipped buildings and a corps of half a hundred skilled and conscientious instructors in addition to many private and denominational schools. Now every township in the county has its comfortable buildings and competent teachers. Fort Madison of late years has made great advance in educational matter, having built four splendid buildings and having contracted for a $35,000 high school. There has been another marked change since those days. Then, the instructors were men—school masters indeed, who ruled by the rod. Now, the male teacher is the exception and woman's finer, subtler, gentler instincts hold sway.

The first time the gospel was preached on the soil of Iowa was in June, 1673, when Father Marquette lifted the cross and told its old, sweet story to the savage Indians encamped on the bank of the Des Moines river a few miles west of the present city of Keokuk. More than a century and a half later the first church building was erected in this city. Prior to that time, however, the settlers had the gospel preached to them by the missionaries of the Catholic church and the itinerant preachers of the Methodist and Presbyterian faiths, meetings being held in the rude homes of the pioneers or in the open air under the shade of the forest trees—in God's first temples. The Catholics have the honor of establishing the first organized church society in Keokuk, they erecting a building on the bluff in 1838. Now there are thirty church societies and missions, the Baptists being credited with four, Congregationalists two, Christians one, Episcopalians three, German Evangelical one, Hebrew one, Latter Day Saints one, Swedish Lutherans one, Methodists six, Presbyterians five, Catholics three, Unitarians one, Y. M. C. A. one, besides several semi-religious and ethical societies. Every community has its churches and one has not far to go anywhere in Lee county this Sabbath day to hear the word of God preached. The presence and growth of the church and the school house have been important factors in the material progress of the people. It is an undisputed fact that a godless and ignorant community cannot but be deficient in all that makes life really worthy living in this nineteenth century. The church and the school are the twin giants of civilization.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, 1934

In Ceremonies Here Today

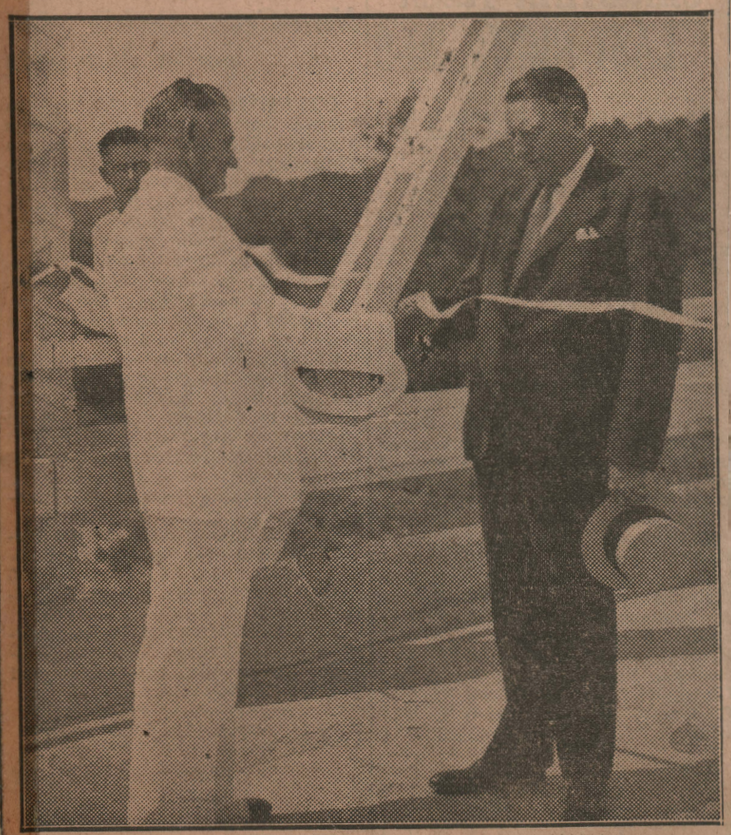
NELS G. KRASCHEL

FRANK G. HARRIS

Acting governors of Iowa and Missouri were here today to help officially open the new Des Moines river bridge. Acting for their chiefs, Gov. Herring of Iowa and Gov. Park of Missouri, the lieutenant governors cut the ribbon at the bridge signalling the formal opening of that span and spoke this afternoon on Main street, at the program held at the platform.

FRIDAY, AUG. 3, 1934

At Iowa-Missouri Bridge Opening



—Daily Gate City and

Snip, snip, went the scissors in the hands of Lieut, Gov. Nelson G. Kraschel of Iowa (right) and Lieut. Gov. Frank G. Harris of Missouri, and the ribbon parted, signifying the formal opening of the new hundred thousand dollar steel and concrete bridge over the Des Moines river south of Keokuk on federal Highway No. 61. The bridge was built by the Iowa Highway Commission, and is located on the site of an old ferry house, from which ferries carried passengers across the Des Moines. The new span links the two states and the concrete highway which runs from Minneapolis to St. Louis with the exception of a short gravel stretch in Missouri. In addition to the acting governors of the two states, highway department officials, mayors of Iowa and Missouri cities in this section, and other dignitaries attended the day's program which included a luncheon, the bridge ceremonies and a program from a platform in the business section of the city

"Iowa War" Was "Fought" With Missouri 100 Years Ago

* * * * * *

DISPUTE OVER BOUNDARY IS NOTHING NEW

Dispatches from Washington telling of a current dispute between the states of Iowa and Missouri over the boundary line south of Keokuk have found space in newspapers, from weeklies to metropolitans, throughout the middle west.

There is nothing new about the disagreement, however. Actually it is older than the state of Iowa.

Started Long Ago.

About 100 years ago the citizens of southeastern Iowa and northeastern Missouri indulged in a heated dispute over the location of the northern boundary of the state of Missouri—a dispute known then and since as the Iowa war. Although of long duration with much excitement and high feeling, no battles were fought and there were no lives lost.

An act of Congress, March 6, 1820, established the northern boundary of Missouri along the parallel of latitude that passed through the rapids of the Des Moines river, making this line correspond with the Indian boundary. It extended east to the middle of the channel of the main fork in the river, down and along the middle of the main channel to the stream's mouth where it empties into the Mississippi.

Complications began to develop when an Act of April 12, 1836, established the Territory of Wisconsin (which included Iowa as it is today) and the Act of April 12, 1838, established the Territory of Iowa, and declared the southern boundary of each should be the northern boundary of Missouri.

Move Boundary North.

As a result of the first act, the Missouri legislature on Dec. 21, 1836, directed the governor to appoint commissioners to ascertain, survey and establish the northern boundary of the state and also directed him to write the President of the United States and to the Governor of the Wisconsin Territory with requests that commissioners be appointed to work with Missouri commissioners and that the services of a U. S. civil engineer be secured for the survey.

When neither the President nor the Wisconsin Governor co-operated, the survey was made by Missouri commissioners alone in July, August and September of 1837, and they set the boundary line nearly opposite where now stands Bentonsport, Iowa, thus including territory nine miles north of the present limit. This survey was approved by the General Assembly of Missouri, Feb. 11, 1839.

Meanwhile, on June 18, 1838, Congress directed a survey of the same boundary be made by a U. S. commissioner, Maj. Albert Miller Lea, of Maryland, aided by commissioners from Missouri and the Territory of Iowa.

Iowa Takes Old Line.

Missouri failed to appoint a commissioner but Iowa selected Dr. James Davis, for whom history says Davis county, Iowa, is named. History also declared that Lee county was named for Major Lea, but does not explain the difference in spelling.

Each of these men, Lea and Davis, made a separate survey and Major Lea reported any one of four lines might be taken. Dr. Davis, however, reported the boundary on the old Sullivan or Indian boundary line, as originally described, and the Iowa authorities accepted his report. There was, therefore, a strip of land about nine miles wide claimed by both Iowa and Missouri.

On August 23, 1839, Gov. Lilburn W. Boggs, of Missouri, issued a proclamation concerning the state of affairs, especially citing the act passed by Iowa, which he called "an act to prevent the exercise of foreign jurisdiction within the territory." Gov. Robert Lucas of Iowa, in a counter proclamation, denied the tiltle of Missouri to the disputed territory and authorized the arrest and trial of all persons who, within such portion of the territory, should attempt to exercise any official function not granted or secured by the laws of the territory of Iowa.

People Become Hostile.

Following this the people of Iowa and Missouri became rather unfriendly and presently even hostile. About this time Uriah S. Gregory, sheriff of Clark county, went into the debatable land and demanded taxes, where half a dozen men gathered at a house raising south of Farmington. They greeted the demand with great contempt and not only refused to pay but advised Gregory to "get back to his own state as quick as possible." Gregory returned home and reported his unfriendly reception. Gov. Boggs, hearing of the affair, issued a strong proclamation to officers to do their duty.

On Nov. 20, Sheriff Gregory again went into the debatable territory to collect taxes and was arrested by Sheriff Henry Heffleman, of Van Buren county, who with a strong posse was lying in watch for him. Gregory was arrested on the charge of "usurpation of authority." He was taken first to Farmington, where there was much excitement over his arrest, then on to Burlington, which was the capital of the territory, and finally to Miscatine where he was imprisoned for a short time, but later released.

NO 'DISPUTE' HERE

No dispute of boundaries was in evidence when this picture was snapped by a Gate City photographer on August 2, 1934. It shows Lieut. Gov. Nels G. Kraschel of Iawa (now Governor Kraschel) at right, and Lieut. Gov. Frank G. Harris of Missouri wielding shears upon a fluttering blue ribbon marking the formal opening of the new Des Moines river bridge on that date.

Dec 18, 1937 - page 1 (Iowa War)

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Dec 13, 1937 - page #2 (Iowa War)

Arrest Causes Indignation.

News of his arrest caused great excitement in Missouri and the Clark county court met immediately in special session. The meeting was held at the tavern of John S. Lapsley in Waterloo on November 23, with Judges John Taylor and Jesse McDaniel present. They immediately issued a statement on the affair and ordered out a number of companies of soldiers. Public meetings of indignation were held in Clark, Lewis and Marion counties and feelings were running high.

An amusing incident, occurring about the time of Gregory's arrest, was the cutting of three bee trees owned by an Iowan in the disputed territory, by a Missourian. The Iowan sought to have the Missourian arrested and tried in Iowa. The arrest did not take place but a judgment of $1.50 was secured against the Missourian and the constable, with a strong posse, was on watch to collect it.

While all this excitement was brewing, the soldiers were gathering for service. Maj. Gen. David Willock, with 12 men, rode to the border and, finding the Iowans under arms, wisely did nothing.

Brig. Gen. Allen was a more impetuous man and by Dec. 7, had Col. Chauncy Durkee's Lewis county regiments on the way to the border without tents, with only a few blankets and a minimum of ammunition and arms.

Pilfer Store Supplies.

At LaGrange some men of this company broke into the Charles Skinner store. Mr. Skinner had recently come to this section and set up shop, so his stock was new and fresh. The soldiers helped themselves to groceries, blankets and supplies—to the extent of several hundred dollars—and thus equipped themselves. General Allen later approved the appropriation and the storekeeper was partially reimbursed.

This Lewis county regiment finally reached Waterloo and went into camp on the Fox river, together with Col. Dedham's Clark county batallion and a company from Knox county which was then part of Lewis. Six hundred men were encamped here in deep snow, with the weather very inclement.

In Iowa the soldiers were mustering also. Three hundred men were under arms at Farmington and it seemed a clash could scarcely be avoided. Gov. Lucas planned to command his own forces. Mounted pickets were stationed to warn of the Missourian's advance, and spies were sent over into Missouri to learn of their plans, if possible.

Seek Peaceful Settlement.

The Missourians planned to send Sheriff Gregory once more into the disputed territory at the head of their armed forces to collect the taxes, and if resistance was made, then to enforce the collection. But the county court was eager to prevent bloodshed so on December 4, they appointed a peace committee to confer with the Iowa territorial legislature in an effort to come to a peaceful settlement.

The committee was composed of Robert P. Mitchell, Abraham Wayland, William McDaniel, Rev. Andrew Broaddus and Mays Johnson. Their purpose was "to seek to adjust the present difficulties in relation to the disputed territory that all hostile operations may cease and the mutual friendly relations heretofore be restored."

The delegation went immediately to Burlington where the Iowa legislature was then in session. Meantime some citizens in Marion county, deploring the situation, met and made resolutions which were sent to Clark county asking them to wait till the dispute could be settled by congress, the supreme court or in any way satisfactory to both parties. This communication was received on the same day the peace committee made its report to the Clark county court.

As a result of the negotiations of the peace committee, which were received with the greatest kindness and consideration by the Iowa legislature, peace was declared on December 12, and a better way than force sought to settle the difficulty.

Gen. Allen immediately disbanded the Clark county regiment at Waterloo. Col. Durkee marched the Lewis county regiment back to Monticello and disbanded it.

Last Regiment Drafted.

Meanwhile a regiment from Marion county, commanded by Col. John Lear, had been called on for 200 men. The men were unwilling to enlist and finally, after difficulty and dissatisfaction were drafted, and after a great deal of hiring of substitutes set off for Clark county. They started December 12, and the first night camped on the Fabius north of Palmyra, minus tents, with only a few blankets, and with the weather extremely cold with snow on the ground. Only the big fires which they built saved the men from extreme discomfort and freezing. The second night they camped near Monticello and it was there the news of peace reached them.

The men had been loath to take up arms, so the news of peace was gladly received. The men resolved to end their campaign with somewhat contemptuous proceedings toward the two governors whom they looked upon as the cause of their troubles. Accordingly, a haunch of venison was cut in two, one piece labeled Gov. Lucas of Iowa, and the other, Gov. Boggs of Missouri. Both were hung up and fired into with rifles. Then they were taken down and buried with mock funeral solemnity and burlesque honors of war.

Discomfort and Humor.

Some rather humorous resolutions were also adopted just before they returned to their homes, such as:

Resolved: That as this is the third winter in succession that the troops have been ordered from Marion, and had to furnish their own tents and blankets—therefore we who have them now will keep them for the war next witner, as our notice has hitherto been so short.

Resolved: That the governor be requested to furnish us with guns by next fall.

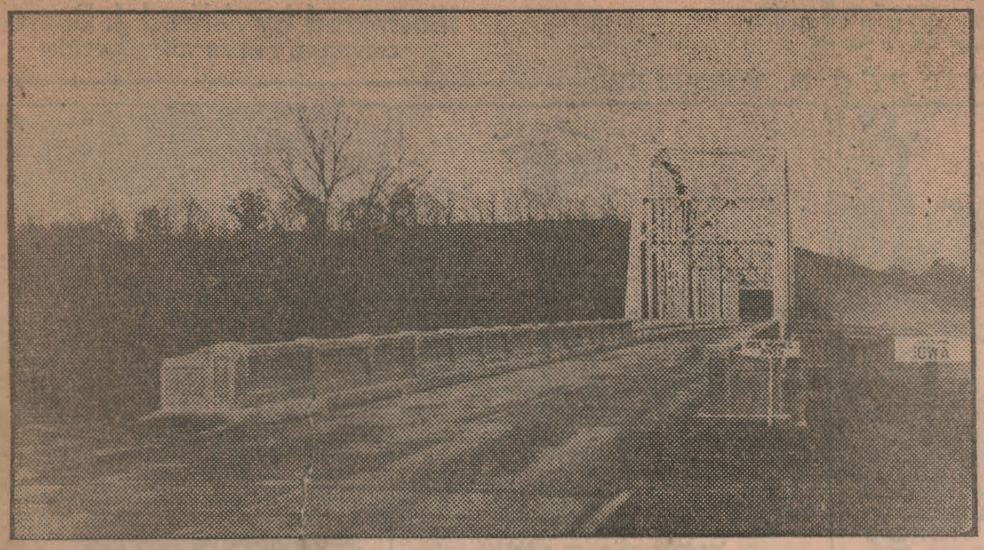
Resolved: That we think it is high time that we had our pay for the Mormon campaign last year.

Some of them also had a little sport by turning their coats inside out and wearing them home in that manner in honor, they said, of their distinguished services in and safe return from the "honey war."

In March, 1840, congress established the northern boundary of Missouri on the old Indian boundary line as surveyed originally and again by Dr. Davis, the Iowa surveyor.

36.

SIGN ON MISSOURI SIDE OF RIVER



At the extreme right of the above picture taken from the Missouri approach to the new Des Moines river bridge may be seen the sign reading "Entering Iowa." The position of this sign indicates the boundary on the Missouri side of the river which is being disputed by that state which claims the state line should be in the middle of the stream.

Most of the basis for the dispute is several acres of land nearer the confluence of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers. The Keokuk Canning company grows tomatoes on the strip and the trouble between the states arose over taxation on the land.

THE KEOKUK GATE CITY
SATURDAY, SEPT. 5, 1942

NEW CHANNEL TO BE CUT ON DES MOINES

WORK STARTED LAST WEEK ON BIG PROGRAM

Contemplated for several years as essential to the protection of U. S. Highway 61 from the encroachment of the ever-shifting Des Moines river below Keokuk, work was commenced last week in removing a dangerous horse-shoe bend in the stream about a half mile west of the highway bridge, George W. Egley announced today.

The program requires the cutting of a new channel approximately three-quarters of a mile in length, most of it through land owned by Dr. O. T. Clark, and is one of the most comprehensive river projects undertaken here in many years.

Cooperative Effort

Egley, who is president of the Des Moines-Mississippi Levee board and a member of the federal river and harbors commission, has been interested in the plan for many years and says that the work is proceeding through the joint efforts of his organization, the Iowa and Missouri highway commissions, the C. B. & Q. railroad, and the federal government.

As a result of the horseshoe bend, the river was cutting into the bank at a rate of 50 to 75 feet a year, and it would have been only a matter of time before it succeeded in undermining the highway and forcing the construction of both the railroad and highway bridges.

Clearing Land

The highway departments of the two states, with the Burlington Route, have purchased the right of way for the new channel, and the government is paying the cost of construction. The Central Construction Company of Davenport is handling the work and by next week should have much of its heavy digging machinery on the job.

Most of the land has been cleared this week and a large crew of men is on the job. Brush and trees are being removed over a channel cut 600 feet wide, and one of the largest bull-dozers ever seen in this area has been pushing over huge trees like matchwood, Egley reports.

KEOKUK GATE CITY
THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 1943

DES MOINES FLOWS THRU NEW CHANNEL

SHORT-CUT MADE TO KEEP RIVER UNDER CONTROL

The Des Moines river, itself a powerful but destructive dirt mover when it goes on a rampage, today is flowing calmly through a new man-made channel, constructed to bring the treacherous stream under control as it approaches its junction with the mighy Mississippi south of Keokuk.

Heavy digging machinery of the Central Construction company of Davenport, including one of the largest bull-dozers ever seen in this area, completed the extensive job of cutting the next channel in little more than four months.

The short-cut, a great ditch some 600 feet wide and approximately three-quarters of a mile in length, permits the water to flow in a direct line to the regular channel which passes under the highway bridge about a half mile to the east.

Eliminates Big Bend.

It eliminates entire a gigantic, dangerous horseshoe curve which caused considerable trouble for owners of bottom land in the vicinity during periods of high water for many years. Even greater apprehension has been felt by Iowa and Missouri highway uthorities who feared the river might change its course in such a way as to require constructing new bridges over the stream.

Rushing around the horseshoe bend, the water had been cutting into the lower bank at a rate of 50 to 75 feet a year. Based on this action, it would have been only a matter of time before it succeeded in undermining the pavement of U. S. Highway 61 and forcing the construction of both highway and railroad bridges there.

The new channel, eliminating such a threatening possibility, was opened this week and permits the river to flow in a direct line through the land which was owned by Dr. O. T. Clark. Some additional work remains to be completed, but this is expected to require only about two more weeks.

Comprehensive Project.

One of the most comprehensive river projects undertaken here since the construction of the hydro-electric plant and dam on the Mississippi, the channel cutting job was started about the first of September. Brush and trees had to be first cleared from the land before the earth could be dug, and this was done by large bull-dozers capable of pushing over huge trees like they were matchwood.

The highway departments of Iowa and Missouri, along with the C. B. and Q. railroad, purchased the right of way for the new channel and the federal government is paying for the cost of construction. The Des Moines-Mississippi Levee board also joined in sponsoring the project and was one of the most active in promoting plans for it.

THE DAILY GATE CITY FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 1930

37.

Hail Stones Bombard City Damaging Auto Tops and Roofs

TREES, SHRUBS CUT OFF AS IF BY KEEN KNIFE

Insurance Men and Auto Top Repair Shops Swamped with Calls from People Whose Cars Were Caught in Storm.

Hail stones measuring all the way from eight to ten inches around and weighing from a quarter to a half pound, down to stones the size of walnuts, bombarded Keokuk yesterday afternoon for five minutes between 4:07 and 4:12 o'clock, causing untold damage to roofs of houses, automobile tops, glass windows, and cutting trees and shrubs as if some giant with a keen knife had been whittling away on them.

The hail storm, which was part of the tornado at Summitville, was one of the most serious that has ever struck Keokuk in the memory of most people here. The storm was most severe on the north side of the city too, it was found. Lawns were covered with the stones in this section, and the hail was large and irregular in shape. In west Keokuk and on the south side of the city, the stones were more nearly the size of walnuts and large hickory nuts.

Follows Heavy Rain

A terrific rain storm had broken over the city just a few minutes before. Suddenly there was the cracking of frozen particles on awnings, auto tops, roofs of buildings and homes, and in some cases on the defenseless heads of pedestrians scurrying for cover. The bombardment of hail stones sounded like a rain of shrapnel on corrugated iron roofs of dug-outs in battlefield trenches. For five minutes people who watched the storm were terror stricken, wondering what was coming next, for the hail stones were battering their way through trees and shrubbery, leveling plants and cutting off limbs and branches as if they were broomstraws being hacked at with a razor like blade of a knife.

Windows were broken in many parts of the city, and awnings over stores on Main street were riddled. However, the awnings probably saved some of the plate glass windows from breakage. Strange as it may seem, the hail missed the R. G. Schletter greenhouses on the Johnson street road, only about two dozen panes of glass being broken there, and the hail stones were only small ones. The heavy hail seemed to have missed that part of the city.

Auto Tops are Selves

The insurance men were the ones who reaped the aftermath of this storm. One agent reported that he had fifty-five calls in a couple of hours and quit counting. Others were equally as swamped with calls from car owners, who were reporting damage to auto tops. Holes were torn in car tops, some of the tops resembling seives after the storm had passed. Auto top repair men were literally swamped with cars being brought to them for "first aid".

Some of the hail stones were measured and weighed by people who were wondering about the size. Some were reported as four inches long, others were eight to ten inches in circumference, and he weight of the stones showed considerable variation.

Many Report Clouds

First reports of the tornado cloud in this vicinity were given to the Gate City by John Breheny of the Mid-West Carbide Company. He and other employes had watched the formation of the clouds, and were confident that they were funnel shaped and that as they dipped to the earth there was what appeared as smoke where they struck. Patrolman Virgil Coovert of the police department and K. C. Whetstone of the Regent theater, also reported seeing the funnel shaped clouds from a point of vantage on Main street.

At first they reported seeing the storm with the end of the funnel upwards then it was seen to flip down and then lift.

Officially a Tornado

At the weather bureau today, Arthur H Christensen, official in charge, was preparing his report for the bureau on the storm.. He called the storm that hit Summitville a tornado and pointed to the way the trees were twisted in different directions, the hail storm here, and the fluctuations of the barometer in the local station, as evidencec of the presence of a tornado in the immediate vicinity.

The wind here through the night measured as high as thirty-one miles on hour. Fortunately there was little or no wind blowing with the hail storm.

Rainfall here through the day yesterday, totalled 1.33 inches. This makes the total since the first of September, 2.74 inches.

Fort Madison reported a fall of 4.71 inches in the storm yesterday.

No Storm at Centerville

Reported rumors about town that Centerville was badly hit by the tornado, were proven false, when J. G. Campbell, telephone operator at the Union Depot here, talked to the operator at Centervillle. There was no damage at all according to the operator in Centerville.

The Iowa State insurance had received about 100 calls for slight damages caused by the storm. One insurance agent reported fifty-five calls within two hours, from damages to automobile tops.

Lee County

J. T. VERMILLION HURT IN WRECK OF BARN DIES; HEAVY PROPERTY DAMAGE

Gordon Morgan is in Hospital Here with Injuries Sustained When Caught in Storm While Hunting—Trees Blown Down, and Barns Damaged in Genuine Twister Late Thursday Afternoon.

ANOTHER VICTIM DIES.

W. H. Belt died in Sacred Heart hospital at Fort Madison at noon from injuries, the result of the tornado, which picked up his house and carried it a quarter of a mile off its foundation demolishing it. Mr. Belt was picked up by Clyde Bell, who saw him floundering around in a creek near the place where the wind had blown him. He lived in a house between Mt. Clara and New Boston. He had recently moved into the house which was demolished by the storm, and which was a small house located a short distance from the paved highway. He was forty-nine years old.

Swirling leisurely yet irresistably northward a gigantic top of the elements dipped to the earth as its path crossed the little village of Summitville yesterday at about 4:30 p. m., spun dizzily for a few moments and then resumed its leisurely and irresistable whirl to the north. This maelstrom of wind and debris not only distorted the landscape beyond recognition, but before its inscrutable dance was completed had injured two men, one fatally, killed and crippled much live-stock, and made jack-straws out of houses, barns and trees.

From a twisted wreck of a barn on the place of Charles Phillips was carried the body of John Vermillion who was caught there when the tail of the cone-shaped tornado swung earthward. The injured man was brought to St. Joseph's hospital here where he died of his injuries shortly after 7:30 yesterday.

Another man, Gordon Morgan of Elizabethtown, Ill., is a patient at the Graham hospital suffering head injuries as a result of being buffeted about by the screeching twister as it descended upon him while hunting in the fields near Mt. Clara. Gordon is unable to tell what hit him, but when found by Miss Ruth Chatfield, a school teacher, was wandering about aimlessly, punch drunk from the battering wind.

Live Stock Crushed.

Horses and cattle were still being dug out of the debris of barns last night, many of them buried deep beneath heavy beams and in one case, under a huge mow full of alfalfa hay. This large mow evidently crashed to the earth when the sides of the barn were swept away and three or four horses were smothered and crushed.

The extent of the damage caused by the twister has not been definitely estimated but it will clearly run into five figures. Not a residence in the little village escaped without more or less damage while barns and other outbuildings in most cases were knocked sprawling. A large orchard, the trees heavily loaded with apples and pears, appeared to have been in the path of a gargantuan steam-roller and was laid flat to the earth.

Trees and Houses Suffer.

Tall pine trees in one yard, trees which have weathered the storms of many, many years were bowled over like nine-pins, several of them literally uprooted while others were snapped off at the trunk. Smaller trees were transported from one yard to another, some of them ground up into match-wood.

Houses in many instances stood with nude roofs, the shingles having been combed off and scattered over the countryside. Other residences had portions of the roof itself blown off, giving the appearance as if someone had placed small bombs in different corners of the attics and touched them off in unison. Windows were also broken, the entire pane giving way under the pressure of the whirlwind.

If, as many say who saw it, this was a legitimate tornado, these roofs and windows were actually blown out, not in. A twister does its damage by creating almost a vacuum in its center and whatever crosses its path is exploded by the greater pressure within. According to Arthur H. Christensen, local forecaster, this storm was of the tornado variety as was indicated by the twisted condition of the trees and the deroofed houses. The trees were blown in all directions, he said, not laid out in one line as they would have been in an ordinary wind storm. The twister was accompanied, he said, by a complete fluctuation of the local barometer, which fell rapidly and then rose when the storm had passed.

Those who saw the funnel shaped clouds spinning northward say that there were two of them pursuing a parallel path approximately a half mile apart.

Sheriff Hart Sends Help.

Sheriff Robert H. Hart was notified of the storm at Summitville shortly after it occurred. C. S. Wells of Keokuk called the sheriff and said that there was damage done there, and Mr. Hart was also in communication with his son, Sherman Hart, at the county home, who told of the storm there, and there were other calls for help which came to the office. Hart notified Chief Joe Dobson of the Keokuk fire department, and he with four firemen went to the scene of the storm. Dr. O. T. Clark had been called, and Sheriff Hart and Deputy Sheriff Reinig left immediately for Summitville, after notifying local ambulance services of the possibility of need from them.

It was found that the storm struck Summitville almost at the spot where the village begins, and evidently spread over the entire area, for it is believed that there was not a house or barn in the village which did not have some damage. The Dr. Coulter home, a brick structure, was damaged, the barn in the rear of the Ike Kerr house was blown down and a horse killed. William Moeller lost two horses in the ruins of the barn, and the barn of Charles Phillips was blown in and a horse killed there. It was in this barn that Mr. Vermillion, father-in-law of Phillips, received injuries which caused his death.

Five Cows Missing.

At the Fred Hansen home the outbuildings were blown down, and last night Mr. Hansen reported that five cows were missing and other stock may be lost. There was some damage to some of the smaller buildings on the farm of Mrs. Nettie Courtright, but the big barn was not blown down as was first reported. The Vermazen house northeast of Summitville, was reported as damaged. Damage was done to the school house and church, and the Storms' orchard was levelled. Big cedars in front of the George Wright home were blown over and a hen house in the rear of the residence was picked up and set over the fence by the force of the wind. Branson's house across from the school lost part of the roof.

At the Lee county home considerably this side of Summitville, there was some damage to the roof of the pump house, but this was all that was done there.

Not One Escaped Damage.

In checking over the list of houses and property in Summitville damaged by the storm, it was found that not one of the dwellings in the village escaped damage either to it or to the outbuildings connected with it. There was no way to make a thorough check on horses killed, but it was estimated that at least six were outright and others are to be buried in wreckage. In some instances last night these could be seen under piles of debris, with their necks broken, their heads twisted back and held down by timbers.

When the storm was seen gathering up in the west, Mr. Case who keeps the store at Summitville, locked the door to his building and started for the school house. He took all of the children in his car and was half way back to town when the storm struck. Getting out of the car he and the children took refuge in the grader ditch, lying in that depression until the force of the wind was spent. A man named Hawkins rescued two others from school in the same way.

Parallel Twisters.

People who watched the gathering clouds declare that the storm which struck the village was one of two twisters which seemed to be parallel and a half mile apart. One which struck Summitville did the most damage, the other doing little damage to fields in its course. It looked as if a puff of smoke came up from the village when the storm hit, according to persons who witnessed the passing of the twister. They say that the clouds were funnel shaped and whirling.

Employes of the Mid-West Carbide company watched the progress of the storm through field glasses and they could see very plainly that the clouds were funnel-shaped and whirled rapidly. According to them there were at least three distict clouds which passed to to the north and west, as far as they could see. It was also reported here that the storm clouds were visible and that they assumed a distinct funnel formation and were rotating as they passed over west of Keokuk. There was no hail in the storm at Summitville.

Hunter Out On His Feet.

Gordon Morgan, twenty-four years old, who lives in Elizabethtown, Ill., was brought to Graham hospital "knocked out on his feet" from a blow from something during the storm yesterday afternoon. This morning he was questioned by local officials, and was able to give an account of what had happened, except that he does not yet know what caused his injuries, which consist of a blow over the right eye and a lacerated left hand.

Morgan was hunting on the Connelly place at Mt. Clara. He

221

parked his car near the field and while after game noticed the gathering storm. He started for the hard road, and knows little of what happened after that. He reached the road carrying a hammerless double-barreled shotgun. He was staggering evidently from the blow, and Ruth Chatfield, a school teacher, who came along in her car saw him. She said she would bring him to Keokuk to a hospital if he would put down the gun, which he did and she got him to Graham hospital where Dr. Wedel attended him.

Sheriff Hart questioned him this morning at the hospital, where he apparently has recovered from the blow on the head, but does not know what struck him, but it is presumed it was a tree branch. His brother secured the car last night.

Sept 30, 1930 - Page 2

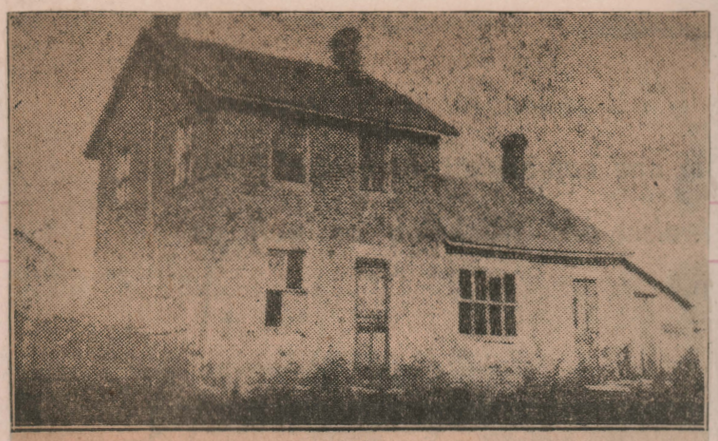
THE DAILY GATE CITY
THURSDAY, OCT. 2, 1930

WHEN STORM DEALT DEATH

The upper picture shows the wreck of the Phillips barn at Summitville where in the tornado last Thursday J. T. Vermillion was fatally injured. Mr. Vermillion was taken from the ruins of the barn struck by the wind, suffering injuries which caused his death a short time later in a Keokuk hospital.

The lower picture shows the remains of the house in which W. H. Belt was living. He was blown into the creek shown beyond the fringe of trees, and was so seriously hurt he was taken to a Fort Madison hospital where he died Friday at noon.

Both of these places have attracted thousands of visitors since last Thursday afternoon when the storm struck the community.



One of the first postoffices located in Lee County was at Jolleyville.

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1870.

SKETCHES OF EARLY IOWA.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF THE NAME DEVIL CREEK.

About the 1st of November, in the fall of 1834, while I was haying with Giles Sullivan, below Camp Des Moines, we learned that Black Hawk and part of his band had come and camped near the mouth of Devil Creek. I had some curiosity to see that famous old warrior, and Sullivan wanted to cheat some Indian out of a blanket or two, so we went together, walking about eight miles to the Indian lodges. I saw the famous Chief He was a little old man at that time, without paint, and dressed in part with white man's clothing, reticent, but not very dignified; but the scanty furniture about his Wickey-up was neat and clean. His squaw, for Black never had but one wife, was a paragon of neatness. His daughter was rather pretty. His sons were absent at that time.

We next went to the lodge of old Nottoway. He was an old acquaintance of Sullivan's, and full of talk. I had a curiosity for knowledge, and got Sullivan to make enquiries for me of him. The old Indian became eloquent, but I could not understand a word at that time, and must give the story as Sullivan interpreted it to me.

The old Indian reached up both hands, spread out his fingers, slapped his hands together once, then stuck up one finger, then Sullivan said to me, "Eleven years; keep still." The old Indian talked and gesticulated for some time. His squaw at one time made a vigorous gesture towards me saying, "Chewaliski, Mani-ton, See-po." I was somewhat alarmed, thought she was going to strike me, but I afterwards learned that she was only giving *emphasis* to the name of the Creek. Eleven years back from that time would have made it about the year 1823, when most of the Indians lived near the mouth of Rock river, in Illinois. Quite a large party came down onto this creek to make shee-sepac (shugar). Their sugar camps or boiling places extended several miles up the creek. They had an excellent run for some three days, and still the sugar-water kept running. The weather became sultry, even hot. A fog came on and seemed to hang in the trees near the surface of the ground, with occasional openings so they could see the clear sky above; yet there was occasional lightning on the underside of the fog, but no thunder. The fog grew thicker and the lightning increased in brightness, but still no thunder could be heard. At last the earth began to tremble, and a legion of devils came down the creek, riding on a big wave of water that stood up square in front, about ten feet high. The devils looked like balls of fire, and run in every direction; caught every Indian that they could and carried them off bodily, as their remains were never found. They also carried off their kettles of syrup, hence the name, "Chewaliski, Mani-ton, See-po," or Evil Spirit river; or, in other words, Devil Creek.

This finishes the Indian legend. The probable facts in the case—if there was any fact—was that there was an extraordinary rain out on the head of the creek; that the lightning was where the rain was, but at such a distance that the Indians did not hear the thunder; and as the timber was dense, the Indians did not see the cloud in which the storm was, and the distance also made the lightning seem to be below the fog in their vicinity.

Now for the Devils. Every old settler knows how the Indians make sugar. It is by boilding the water—a sap of the sugar maple—in their copper kettles, hung on a pole, with the fire altogether on top of the ground, consuming a considerable quantity of wood—crooked old logs and crooked sticks of all kinds are used.

Their fires were burning brightly; the rise in the creek came on suddenly, overflowing the banks, and floating off the logs. As they were already on fire, and as many of them were crooked, they remained with the fiery side up. The crooks in the creek made them seem to run in every direction, and a copper kettle, one-third full of syrup, will float readily on the surface of the water, and may float many miles away.

Those few facts soberly considered will wipe out all the mysterious and superstitious portions of the story, and when simmered down it only amounts to this: the Indians took a big scare from a sudden rise in the creek: for they were a superstitious people.

This ends the play; but let us have the afterpiece. Superstition is not confined to the Indians alone. It is but some three or four years since there was a little excitement amongst the Baptist denomination of Christians in this vicinity. There were several candidates for the ordinance of baptism. Most of the converts objected to being baptised in Devil Creek. One young lady said she would rather risk her salvation without the saving ordinance than to be immersed in Devil Creek. So the preachers held a consultation and informed her that they had permanently changed the name from Devil Creek to *Jordan*. That made it all right, and she was immersed in Devil Creek.

Then, again, this creek will likely get on a rampage some other time and carry off some rails, and that will make those old farmers think of Devil Creek. So I go in for the old name of Devil Creek. The names of the young lady and the minister are both withheld out of respect for their feelings.

40- Jan 26 No 1905 222 G. E. Parmun 1905 222 700 THE GREAT DUST PREVENTER R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

WEEKLY CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1899.

CITY NEWS.

—Referring to the postoffice vacancy at Galland and the inability to find an applicant for the office yesterday's Montrose Journal states: "Capt. W. Galland of this place takes a fatherly interest in the town because its name was changed from Nashville to Galland in his honor and because it was there that he got his first book larnen' and where he flirted with the dusky maiden of the forest and traded them chewing gum for buffalo robes and beadwork slippers. He does not fancy the town being without a postmaster and has visited the place a time or two in the interests of Uncle Sam. He has interested a couple of persons in the matter who are considering the advisability of accepting the office. He hopes to be able to induce one of them to act, in which event the good people of the town will get their mail with old-time regularity. In the meantime L. Hemingway has been appointed deputy and will dispense mail until a postmaster can be found."

Constitution-Democrat.
CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1883.
Consolidated, March 26, 1888.
MARCH 22, 1904.

—The first mail for the Sandusky postoffice which has been reestablished with Frank Carpenter as postmaster, was received Thursday. Mr. Carpenter is building a store building in a corner of the Haynie farm just this side of the Lemoliese creek bridge where the postoffice will be installed.

THE DAILY GATE CITY
MONDAY, FEB. 28, 1921.

BORN IN LEE 100 YEARS AGO

Dr. Lemuel Isaac North Claims to Have Been First White Child Born in Iowa February 19, 1821.

HE LIVES IN TACOMA

He is a Physician and is Still Practicing, According to Reports from Pacific Coast.

Dr. Lemuel Isaac North of Tacoma, Washington, who celebrated his one hundredth birthday anniversary last week, claims to have been the first white child born in Iowa. His birthplace is said to have been in Lee county. The date of his birth was February 19, 1821.

A Tacoma paper says of the centenarian:

Dr. North was born in what is now Lee county, in 1821, his father and mother being among the first white persons to enter the state. The sprightly centenarian was publicly proclaimed the first white child born in Iowa in 1906 during the annual pioneers' reunion. At that time the governor of the state offered a prize of 160 acres to the man who could prove this. Dr. North had no difficulty in proving his qualifications.

After obtaining his medical education at Cambridge college, England, Dr. North returned to Iowa and the next six years practiced in and around Lee county. An old Indian medicine man and Dr. North were friendly and the doctor said on the occasion of his one hundredth birth anniversary, "I owe many secrets of medicine to what this old Indian taught me."

During the civil war, Dr. North served with the First Iowa infantry and remained in the service a year and a half after Appomattox. Forty-four years ago, Dr. North's wife died and at that time he decided he would never charge a fee in the practice of medicine. "I have kept that promise sacredly and I intend to continue to do so until I die," Dr. North said at his birthday party.

Is Still Practicing.

In spite of his advanced years, Dr. North continues to practice his profession and has more than 160 patients at the present time. He averages ten miles of walking daily visiting his patients. During the late war, Dr. North was employed by the federal railroad administration to care for sick railroad men on lines operating between Seattle, Wash., and Vancouver, B. C. In 1914, Dr. North's son, Dr. William North, of New York, wired asking that the aged doctor come to the eastern metropolis immediately and take complete charge of two serious cases of spinal meningitis. Dr. North left San Francisco at once and with marked energy and constant attendance not only saved the lives of his two patients but entirely cured them.

Up to a few years ago, Dr. North was an ardent globe trotter and he has visited practically every important nation in the world. He speaks nine different languages. During a trip to Egypt during his younger days, Dr. North said he discovered the composition and use of cement and claims to be the first person to use this material in the United States.

Both Dr. North's parents lived to be more than 100 years old. He is confident that he will live many more years. When asked what his secret of longevity was, Dr. North smiled and said, "I don't think there is any secret to it. Do whatever you want to do, but be moderate in all things. Fresh air and walking help lots."

LEE COUNTY HAD TWO ACADEMIES IN EARLY DAYS

WEST POINT AND DENMARK SITES OF THESE SCHOOLS

Lee county can not only claim the first schoolhouse in the history of Iowa—Berryman Jennings' one-room log cabin at Galland—but was also the site of two of the earliest academies in the state.

First of these was the West Point academy, incorporated by an act of the Iowa legislature on January 23, 1839, but Denmark academy came into being only three years later, on February 3, 1842, when it also was incorporated by the legislature.

Opened in 1842

The first term of the West Point academy opened in June of 1842 with the Rev. John M. Fulton as principal, although Messers William Patterson, John Box, J. Price, A. H. Walker, Cyrus Poage, Joseph Howard, Isaac Beeler, A. Hunsicker, A. Ewing, Hawkins Taylor, Campbell Gilmer, David Walker, Solomon Jackson and William Steele had incorporated the institution considerably earlier.

During the same year that the academy opened, Mrs. McGunagle of Athens, Ohio, opened a school for girls, offering board as low as a $1 to $1.25 per week.

As was the case at West Point, the Denmark academy did not open its doors until three years after its incorporation, with Isaac Field, Reuben Brackett, Oliver Brooks, Hartwell J. Taylor and Asa Turner, Jr., as trustees. Albert A. Sturgis of Washington, Iowa, was in charge when school began in the Congregational church.

Stock Is Issued

Town lots were donated by Curtis Shedd, Timothy Fox and Lewis Epps, and proceeds from their sale were to be used as a permanent fund, the interest of which would go to the academy. Stock was also issued at $25 a share, and the annual income of the school was set at $3,000.

After meeting in the Congregational church for five years, the school erected a stone building of its own at a cost of $2,500 in 1848. This served until 1865, when more room was required, and the trustees authorized a $17,500 structure which was eventually completed in 1877.

Re-incorporated with 14 trustees in 1868, the academy flourished for many years thereafter and was recognized as one of the best in the state.

The old building was destroyed by fire some ten years ago and was replaced by the present high school building.

FIRST ARGYLE SCHOOL BUILT BY NEWBERRY

Although it was at that time a sparsely settled community, Argyle's first school was built in 1839 by Abraham and James Newberry who were the first to arrive in that section.

A log building, it also stood service as a church with the Rev. Mr. Williams, a Presbyterian clergyman, in charge.

Natives of Orange County, N. Y., the Newberrys came to Lee county in 1838 and the cabin built by James still stands on the farm of Fred D. Newberry. Within it is the old bed which was used by the original settlers.

Other early arrivals in the Argyle neighborhood were Henry L. Alvis who came from Virginia in 1839 to develop a farm and Horace Washburn who came from Canada in 1842.

After the first school house and church had outlived their purpose two rural schools were erected and were called the Hoosier Green and the Allen. With education calling ever greater demands, however, efforts were made to consolidate the two districts and finally resulted successfully with the purchase by Mr. and Mrs. P. Doeglin of a farm which had been in the Newberry family for 75 years.

Argyle's modern consolidated school is one of the best in the county and one in which the entire community takes a justifiable pride.

42.

THE GATE CITY:

TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 30.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

[News Items for this Department are solicited from all Neighboring Towns and Postoffices. The name of the writer must accompany each letter.]

String Prairie.

Everything on our beautiful prairie is on the boom, and with the assurance of a republican administration for the next four years we trust will so continue. W. B. VanVleet has just finished a fine barn. John Best followed in his footsteps and has ornamented the Prairie with a new barn. S. B. Bond has made several additions to his residence, and Mr. Garverich, tired of seeing an old tenement house, tore it away and placed in its stead a nice story and a half cottage, to be occupied by Prof. Hopkins, formerly of your city, who is now teaching the youth at Vincennes.

Farmers are generally through gathering corn, which gave a better yield than last year, although the grain is not as sound.

Scarcity of water is the cry now in this vicinity; wells that have not been dry for years have given out, ponds are frozen dry, and should this cold dry weather continue for any length of time the Des Moines river will be the only show for water.

There was a social party at 'Squire Garverich's last Tuesday eve, given by by H. G. Sargent, jr., who has returned lately from California. The party was a jolly affair throughout. Mr. Sargent leaves for Chicago in a few days, where he goes to attend business college.

Dr. Blakely of Montrose gave a very interesting lecture at Hoosier Green last Friday evening. Subject—Ancient History. Two weeks from that evening J. S. Stuart, county superintendent will lecture here, and during the winter several have agreed to lecture for us. Such as W. J. Medes, J. H. Craig, J. H. Garrettson and others. The lectures are all for the benefit of the school children.

A library is the topic of conversation now, and a meeting has been called for Friday evening to see what measures can be taken to procure books. Vincennes has organized a literary society which meets in Griffith's Hall every Thursday night.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
N. L. PICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE DAILY GATE CITY
MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 1930

EARLY DAYS IN LEE COUNTY

By J. P. KENNEDY

It is the purpose of the writer in these articles, to compose a condensed history of the early days in Lee county, and more particularly the history of the Tesson grant, which is now the corporate limits of the town of Montrose. This will be done in five or six articles to be published in the two leading papers of the county and such other papers as may choose to copy them. In writing a history of the part it is not always possible to establish facts by evidence that would be received in a court hearing, and for that reason historical facts may often be established by tradition, or hearsay evidence, and the physical situation or surrounding circumstances which often make a more plausible story than direct evidence which may in all ways be true.

The Old Testament is accepted as a history of the Jewish people, yet it was not written until about 550 B. C., and the facts therein stated had been carried down by tradition for more than 2,000 years.

It is a cause for regret that some of the old settlers who were here one hundred years ago did not gather the facts which would make a narrative of this kind more complete. But the writer must use such facts as he has which connect the story up pretty well with the things we know to be true in the history of the county.

Tesson Receives Grant.

In the eighteenth century, approximately about 1790, Louis Honore Tesson entered into an agreement with the Spanish governor general of Louisiana at St. Louis, for a tract of land to be selected by the said Tesson, on the west bank of the Mississippi river about 200 miles above St. Louis. Said tract was to be three leagues square. Tesson had been up and down the river and had traded with the Indians and was familiar with the lay of the country. It is thought that he secured this grant at the requests of certain of the Indian chiefs, and he agreed with them to establish a trading post on the said grant where the Indians could procure such supplies as they needed, and could also sell the pelts which were their only source of revenue.

The Sac and Fox Indians were then settled in this portion of Iowa, there being quite a large Indian village north of Jack Creek, situated about where the home of F. W. Curtis now stands. There was another Sac village on the Des Moines river at St. Francisville.

Trail is Found.

There was a well defined trail leading southwesterly from Tesson's village over to the Des Moines river. This was the trail found by Marquette and Joliet in 1673 on their voyage down the Mississippi. It was more than a trail. It was what was called in the north a portage, which is a road used to get around a rapids or dangerous place in a body of water. St. Louis had been settled about 1763 and was a market for the furs and pelts secured by the French and Indian trappers in the upper country. These trappers would come down in canoes to the head of the rapids; then with ponies carry their pelts across the trail to the Indian village on the Des Moines river. They would then take canoes and carry their produce into St. Louis, where they would buy what food and supplies they needed and return the same way, thus avoiding the swift water of the Des Moines rapids. This had been going on for more than one hundred years before Tesson secured his Spanish grant and started his village at the foot of the Bluff Park hill. This trail appears on the first survey made of the southern part of Lee county.

We have no knowledge of who laid out the Tesson grant, but we do know that there was method in it. The southern line was located so the grant would include Tesson's village here and the Indian village at the end of the portage on the Des Moines river.

Terms of the Grant.

Tesson was to pay nothing for this grant of land, but he was to do certain things to acquire the title. Among these were the following: establish a settlement, plant an orchard, build a trading post, encourage agriculture, and instill into the minds of the Indians the religion of the Roman Catholic church. We do not know how successful he was in these various matters, but we do know that he established the trading post and planted and grew the orchard.

A French league is about three and five-eighths miles and three leagues would be almost eleven miles, and that is almost the exact distance from the Mississippi to the Des Moines river between these points. The grant would then run northwest about eleven miles and then northeast to the Mississippi river, coming in at about the western boundary of Ft. Madison. In 1799 when Tesson had performed his contract according to agreement, he went to St. Louis to secure his grant. In the meantime a new governor general "who knew not Joseph" had been appointed. His instructions were to issue no grants for more than a mile square, and so Tesson after years of hard labor was obliged to accept 640 acres of land. There is some controversy about the size of the Tesson holding, but we think the above sets out the true state of affairs. It would be ridiculous to send a man into a vast wilderness to found a village and do all the work Tesson did for one section of land which was not worth more than $100 at that time. We shall have more to say of this when we come to deal with Tesson's financial transactions.

The Orchard.

There has been much controversy as to who planted the orchard, it's dimensions, and the quality of the fruit. D. W. Kilborne, who was quite a prominent character in the early history of Lee county, never could get along with the Tesson interests at this place, and perhaps tried to establish the fact that Tessen never had any interest in land here, and that the orchard was planted by Red Bird, an Indian.

The older records seem to show that about 1795 Tesson, taking with him a few Indians on ponies, rode down to St. Charles, Missouri, and procured a number of apple trees to plant on his land. It is possible that Red Bird may have been one of the party, and it is further possible that Red Bird may have planted some trees, not in Tesson's orchard, but in an orchard just west of the Indian village, on what is now the Curtis place. The settlers who came here in the early thirties found two orchards, one the Tesson orchard in the east part of town, and another orchard some twelve or fifteen trees at the Indian village north of town. There is nothing at all improbable in this assumption as Tesson may have given Red Bird part of the trees for his labor in helping secure them.

Black Hawk's Evidence.

D. W. Kilbourne is quoted as saying that while he and Red Bird and Black Hawk were sitting under the apple trees eating some of the fruit, Red Bird said he planted the trees and Black Hawk added that he knew that Red Bird had planted the trees.

The writer has eaten apples from both orchards and those of the Red Bird orchard were larger and better apples because the land around them, at that time, was in cultivation while those in the Tesson orchard had been in blue grass for more than half a century.

The writer thinks that the above explains the claim that Red Bird planted an orchard in Tesson's door yard on ground that he had put in years in clearing and getting ready to plant in accordance with his agreement with the Spanish governor-general and which was necessary to do in order that he might claim his title to the land.

Trees in Five Rows.

When the writer first remembers the Tesson orchard there were seven trees in bearing, and several stumps to indicate where others had been. As we remember it now, the trees were in five rows, in a rectangular plot with seven, eight, or nine trees in a row. They were seedlings, the fruit of medium size and ripened in the fall.

Tesson's log trading post was situated about one hundred and fifty yards south of the orchard. There has been an effort made by some writers to picture the said orchard plot as now "beneath the placid waters of the Mississippi." The theory being that when the dam was built at Keokuk the railroad was moved back leaving the orchard plot in the river. As a matter of fact the railroad was not

moved at all at this point, and the orchard plot has not been disturbed. This can be verified by the section foreman at Montrose, who took part in the raising of the track at this point. The maps and surveys in the county auditor s office in Ft. Madison will also verify this fact.

The Gate City

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1929

LOCATING OF COUNTY SEAT OF LEE COUNTY

Montrose Woman's Civic Club Studies History of County, Facts of Interest.

MONTROSE, Iowa, April 2.—The Montrose Woman's Civic club has had during the past winter the study of the counties of Iowa as answer to roll call at alternate meetings. The study of Lee county brought out the following facts in regard to the early location of the county seat.

From the Laws of the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa we learn that "Lee County was established December 7, 1836, when the original county of Demoine was divided. The law which established the county provided that court should be held at the town of "Madison." January 18, 1838 the governor of the Territory of Wisconsin approved an act which provided that the seat of justice should be established at Ft. Madison. It was not long however, until the people in the western part of the county began to complain that the county seat was too far away and a movement was instituted to secure a re-location. Accordingly, at a session of the legislature in 1840, a commission was appointed, to investigate the conditions in Lee county and recommend a location for a permanent seat of justice. Two of the members of the locating commission met at Ft. Madison on the first Monday in March, 1840, and after examining several proposed sites recommended almost the exact geographic center of the county. As the locating commissioners were acting under the authorization of the territorial legislature, the county authorities had no recourse in the matter but to accept their decision. The location was therefore accepted by the county, the county commissioners and the name "Franklin," was selected for the new seat of justice. The owners of the land selected agreed to donate the site to the county on condition that when the town was laid out every other lot should be reconveyed to the original owners. Accordingly the site was surveyed and platted, and a sale of lots was advertised to take place July 13, 1840. No record is found of this sale and it is not certain that any lots were sold.

Dissatisfaction increased until at the next session of the legislature a law was passed which provided for submitting the whole matter to a vote of the people on the second Monday in March, 1841. Provision was further made that in case no location received a majority of the votes cast at ensuing election, the two places receiving the highest number of votes should be voted upon at a second special election in April. Immediately after the passage of this act the people of Fort Madison became active in their effort to secure the seat of justice. The town authorities passed an ordinance donating the sum of $8,000, for the purpose of erecting a court house in the town of Fort Madison, provided the county seat should be located there.

Not only was this ordinance passed but the money was actually turned over to the county treasurer as an indication of an intention to carry out the proposed plan. As a further guarantee that the proposed donation would be available a number of citizens executed and filed a bond for twice the amount donated, guaranteeing it's payment. In addition to this, Daniel McConn, an ex-treasurer of Fort Madison, certified that $5,000 had been paid from the sale of town lots, which sum it was proposed should be added to the public building fund. Other public spirited citizens purchased lots to the amount of $560, for the location of the courthouse. These were conveyed to the county upon the consideration of one dollar, which brought the building fund up to $13,559 before the election was held. This had its effect on election day. Ft. Madison received 465 votes, Franklin 435 and West Point 320. No location received a majority but Ft. Madison was in the lead, and at the second election held April 19, 1841 the vote stood 730 for Fort Madison and 477 for Franklin. Many people thought the question was now settled but they were mistaken. While the town of Fort Madison was erecting the courthouse, the advocates of Franklin and West Point united in presenting a petition to the legislature asking that the question be again submitted to the people. On January 13, 1843, the governor approved an act "to relocate the seat of justice of Lee County." By the terms of this act commissioners were appointed and authorized to select such location as to them seemed best, "taking into consideration the future as well as the present population." The commissioners met at the town of Franklin on March 20, 1843, and after making their investigation reported the selection of the east half of the southeast quarter of section 5, township 68 north of range 5 west. This was the land on which the town of West Point was located. The commissioners in presenting their report included a document signed by a considerable number of citizens of West Point, in which they agreed to build a courthouse at that place. This building was to be forty-five by fifty feet in size, constructed of brick with a stone foundation, and was to be completed by September 1, 1844. It was to be given to the county "in consideration of the commissioners locating the county seat of Lee at West Point."

On March 28, 1843, the report of locating commissioners and its accompanying document was filed with the board of county commissioners who issued an order on the same day "that the district courts for Lee County, from and after the first day of April next shall be held at the Town of West Point." It was mutually agreed by the people of West Point and the people of Fort Madison that the county seat should remain at the latter place for one year also that the courthouse in Fort Madison should be sold at public auction and such part of the money as had been donated by citizens of Fort Madison should be refunded to the town. John A. Drake was appointed to take care of the building until it should be sold but the sale never occurred. The people of West Point, true to their promise, built a court house on the site of the new location, and thus there were two courthouses in Lee county. In the summer of 1843 a movement was started to have the county divided. A petition was presented to the next session of the legislature and on February 5, 1844, the governor approved "An act for the formation of the County of Madison." By the provision of this act the question was to be submitted to the voters of Lee county at the following election in April. The proposition, however, was defeated by a vote of 952 to 713, and the county seat fight was again renewed. Those who favored Fort Madison as the seat of justice started the circulation of a petition asking the legislature to submit the question again to the vote of the people. Accordingly "An act to relocate the seat of justice of Lee County" was approved on June 10, 1845, by which the question was to be voted upon at a special election to be held in August.

It was further provided that if no place received a majority of all the votes cast, the three paces receiving the highest number should be voted upon at another election to be held in September. Six places entered the contest at the August election: Fort Madison received 664 votes, West Point 308, Franklin 326, Keokuk 208, Montrose 287 and Charleston 41.

Since no place received a majority, another election was held on the first Monday of September at which time Fort Madison, West Point, and Franklin were the three contestants. The time intervening between the election was one of strenuous campaigning in Lee county. Whenever two neighbors met the county seat question was the topic of discussion. Many bitter arguments ensued and fist fights occurred occassionally during this short but all-absorbing campaign. At the election in September the vote stood 969 for Fort Madison, 535 for West Point, and 378 for Franklin. Fort Madison having a majority of 56 out of a total of 1882 votes was again declared to be the county seat. For a time it appeared that the people generally were willing to acquiesce in the decision reached at this election. Again in 1856, however, a petition was signed asking for an election to vote upon the question of removing the county seat to Charleston. This request was granted and again the matter was submitted to a vote of the people. No returns of this election are available. It is known, however, that Fort Madison was victorious and it has continued to be the county seat of Lee county.

It should be noted in this connection that a law was passed in 1847 creating certain courts in Keokuk which have concurrent jurisdiction with those of Fort Madison. Accordingly part of the litigation arising in the county is adjudicated at Keokuk. Officers are also maintained there, county treasurer, recorder, and clerk of the district court. END

44.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK IOWA

45.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 8, 1870.

EARLY LEE COUNTY.—The Fort Madison *Courier*, in its first number, of July 24, 1841, has extracts from Newhall's Sketches of Iowa, published in 1840. We re-produce some of them:

There are many fine settlements in Lee, and the traveler from one of the old States would find it difficult to realize that the extensively cultivated farms about West Point, Fort Madison, and Denmark were, but five or six years ago, the hunting-grounds of the untamed savage. Fort Madison is the most important town, and is the seat of justice in Lee county; it is handsomely located on a level plain or bench upon the western bank of the Mississippi, apparently designed by the hand of nature as the site for a city. It is a place of much trade and importance, holding a rank among the largest towns in Iowa, and in early historical associations rich with interest.

MONTROSE.—This is an interesting point, situated upon the half-breed tract, upon the site of old "Camp Des Moines." It has long been a favored and hallowed spot in Indian tradition, and many remains of the ancient mounds that bear so striking a feature in the Valley of the Mississippi, are found in the vicinity of Montrose. Its location is pre-eminently striking, situated on a beautiful prairie of gentle ascent, commanding an extensive view of the majestic Mississippi, the wooded shores of Illinois, and the prairies of Iowa for twenty miles circuit. The Mormon city of "Nauvoo," on the opposite shore, with its thousand buildings peering through the green foilage, and crowning the summit of every hill-top, are all objects of interest to the curious traveler.

KEOKUK.—Keokuk is situated near the foot of the lower rapids on the Mississippi, and derives its chief importance from the necessity of changing freight and storage of merchandise at a low stage of the Mississippi. Under such circumstances steamboats are compelled to discharge much of their freight, and tow it over with lighters. A town sight, a mile square, has been laid off at Keokuk. Government are about removing those obstructions which have proved so detrimental to the increasing trade of the upper Mississippi. The population of Keokuk is about 150.

Here is a longer notice of Fort Madison, which the editor of the *Courier* prefaces thus:

We give below from the same source a brief description of Fort Madison. However, since the publication of Mr. Newhall's book, many important changes have taken place. The improvements made and being made during the present season, considering the "dull times," are almost incredible. An elegant Court House and Jail are about to be erected,—wharfs are being graded,—streets levelled,---houses built, and above all the *Fort Madison Courier* is established, and bids fair to have an extensive circulation. All is bustle and activity here, and our citizens find no lack of employment. Our population is at present 860 and upwards, and the daily ingress of numbers from abroad, and the frequent marriages of young folks at home, enable us to concur heartily with Mr. N. in saying that "Nothing can prevent Fort Madison from maintaining her position as one of the most important points in the territory of Iowa."

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 18, 1870.

ITEMS OF EARLY LEE COUNTY.—These items are all taken from a file of our friend Albright's paper, the Fort Madison *Courier*, for 1841 and 1842.

So early as May, 1842, West Point had grown ambitious and determined upon having an Academy. John Mark Fulton announced his purpose of running the institution. He published a flaming prospectus in the *Courier*. Whether he ever got further along with his enterprise than the prospectus doesn't appear.

In the first week of May, 1842, the steamer "Oak of St. Louis" made its first trip to Fort Madison.

The *Courier* of May 7th has an article signed "A Subscriber," anticipating the engineering blunder that was subsequently attempted, and showing that the rapids obstructions could only be obviated by a canal around them, as is now being done. That any project of clearing out the river channel was impracticable.

In the number for May 14th is a review of a celebrated poem, by a local poet, which poem is also given, and concerning all of which we are "silent now forever more."

In the next number the editor counsels young lawyers to the Eastward to keep away from Iowa. This young sovereignty already rejoiced in nearly as many learned counsel as clients. To intimidate the fledglings of Blackstone and Kent, a table is given of the number of lawyers and the number of cases docketed in the courts of each county. Many of the said cases being for imperceptibly small accounts. At that date Des Moines county had 24 lawyers and 300 law cases, all told in a year. Lee county 11 lawyers and 150 cases. Henry county 8 lawyers and 100 cases. Jefferson county 10 lawyers and 100 cases. Van Buren county 10 lawyers and 150 cases.

There is the Prospectus of the *Iowa Farmer* which General James M. Morgan announces he shall publish in Burlington.

THE GATE CITY.

PUBLISHED BY

HOWELL & CLARK

Editors and Proprietors.

MAR. 25 1870

NOTES OF EARLY LEE CO.—The Madisonians in the winter evenings of 1841-2 drew intellectual entertainment from "The Polemic Club" which held regular weekly meetings in G. B. Morse's School Room. Familiar names appear in the *Courier* as participants in the discussions: Lewis R. Reeves, A. L. Deming, Hugh T. Reid. D. F. Miller, W. H. Galbaith, G. B. Morse, T. A. Walker, V. Spaulding and other Iowa celebrities.

The *Courier* notices in its issue of Feb. 12th, 1842, that boats are running regularly from St. Louis to Keokuk.

Fort Madison was a moral borough in those early days and numbered 150 of its citizens regularly enrolled tee-total members of the Washingtonian Society.

The *Courier* was clamorous for government to improve the rapids.

That paper of March 5th, 1842, notices Chicago as a growing town with a population of about seven thousand.

It credits Nauvoo with a population of eight thousand.

The *Courier* of April 30th, 1842, contains a notice of the Van Buren county Agricultural Fair to be held near Keosauqua in the second week of October *proximo*.

The *Courier* of May 7th, 1842, has this reminiscence:

"THE RAPIDS OF THE RIVER DES MOINES."—Paul Bezette—"old uncle Paul," as the Keokuk folks call him—a witness in the action of Reddick's heirs versus Marsh, Lee & Delevan, tried at the recent term of our District Court, testified that when he first came down the Mississippi river, some thirty-four or thirty-five years ago, that the lower rapids were called by all the *voyaguers* "the Rapids of the river Des Moines," and the upper rapids "the rapids of the river Rock." He said that he had frequently at that early day went up the Des Moines, and well knew the existence of rapids in that river. He stated that those rapids were always designated "THE RAPIDS," but laughed heartily when asked if they were ever called the rapids of the river Des Moines. "No," he replied, "you will find those rapids in the Mississippi." The rapids in the Des Moines he located about the "Big Bend." This testimony goes to corroborate the statements made by others in relation to the old name of the lower rapids, and is conclusive that the rapids in the Mississippi, and not those in the Des Moines river, were alluded to by the convention that fixed the boundaries of the State of Missouri.

"KISSICK'S!"

The Grand Saloon,

Sixth St., Rear of Gibbons' Opera House

KEOKUK, IOWA.

4/25/1879

J. B. KISSICK, PROPRIETOR.

46.

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 23, 1872.

THE DES MOINES RIVER BRIDGE.—Mr. J. S. Smith, Superintendent of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, received a telegram on Saturday last from Mr. Andrew Carnagie, President of the Bridge Company, instructing him to prepare to make a survey for a bridge over the Des Moines river at or near Buena Vista Ferry. The bridge will be constructed by the M. I. & N. R. R. in which Mr. Carnagie and his associates are largely interested, and will be for the purpose of giving that road an Eastern outlet. This is in accordance with the already announced purpose of that Road. It is proposed to make this a highway as well as a railroad bridge, similar to the one which now spans the Mississippi at this point. The prospect of its early construction will be highly gratifying to our citizens. The benefits to our city of such an enterprise are recognized by all. We must not flatter ourselves, however, that this bridge will be a purely gratuitous contribution to our city. We are expected to aid in building it. When the Railroad Company gets ready to commence the construction of it our city will be called upon to contribute a sum of money in aid of the enterprise. We state this on the authority of the officers of the Road. Our city has, however, already expressed a willingness to invest a reasonable amount of money in a substantial iron bridge over the Des Moines river—one that promises to be permanent—so that we apprehend no difficulty on this score when the time for action shall have come. An opportunity will be offered for throwing our doors wide open to the trade of Clark county, and we are sanguine in our belief that our city will not let the chance go by the board.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 24, 1872.

THE DES MOINES RIVER BRIDGE.

The proposition of the Mississippi Valley & Western Railroad Company, to construct a wagon bridge, in connection with the railroad bridge which they are now building at Buena Vista Ferry, is a matter which is attracting the attention of our public more than anything else just now. The importance, and we might even say the necessity, of a public highway over the Des Moines river no one pretends to underrate. The question is, how shall it be secured to the best advantages. Some of our citizens consider the proposition of the M. V. & W. R. R. a tangible one—one that that is within our means, and one which we ought to accept. Others are disposed to think that before taking any action in the matter, we should have some proposition from the M. I. & N. R.R. with regard to the contemplated iron bridge.

A meeting of the Citizens' Association to consider the maater was called last Saturday evening, but there was not a sufficient number present to constitute a quorum, so there has been no expression of public sentiment on the subject.

We give below a copy of the agreement which the M. V. & W. Road propose to make with our citizens:

It is understood between the Mississippi Valley and Western Railway Company of the first part, and Trustees of the Township of Jackson, Lee county, Iowa, of the second part—

That the Mississippi Valley and Western Railway Company are to plank their bridge across the Des Moines river, and put the same in good condition for public travel—that part within the Howe Truss as wide as the same can be made, as the bridge is framed, and that part on piling to be planked sixteen feet wide, with substantial railing, and furnish good approach thereto on the Missouri side, if license can be had to keep said bridge as a toll bridge.

The party of the second part are to aid in constructing said railroad under Chapter 48 of the laws of Iowa of 1868, to the amount of $10,000, to be levied and collected during the year 1872.

The party of the second part are to make the approach on the Iowa side.

The Missouri approach is to be made as good as that on the Iowa side.

The rates of toll to be charged shall not exceed:

25	cents for	two horse teams.
20	"	one horse teams.
15	"	one horse and rider.
5	"	cattle and horses loose per hd.
3	"	hogs and sheep per head.
5	"	footmen.

Teams, horses and footmen may return same day or next without additional charge.

The bridge is to be maintained as aforesaid by the party of the first part for twenty-five years, and the party of the first part to receive all tolls. The tolls to be fixed as above for 10 years; after that to be regulated by the County Court of Lee county, Iowa.

Whenever it is necessary to renew said bridge it is to be made 18 feet wide.

A petition, of which the following is a copy, is now being circulated asking the Trustees of the Township, to call an election for the purpose of submitting the question of voting the aid asked for by the railroad company. We publish the proposition and the petition in order that our citizens may have an opportunity of examining them before being called upon for their signatures.

To the Trustees of the township of Jackson, County of Lee, State of Iowa:

The undersigned, resident tax-payers of the aforesaid township, hereby respectfully ask you to submit the question of aiding in the construction of the Mississippi Valley & Western Railroad (or Railway) to the people of said township, to the amount of ten thousand dollars, to be voted for at a special election, to be ordered by you under and by virtue of the power and authority given you by the provisions of Chapter 102, of the acts of the Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, being "An act to enable Township and Incorporated Towns and Cities to aid in the construction of Railroads," which was approved on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1870.

Weekly Constitution.

DECEMBER 16. 1885.

THE DES MOINES RIVER.

The winter season having set in, those living along the bottom lands of the Des Moines river are now apprehensive as to what will be the result in the spring. The mouth of that river is in such shape that it behooves the farmers and residents of the bottom to look to some way out of their trouble. A bar has formed on the Iowa side of the river that has driven the water to a narrow channel on the Missouri side. The channel is not large enough for the volume of water, and the consequence is at some of the abrupt curves in the stream the water pours over the levee into the surrounding country. This has lately become a yearly occurrence, and the amount of damage done aggregates more than the total expenditure would be were the right method taken to remedy the matter.

According to Indian tradition the fertile land that is now called the Des Moines, Fox river, Honey creek and Sugar creek bottoms, was one time a large lake. Nor does the tradition lack evidence of fact. Beginning at the bluffs, six miles from the river, the formation, which is a rich leaf loam interspersed with white sand, is but a few inches in thickness, then clay is struck; but the nearer the approach to the river, the deeper is the formation found.

When the first railroad was built in Clark county, it was proposed to bridge what is known as "Goose pond." Piles were driven, and it was the talk of the bridge men about the ease that they had in driving them, and when the engine started to cross the bridge they were surprised to find that the piles sank beneath it. After several unsuccessful attempts the project was given up, and a fill made across the pond.

On the farm of I. N. Lewis, four miles west of Alexandria, in 1882, a well was started by parties operating a patent augur. After reaching a depth of some forty feet, the augur dropped out, and investigation revealed a subterranean stream running under the land. The depth of the water or its boundary has never been ascertained, as every effort to learn more of this underground stream has failed.

Dec. 16, 1885 - page 1 (Des Moines River)

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

47.

The foregoing is used to illustrate the fact that there is a natural draw across the bottom lands that inclines the Des Moines to run that way. The farmers of Clark county and the Egyptian levee company have labored faithfully to overcome that difficulty, and with the assistance of the government could make it a success and also render navigable a considerable portion of the Des Moines, at but little expense. There is fall enough in the river and volume enough to render the making of that stream navigable at comparatively little cost. If where the bars have formed and the old bed filled up, a little work was done the current would again come down the old channel, and there would be no necessity of the ceaseless expenditure that the levee company is compelled to make, and soon the old channel would be as good as it was thirty-five years ago.

The question is one of importance as almost any time the Des Moines may break over the levee, and run across the bottoms west of Alexandria. There are sloughs and ditches from the levee to Fox river, and a small washout would draw the Des Moines through them and cause the river to run into the Mississippi through Fox slough, about six miles south of Alexandria.

Last year there was quite a sum of money expended on the river, about four miles from its mouth, but the work was done in an unsatisfactory manner, and when the ice went out the improvements went with it. What is needed is the assistance of the government and practical engineers to superintend the work. The settlement of this yearly overflow would bring a benefit to the people at large as well as to the farmers of that vicinity. It would throw open to cultivation some of the richest land in the west, that is to-day lying idle, because the water yearly draws down over it, and no drainage will dry it.

Numerous citizens of Keokuk own land there who only succeed in cultivating a part of their lands, and yet raise fair crops, and they are well informed as to the necessity of something practical being done. Now is the time to agitate the question.

Dec 16, 1885 - page 2 (Des Moines River)

KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 1, 1934

PROGRAM FOR BRIDGE FETE IS ARRANGED

It Will be in Three Sections, With Luncheon, Bridge Ceremonies and Speaking on Main Street Tomorrow Afternoon.

Iowa and Missouri will officially join hands over the new highway bridge spanning the Des Moines river and linking the two states in a paved highway system from St. Louis to St. Paul, with the exception of one stretch of gravel between Alexandria and Wayland. With the acting governors of the two states participating in the formal ceremony, and with visitors present from Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, a program has been arranged for the afternoon and evening which should prove attractive to hundreds of visitors. In addition to the ceremonies the local merchants are having their mid-summer Dollar Day bargain sales, which will attract people to the stores of the city.

The program which will be presented tomorrow will be in three sections, a luncheon at the Hotel Iowa for the visiting dignitaries; the ceremony at the bridge, and the speaking from the platform on Main street between Sixth and Seventh after the bridge ceremony. In the evening from 6:45 to 8 o'clock the Junior Chamber of Commerce will stage a street dance between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The Official Program.

The official program announced by the committee today is the following:

12:30 p. m.—Luncheon in main dining room of Hotel Iowa, honoring acting Governors Frank G. Harris, of Missouri and N. G. Kraschel, of Iowa.

Music by Ross Gay orchestra.

M. E. Tate presiding over ex tempore program.

1:45—Cars leave east door of Hotel Iowa for bridge. C. S. Abell in charge of cars and police escort will head procession.

2:00—Dedication service at new bridge.

Firing of governor's salute by American Legion.

Cutting of ribbon by Acting Governors Harris and Kraschel, officially opening bridge.

2:30—Program at platform between 6th and 7th on Main, Dale E. Carrell presiding.

Selection by Canton, Mo., band, Prof. Fascinato directing.

Trooping of colors by American Legion color guard, state flags of Missouri and Iowa, and Stars and Stripes being presented before visiting officials.

Selection by Keokuk High School band, W. H. Bower, director.

Short talks by chairmen of highway commission.

Musical selection by Girls' Trio.

Introduction of Acting Governor Frank G. Harris, of Missouri, by E. L. Sparks, publisher Hannibal Courier.

Address by Acting Governor Frank G. Harris, of Missouri.

Introduction of Acting Governor Nels G. Kraschel by Hon. E. W. McManus.

Address by Acting Governor N. G. Kraschel.

Selections by bands.

6:45—Dance on Main street between Sixth and Seventh. Music by Ross Gay orchestra. Auspices Junior Chamber of Commerce.

ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPHS!

HAVING had several calls for large Photographs, I take pleasure in informing my patrons that I have fitted up a SOLAR CAMERA, and am reparedto

Furnish Pictures of any size desired,

either plain or colored. The SOLAR CAMERA is specially adapted for making large copies from small Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, or other Pictures.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Desiring SOLAR CAMERA Printing, re-touching in India Ink, or coloring in Oil or Water Colors, can have their work done on reasonable terms by addressing

G. H. NOLLEN,
Portrait Painter and Photographer,
Over 82 Main Street. Keokuk Iowa.
mch5

Soap.

50 BOXES Babbitt's New York Soap.
25 boxes Goodwin, Bear & Co. No. 1 German Soap
25 " " superior Palm "
10 " Blom's German "
25 " Kirk's Star "
For sale by ROBERTSON & ALBERS.

NEW MAPLE SYURP for sale at
april , COX & IRVIN'S

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1872

Sale of the Franklin Mills.

THE former sale of the Franklin Flouring Mills, (Lots No. 201, 206, Franklin, Lee county, Iowa.) having been set aside by order of Hon. J. M. Love, Judge of the U. S. District Court for Iowa, for reason of the non-payment of the purchase money, I hereby again offer the same for sale, and if not privately sold before, I will offer said Mills to the highest bidder at public auction, on the premises in Franklin Centre, Lee county, State of Iowa, on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th, 1872, at 1 o'clock p. m of said day. Private bids will be received from now until the day of sale.

All desired information regarding the property will be furnished upon application to the undersigned. CHARLES DOERR,
Assignee in Bankruptcy of J. B. Weigner.
Fort Madison, Iowa, March 21, 1872-mch27-did

48-

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, 1934

Des Moines River Bridge Formally Opened

CROWDS ATTEND CEREMONIES AT NEW STRUCTURE

Acting Governors of Iowa and Missouri Speak on Main Street at Program Which Follows Cutting of Ribbon Across Span.

Snipping a silken ribbon stretched across the roadway of the new Des Moines river bridge on Highway No. 61, Lieut. Gov. Nelson G. Kraschel of Iowa, and Lieut. Governor Frank G. Harris of Missouri, formally opened and dedicated the new span, completion of which Lieut. Gov. Kraschel declared "paves the way for closer communication for the citizens of the great states of Missouri and Iowa." Military salutes of one volley for the two acting governors were fired, and there was a cheer and the honking of hundreds of automobile horns as the great crowd which witnessed the ceremony realized that the official opening of the new bridge had been accomplished.

Iowa and Missouri joined hands today figuratively and literally in the bridge dedication ceremonies. State and federal governments in both states were represented at the luncheon which preceded the bridge ceremony, at the bridge and in the speaking program which took place later in the afternoon. Hundreds of people from Missouri came to Keokuk to help dedicate the new structure and to take part in the ceremonies which were headed by the chief executives of the two states.

On Historic Site.

The site of the new bridge is about where the old ferry house which was used for transporting people across the Des Moines river was located in earlier times and where soldiers of Iowa and Missouri massed to settle disputes as to whether the ferry house was in Iowa or Missouri. Today all was amicable as the great crowd realized the importance of the new structure, a link in the paved highway that eventually will be completed across Missouri, and which is now complete in Iowa north to the Twin Cities.

Cars were massed on the approaches to the bridge from both sides, and people were grouped about the scene of the actual dedication. Patrols composed of uniformed officers from Keokuk, the Missouri highway patrols and men from the Iowa state highway commission here, handled the traffic.

The big parade left the Hotel Iowa at 1:45 o'clock following the luncheon there which was attended by the acting governors and their staffs, members of congress from both states, officials of the two state highway commissions and mayors of cities in this section, highway association leaders, chambers of commerce representatives and others. The Ross Gay orchestra played and M. E. Tate presided.

Big Crowd At Bridge

At the bridge the American Legion color guard fired a volley as salute to the acting chiefs of the two states. The snipping of the ribbon followed and this ceremony was done. The procession then returned to Keokuk where on Main street between Sixth and Seventh street, on a platform erected for the occasion, a program of music and talks was presented. The Keokuk high school band directed by W. H. Bower, and the Culver Stockton summer school band of Canton, directed by L. G. Fascinato played the band program, and a girls' trio sang. The Iowa Corn Song and the Missouri Waltz were among the band selections, together with the national anthems. Dale E. Carrell presided at the platform.

One ceremony at the platform was the trooping of the colors, in which the official state flags of the two commonwealths were presented to the acting governors, and the national emblem to a representative of the federal government. The Iowa Flag and the national colors were furnished by Keokuk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Missouri flag was brought from Jefferson City by acting Governor Harris and his party.

The program at the platform closed with addresses by Lieut. Gov. Kraschel and Lieut. Gov. Harris. M. E. Tate, Dale E. Carrell and John C. Fry were the committee from the Chamber of Commerce which was in charge of the plans for the celebration.

Dance This Evening

The program for the day will be closed tonight with a street dance which will start at 6:45 o'clock, the Ross Gay orchestra playing, and the location is between Sixth and Seventh on Main. The Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this feature.

Keokuk streets were flag draped for the event, and there was one of the biggest crowds in the city in many months.

Wonderful Setting for New Bridge Which Spans River South of Keokuk

Hundreds of Motorists Drive Over Structure and Admire Approaches and Unsurpassed View of Des Moines Valley.

Hundreds of local people took advantage of the opening of the new Des Moines river bridge yesterday to drive over this span, and to admire the unusually fine bit of engineering which has been done on this structure. The bridge will be formally dedicated and opened tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock in a ceremony which will include the acting governors of Iowa and Missouri, and officials of the two state highway commissions, mayors of cities in this vicinity, secretaries of Chambers of Commerce and highway officials.

The bridge is without doubt the prettiest structure in this entire section, and the view from it of the Des Moines valley is unsurpassed. The approach on both the Iowa and Missouri sides is gradual and the entire panorama that is unfolded to the motorist who drives either from Iowa or Missouri is well worth while. The main bridge is composed of three two hundred foot spans of steel and concrete. There are five eye beam spans each forty six and a half feet long at the south end of the bridge, and three 105 foot deck trusses connect with the two fifty foot eye beam spans over the Rock Island tracks. It is seventy five feet from the stream bed to the top of the middle truss. The concrete piers on which the bridge rests are fifty one to fifty eight feet high. The roadway is twenty feet wide.

As one drive south on highway sixty one past Rees Park and down the new concrete slabbed highway, a winding hill road takes him to the concrete approach to the new crossing. Turning to the right, the motorist ascends a gentle slope cut into the side of the big hill, and in a wide sweeping arc approaches the bridge. To his left is the old Des Moines river bridge, and beyond that the mouth of the river. To the right is an unparalleled view of the valley and the stream, which is quite low now due to the drouth. Gleaming steel work of the bridge and spotless concrete of the rails on each side flash past as one drives over the structure, and then comes the long new approach from the Missouri side. This descends to the old road level in a gentle grade and is a ribbon of concrete twenty feet wide. Broad shoulders and grade ditches flank the roadway, which joins the old slab a short distance above Alexandria.

Highway commission maintenance crews have established the necessary road markers and the highway is officially marked with the necessary signs.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Sharon Presbyterian Church is Marking Its 100th Anniversary

By O. R. PERKINS

BONAPARTE, Ia., August 21—The Sharon Presbyterian church, located a few miles north and east of Bonaparte, in Lee county, is celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of its founding, this year. The little country church, in its setting of rich farm land, is a beautiful one and its history is colorful.

In 1851 this part of Iowa was frontier, settlements were first made near rivers or in wooded areas where fuel and building materials were available. It was only after all this territory had been claimed that settlers were forced to emigrate farther west to the prairie land, where Sharon is situated.

Organized by Rev. Sharon

The Rev. James Culbertson Sharon, who was teaching at Des Moines college in West Point, Iowa, and preaching wherever the opportunity presented itself, in 1851 organized the Sharon church. There were eight charter members, and eighteen members at the time the Presbytery was asked to take this little church under its care. The place of organization is not known, it was probably either in a private home or a schoolhouse, the only possible meeting places of the time.

Of course the small group could not support a minister and was grateful for any supplies Presbytery could send them. For two years meetings were held wherever convenient but in March, 1853, at a congregational meeting held in the Reid schoolhouse, four miles east and a mile north of the present church, Articles of Association were adopted, naming trustees whose chief duties were to receive contributions for constructing a church building.

Like a Schoolhouse

The building was of frame, 30 by 24 feet, much like the small schoolhouse of the period in appearance. There were double doors, a center aisle with pews on either side, and during worship the men sat on one side and the women the other. The building was located two and a half miles east of the present site but due to the shifting population was soon found to be too far east for convenience.

It was decided to hold services in the Wilkerson schoolhouse, one mile north of where the church now stands as most of the congregation lived in this vicinity. This venture proved successful so it was decided to move the church building. Land was purchased on which to place the church and lay out a burying ground and the work of moving began. This was a huge project, started in the summer of 1860, members of the congregation doing the work voluntarily. Roads were merely ruts, bridges were non-existent. Depending upon oxen and horses, the operation required many days to complete. A contemporary account of the moving says "The work of horses and oxen proved of little use in this work as like some churches they would not pull together." The church was set about a hundred yards west of the present building and functioned as the meeting place for the next twenty-five years.

Present Church Cost $2,000

But by 1885 the congregation had grown and more room was needed, the community had prospered and a more imposing structure seemed advisable. Construction began on the present building that year and it was dedicated in 1886. The cost was about $2,000 and the final subscription was raised on the day of dedication. The manse was built during 1917 and 1918. A basement was put under the church in 1923, the sanctuary replastered and redecorated, the church rededicated. In 1930 the rostrum was improved and in 1948 a new heating plant installed. During 1950 stained glass windows, given as memorials were installed.

The history down through the years is one of many events. A full day's program marked the golden anniversary in 1901. The Rural Home and Foreign Missionary was formed in 1910. The Sharon Ladies Aid was organized in 1932, and in 1945 the Homebuilders' Class of the Sunday school started a monthly group for the purpose of Bible study. A Rural Life conference was held at Sharon in 1949 and the Rural Protestant churches of Lee county have since made this an annual event. A Mariners Club, for young married couples was organized in 1950 and early in 1951 a chapter of Presbyterian men.

The start of the centennial celebration was the spring meeting of Presbytery. A gavel made of wood taken from the first communion table was presented to Presbytery.

Pioneers buried their loved ones on their own land, then as churches were built, it became customary to have a graveyard close to the church. Then the problem of maintenance became important as there were no means provided for such.

Cemetery Endowed

George Lincoln Seeley, who had grown up in the community, attended Sunday School and become a member of the church, went to Texas in 1897, hoping to benefit his health. In has last days he spoke of Sharon as being the dearest spot on earth to him and expressed the desire that part of his estate might be used in beautifying the church and cemetery grounds. He died May 24, 1897, at the age of 32, and his mother, who was a widow and his sister and brothers carried out his request. The improvement was made at a cost of $45,000, and in addition there was an endowment of 280 acres of land, the income from which was to be used for the perpetual care of the grounds.

The cemetery is enclosed by a fence, which consists first of an underground stone wall, eighteen inches wide and three and a half feet deep, laid in cement. On this is a coping of Barre granite in six foot lengths, eighteen inches high and sixteen inches thick. This is topped by an iron fence, the posts being leaded into the granite to a depth of six inches. The corners and gateway have granite posts.

Posts Weigh 6 Tons

The four large posts at the gateway are ten feet above the ground and weigh about six tons each. O. C. Simmonds, then superintendent of Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, laid out the interior of the cemetery and designed the driveways. There are beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers, and a lovely fountain. It was stipulated that burial privileges were to be limited to the surrounding neighborhood and those who have friends buried there. All lots and graves receive impartial attention. Larry Pickard is the present caretaker, and there is a home across the road east of cemetery provided for him and his family.

The Reverend Edward D. Byrd is the present minister at Sharon.

Today the white church stands at a crossroads, amid fertile land. It provides a quiet place for worship in the midst of a pulsing world and is a fitting memorial to the pioneers who blazed the way and those who follow them.

The cemetery, too, with its neat, well-kept lots and its landscaping, is a fitting monument to the memory of a young man of vision and Christian spirit.

CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY. The Sharon Presbyterian church, north east of Bonaparte was organized by the Rev. James Culbertson Sharon in 1851 and is now in its centennial year. The monuments at the right are in the Seeley family lot in the cemetery which was improved at a cost of $45,000 and endowed with 280 acres of land in the memory of George Lincoln Seeley who died in 1897 at the age of 32 years.

SHEET NO._____ NAME 51.

Croton woman tells western trek hardships of ancestors

By Sally Moreland

FARMINGTON — A staunch supporter of the growing movement to establish a park at Athens, Mo., Mrs. Doris Wilson, 72, has a keen wit and remarkable memory. She dispenses historical facts as easily as a favorite recipe, which has drawn many visitors to her door.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Byron Bedell, she is the only person born in Athens who lived there all her life. She comes from hardy pioneer stock. Her grandmother and great aunt survived the trip to California with the Donner party.

Mrs. Wilson's grandmother, Miss Sarah C. Lard, 16, her sister Mary Lucy 15, and their parents left Independence, Mo. in 1846 bound for California with the ill fated Donner party. Their mother died on this trip at Fort Laramie.

Mrs. Doris Wilson
—Sally Moreland Photo

The Daily Gate City
2 — KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1962

Married enroute

Enroute, Mary Lucy married Riley S. Moutrey in Wyoming. The emigrants gathered at the tent of Mr. Lard where the Rev. Mr. Cornwall performed the ceremony.

Mrs. Wilson recalls many stories about the starvation and suffering on that trip. There was a disagreement about which trail to take and the wagon train, which at one time had numbered almost three hundred wagons, eventually separated into several outfits. One group formed its own train bound for Oregon, the Donners for California. As the hardships on the trail increased, dissention caused more regrouping, though they were seldom more than a day's journey apart and visited one another freely.

The sisters were separated when the party split up, and Mrs. Wilson's grandmother left them on this side of the Sierras. Sarah Lard arrived in San Jose, Calif. Dec. 3, 1846. Thus she escaped the horror of eating human flesh which befell the Donner party.

Abandon wagons

History records that the tragic group abandoned their wagons and continued their upward trek but were forced to dig in three miles short of the summit. For 3 months they were stranded in snow that at one time measured 13 feet on the level. After their cattle and mules were slaughtered for food, they ate hides, bones, twigs and bark. Those who died were dismembered and eaten. There were also stories of lots drawn to determined who would be killed to provide food. Thirty-six out of 89 in the group died. They were rescued Feb. 10, 1847.

When the Donner party was trapped in the mountains, the Moutreys managed to get to Sutter's Fort. At the Johnson's ranch, Moutrey, Glover and a runaway sailor named Sels volunteered to return over the hazardous trail to aid their companions. Other rescue parties were also formed.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Moutrey and others went to Sacramento. There they took a raft bound for San Francisco on the Sacramento river. When they reached San Francisco bay they were unable to reach land due to a dense fog. They floated for nearly two weeks until they had exhausted all their supplies but a small quantity of tea. They finally landed at the southern end of the bay. During this time that Mrs. Moutrey was separated from her husband, there was but one other white woman in the party.

Spanish prisoners

When her husband joined her they settled at Santa Clara there to be virtually prisoners of the Spanish residents for nearly a week during the seige of that place by General Fremont. She later spoke of the extreme kindness of the Spanish settlers to herself and family.

Mrs. Moutrey, who was a cousin of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy and of General "Stonewall" Jackson of the Confederate army, was the mother of the first white child born in California.

Their first son, Will, was born in Sept. of 1847 at Santa Clara. His birth was followed by that of four brothers and six sisters.

When gold was discovered in California, Moutrey became a miner and operated extensively in Amador county, but the family home was maintained in Santa Clara.

Though Moutrey was promised renumeration from the government for his services in aiding the Donner party, this promise was never kept. During the Cleveland administration, Hon. E. A. Hayes, then congressman of the district, got the claim allowed by congress and the bill went to the president but was never signed.

Mrs. Moutrey died in 1923 at the age of 92. Her husband had preceded her in death.

Mrs. Moutrey's sister Sarah, (Mrs. Wilson's grandmother) who died in 1891 at the age of 62 at Soquel, had attained equal prominence in California.

On Dec. 7, 1847 she married John Daubenbiss at San Jose, Calif. and they moved to Soquel five days later.

1,100 acre farm

Daubenbiss purchased a 1,100 acre farm in Santa Cruz county. The country was then covered with wild stock which were lassoed and killed for food and hides. He purchased 100 head of cows from General Vallejo at $7 per head at Mission San Jose that year, driving them home by way of Gilroy. Two years later he furnished the timber for the first wharf built in San Francisco, for which he received $100 per thousand feet and delivered 140,000 feet mostly taken from Blackburn Gulch. He did most of the chopping

and hewing himself, but hired a few men which cost him from six to ten dollars a day.

Daubenbiss, who was born in Bavaria March 29, 1816, came to America in 1835 and settled at Fort Smith, Ark. He crossed the plains in 1841.

He built and operated the first flour mill in the state at Santa Clara. When he moved to Soquel, he set up another mill. This was a custom mill where the farmers brought their wheat to be ground into flour. Beans, flapjacks, and potatoes, occasionally beef, was the food supply in those days. The grist mill was a giant step forward because the flour formerly had to be brought in cargo around the Horn. His sawmill, also the first in the state, supplied the piles for the first wharf built in San Francisco at the foot of Commercial Street.

Daubenbiss gave the land for, and built, the first schoolhouse at Soquel. There was a Daubenbiss in the school every term for 56 years. His first child enrolled in 1855. The couple had 11 children, one of whom was Mrs. Wilson's mother, Mrs. Florence Bedell of Athens, Mo.

Fremont's division

Daubenbiss had some exciting adventures while serving with Fremont's battalion in the Mexican war. In passing Salinas they were attacked and fired upon by the Spaniards and they also engaged in a skirmish at Vallejo. When he was with Commodore John Drake Sloat at Monterey the flag was raised on July 7, 1846 proclaiming California a part of the United States. Daubenbiss was selected to carry the news to General Sutter at Sutter's Fort. At San Jose he was arrested by the Mexicans, who suspected every "Gringo" of treason. Following an investigation he was released and allowed to complete his mission. He joined the American party and was in Santa Cruz on Sept. 9, 1850 to participate in the festivities of raising the flag and reading the Constitution of the new state. He died in Soquel Feb. 10, 1896 when he was 80 years old.

Mrs. Wilson's mother, Florence Daubenbiss, married John Byron Bedell in California, and the couple returned to Athens, Mo. which was his home.

Mrs. Wilson's husband Carroll died in 1955. She has a daughter Lela (Mrs. Joe Miller of Farmington), and a son Charles of Fort Madison.

DATE
19

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 31, 1850.

FROM THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Despatch received by the Navy Department from Lieut. E. J. De Haven, commanding the Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin.

UNITED STATES BRIG ADVANCE,
Off Port Leopold, Aug. 22, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor to acquaint you with the proceedings of the squadron under my command, since leaving the Whale Fish Islands, whence my last despatch was dated.

We sailed on the 29th of June, but, owing to calms and very light winds, we did not reach the latitude of Uppernavick till the 6th of July. Up to this place, no obstruction from ice was met with. We found a clear passage of from ten to twenty miles in width, between the land and the "pack." The latter was sighted daily, and had the appearance of being impenetrable.

To the northward of Uppernavick many streams of floe ice were found extending from the main pack close into the land. Through these, with a fair wind, we found little difficulty in forcing our way, until we approached Baffin's Islands, in the latitude of 74°. Here the ice appeared so close and continuous along the land, that our progress in that direction was arrested. At the same time a clear and wide opening presented itself leading to the west. We had a fair wind to enter it, and it was so directly in our course for Lancaster Sound that I could not resist the temptation, particularly as the passage looked to be almost hopeless by the usual northern route through Melville Bay.

For several hours our hopes of a speedy and direct passage appeared to be confirmed; but after a run of forty miles, ice was made ahead and on both sides in continuous line. We had but entered a deep bight on the main pack.

To return to the eastward, whence we came, would perhaps have cost us days, with the uncertainty of being able to get along even then. Besides, of the only three authentic accounts of attempts to make the passage through the pack in about this latitude, two were eminently successful. The third did not succeed so well.

In view of these facts, I thought it advisable to enter the pack, and endeavor to push through it, in a direct line for the theatre of our researches.

We accordingly did so, and for several days succeeded in making some headway, until at last the ice became so tight and immovable that it became impossible either to advance or retreat. In this hopeless condition we remained until the 29th of July, when, by a sudden movement of the floes, an opening presented itself to the north. A southeast wind springing up at the same time, we availed ourselves of it, and, with a press of sail, succeeded in forcing our way into clear water.

On the following day we were brought up again by the ice, having made a run of more than sixty miles. The wind by this time had freshened to a gale, which, together with a thick fog, made our position not a little embarrassing. The vessels were placed in as secure a position as could be found; notwithstanding which, they were in imminent danger from the heavy masses of ice driven before the gale, which pressed upon them. They withstood the shock, though, bravely. The danger was over on the gale abating.

We were now in latitude 75°, longitude 66°, in the usual Melville Bay route. It did not appear much more favorable than the middle one, from whence we had just escaped. However, by keeping along the edge of the land ice, (which had no appearance of having moved this season, and extended full thirty miles from the shore,) we were enabled to avail ourselves of occasional narrow openings which appeared with the changes of the wind; so that, with the aid of warps, during calm weather, we succeeded in reaching Cape Yorke on the 15th instant.

Between Cape Yorke and Cape Dudley Diggs we had open water, but were delayed by calms. We took advantage of the delay, and hauled the vessel into the shore, at the "Crimson Cliffs of Beverly," where we filled up our casks from a mountain stream. These cliffs are so named from the red snow on them, specimens of which were obtained.

A few miles to the east of Cape Yorke, two Esquimaux were met with. The only thing we could understond them to say was, that more of their people were living not far distant.

On the 18th we got a fair wind, and, passing Cape Dudley Diggs, shaped our course for the western side of Baffin's Bay. The "pack" was soon met with, but it was in streams and very loose, so that little obstruction was found from it. On the morning of the 19th we cleared it entirely, and a decided swell of the sea indicated that we had reached the "north waters."

The same day we fell in with the squadron of two vessels under Capt. Penny. They had been unsuccessful in their efforts to enter Jones's Sound. They were now bound in the same direction as ourselves.

On the evening of the 19th we entered the Sound, but a violent gale came on from the eastward, accompanied with a thick fog and heavy sea, which compelled us to heave to. During the gale we parted company from the Rescue.

The following day the wind moderated, but the weather still continued thick and foggy. We spent the most of it in searching for our consort, without success, when, loth to lose so good a wind, we bore up for the westward.

On the morning of the 21st the fog cleared off, and we found ourselves off Cape Crawford, on the southern side of the Sound. At the same time a sail was seen, which I hoped might be the Rescue, but it proved to be the schooner Felix, Captain Sir John Ross.

From him we learned that Commodore Austin was at Pond's Bay with two of his vessels, seeking for information, whilst the other two had been dispatched to examine the north shore of the Sound. We also learned that the North Star might be looked for at Port Leopold. At that place I resolved to touch, (as well to gain information as to send despatches home,) previous to repairing to Wellington Straits, the appointed place of rendezvous with our consort.

I am happy to inform you that the officers and men of both vessels are, perhaps, in better health than they were on leaving New York, and they are now possessed with a spirit which I think argues well for the success of our enterprise.

Very respectfully, &c.,
EDWIN J. DE HAVEN,
Lieut. Commanding Arctic Expedition.
To the Hon. Secretary of the Navy.

DAILY GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 25, 1874.

FROM BENTONSPORT.

Its Business Enterprises and Those who are Engaged in Them—A Twenty-Four Years Connection with the Postoffice.

BENTONSPORT, Iowa, July 22, 1874.

Again, at an early hour, with heavy eye lids and a hungry stomach, I found myself with the ceaseless roar of the waterfalls, the clanging of the locomotive bell, and the rattle and clatter of the departing train in my ears, at the depot at this place, and was about to take up my line of march when I overheard a bystander say, "there goes that newspaper fellow with that same old carpet bag." I discovered in a glance that this wretched receptacle of my dirty linen, collar box, and paper traps, was disclosing from four separate rents, patches of linen, a variegated bundle of handbills, and the toe of a sock. Indulging an expression not complimentary of your faithful observance of promises, and shifting the carpet bag to a more convenient part of my person for the purpose of concealing its condition, I made Weston strides for the Ashland House, which is very neatly kept by an intelligent and courteous hostess, Mrs. George Mason. Seeking the welcome shelter of a corner for the carpet sack, where stood a friendly broom and a few other domestic articles, I declined breakfast until I had dispatched you a grievance.

My first visit was to the flouring mill of Brown, Keck & Bro., a very large and substantial brick, with a splendid water power and supplied with an engine for steam, in case of accident. The mill has three run of stone, and is in charge of the chief miller, Mr. Jos. Montgomery, who has occupied the position for sixteen years, and has supplied the staff of life to the people hereabouts to their entire satisfaction.

I found our old friend G. W. Jack up to his eyes in business, and building a pyramid of filled egg cases outside, only something less in point of size than those of Egypt. He has a large and well selected assortment of goods of all kinds, and drives an extensive business.

H. F. Greef & Bro. have also a general assortment of goods, and their stock has been so carefully selected with a view to meeting every want of their customers, that I am reliably informed, customers are often surprised at finding articles they call for, just to test the variety at the store. Both these last mentioned establishments are models in their way, and the immense trade they receive, attests the wisdom of care in the selection of good stock, and a great variety, for stores of this kind. There are not two better stores in this part of the State.

J. & T. McVity, the courteous and communicative boot and shoe makers, have been right here, encasing the feet of this people in the superior pedal coverings for which they are so famed so far around, for the last 21 years. Their popularity will last while they continue to handle the last so creditably, and in fact I am under obligations to one of the brothers for having handled his tongue so entertainingly.

Mrs. A. Appleton, the industrious and pains-taking Postmistress, is a a little, nervous, slight-built lady, of more than 50 years, I think, and has held the place for 9½ years. Her husband was Postmaster at his death, and had at that time held the post for fourteen years, making in all about twenty-four years this lady has been connected with this office. Some efforts have been made to have the office transferred to other hands, but all have failed. The last one made, about a year or so since, so signally failed, that when her petition was carried to the citizens, all but four persons in the place offered their signatures. A lady so prompt in performing the duties, and so accurate in keeping her accounts as to retain the confidence of the Department at Washington, and the esteem of the people in her locality for so many years, is certainly worthy of great praise. She has been a resident of Bentonsport for twenty-eight years.

G. & J. Green, the proprietors of the paper mill, are men of sterling worth, having done business in this locality for 23 years past. They have purchased a new location on the Big Blue river, near Blue Rapids, Kansas, and will remove the machinery from the mill at this place to their new location. They will be greatly missed at their old home, and lately when one of the firm was leaving for his new home, (the other remaining here to fix up the old business) every man, woman and child in the place, at all able to walk, came to the depot to see them off and tearfully bid them God-speed. Such testimonies of esteem are the richest contributions one can carry with him, when setting out to try his fortunes among strangers.

H. A. Rehkoff has carried on a harness and saddle shop in this place for twenty years. It's of little use to record evidences of the industry and integrity of the men who have been among a people as long as have these men whom I mention, and so I shall only say of Rehkoff, that his shop is crammed with proofs of his excellent handicraft, and when I was there, he was rigging out two teams with new harness, and encouraging customers waiting, to wait just another and another of those traditional business "minutes."

Messrs. Moore & Brown, the proprietors of the woolen mills which are also in successful operation, and prepared with an engine to run by steam if the water should give out from any cause, are not unknown among the merchants who purchase from manufacturers direct, and I am told are *very favorably* known. Mr. George L. Moore has also a large stock of goods, and I learn commands quite a trade in addition to that from the operatives of the mill

W. S. Matthews, a young man of good habits and fine business turn, has opened a drug store, which for neatness of appearance, quantity and variety of stock, would do credit to any town; and I find few towns that are better off in this respect.

Louis Schreiner and Wm. Hart are worthy, hardy, prompt and well-skilled sons of Vulcan, and ply the hammer and anvil in the fashioning of anything in iron, from the work on a mouse trap, to that in a steam thresher or a saw mill. Schreiner has been a resident for eighteen years.

The ferryman, Mr. Thos. P. Henry, is one of the most reasonable men in that business I ever met with. At the same time he is so obliging that he never lets anybody wait for him. I have seen ferrymen who would keep fishing, or pitching quoits, or playin cards, while a hurried or anxious traveller on the other side, paced the sand and nursed his wrath or let it unbridled forth. Mr. Henry has none of this listless-lazy care-for-nothing disposition in him. He is prompt and courteous, but almost as silent as we may imagine Charon his fellow-craftsman of the fabled Styx to be, and like him *silently* puts forth his hand for the single coin, unless perchance some chap forgets to leave his nickel.

N. G. Brown, the railroad agent here and his assistant, Frank Greyson, are well stocked with that kind of urbanity that answers questions put by travellers kindly, and that extends little favors costing nothing, with a pleasant promptness and readiness; and the consequence is, they have tongues of both friends and strangers wagging in their praise.

While here, I made the acquaintance of J. R. Tewkesberry, the enterprising, hard-working and successful photographer from Farmington. He had pitched his portable cabin with its muslin roof in a picturesque little spot, and was busy with tongue and hands and feet from morning until night, and he thinks nothing of having all these going at the same time. He does excellent work, and merits the splendid patronage he gets along the K. & D. M. R. R.

I passed over with our silent ferryman to the little town of Vernon, but I must reserve what I have to say of that and other places for another time.

QUILL.

THE KEOKUK IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT——— THURSDAY, AUG 13, 1953

Bentonsport to Celebrate Its Annual Homecoming Saturday

BONAPARTE, Iowa— The annual Bentonsport homecoming and reunion ,one of the moset enjoyable events of the year for Bentonsport residents and former residents of the old town, will be held on the Bentonsport school grounds, August 15. Friends and schoolmates will meet to live again the golden memories of the old days when Bentonsport and Vernon, across the river, were two of the largest and most prosperous towns in Iowa, and the middle west.

Both these towns had mills and stores and some of the finest homes in the country. The day's activities Saturday will be staged among two of the most cherished spots in the memory of those attending the homecoming, the Mason House and the old Bentonsport academy. The academy was an individual enterprise and was erected in 1851 by John D. Sandford, H. F. Greef, James A. Brown, Seth Richards and Dr. D. W. Cowles. The building was later sold to the Bentonsport Independent school district, although it was used by the district before the date of its purchase.

Memorial At 9 A. M.

The Saturday program will start at 9 a. m. when a memorial service will be held in the Presbyterian church under the direction of Mrs. Effie Seward Dustin. The afternoon program will start at 1 p. m. with the ringing of the old school bell by the oldest oldtimer present. The scheduled program is as follows: Music by Collins orchestra; Invocation, Rev. Richard Eis, pastor of the Bonaparte and Bentonsport Methodist churches; Welcome Address, C. B. McCrary, president of the Bentonsport Homecoming Association; Music, Orchestra; Vocal Solo, Donna Pratt; Tap Dance, Beverly Jefferson and Lloyd Hohl; Address, Dr. Millsap, Director of the Mid-American Foundation; Music, Collins Orchestra; Vocal Solo, Miss Kathleen Workman; Histroical Address, C. B. McCrary; Flute Solo, Miss Rachel Nixon, accompanied by Mrs. Finley Elliott; Rope Spinning, Chester Patterson; Vocal Solo, Keith Gaston; Music, Brig and Rheta Flake; Short Talks by former residents; Community Singing and Music by Orchestra.

Old Mason House

There will also be games and contests for boys and girls. The old Mason House, a landmark not only in Van Buren county, but also in the state and middle west, is still in a fine state of preservation. In the early days when steamboats landed regularly at Bentonsport and during the years when this town was the railroad terminus (1857-60) the Mason House was home to many a railroad man and steamboat captain. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mason came to Bentonsport in the early fifties and purchased the fine large three story brick building, later to be known as the Mason House. This hotel soon became famous up and down the Des Moines river. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Mason, a son, George Mason, took over the management of the hotel.

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mason, Mrs. Mary Frances Kurtz, was the last owner of the Mason House and since her death some time ago, the courteous and efficient caretakers and residents of the building have been Mr. and Mrs. George Downing. Practically all the furniture in the Mason House today is the same furniture that Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mason had when they resided in the house.

One Room A Library

There are fine marble top tabels, quaint old chairs, lamps of every description, pictures and paintings. Some years before her death, Mrs. Kurtz donated one of the back rooms which had an outside door, to be used as a library. The late Calvin Brown, prominent Bentonsport resident for many years, made the library association a gift of 400 books and now the association has increased the number several times its former size. The Mason House, located upon a large tract of ground, and surrounded by century old trees and shrubbery makes one of the most picturesque settings imaginable.

Furniture Factory

Mrs. Anna Meredith, 90, of Bonaparte, was one of the early students in the old Bentonsport academy and her father, Augustus C. Rehkopf, was one of the pioneer business men of Bentonsport and operated a furniture factory for years.

Many fine pieces of antique walnut furniture which now grace Van Buren county and southern Iowa homes, are products of his factory in Bentonsport. He also manufactured burial caskets. Some of the residents of Bentonsport, who later became nationally famous, received their early education in the old academy at Bentonsport, among them being Thomas E. Clark, the Montana copper king, Wm. E. Mason, United States Senator from Illinois, George McCrary, secretary of war. The first paper mill in Iowa was erected in Bentonsport in 1852 by Green Brothers and was operated until 1874 when it was closed and the machinery was taken to Blue Rapids, Kansas. Bentonsport also had a flour mill, saw mill, and an oil mill, this mill later being converted into a woolen mill by Brown and Moore. The first flat boat, loaded with produce, went out of Bentonsport on the Des Moines river on a boat owned by Hugh W. Sample. The town of Bentonsport was incorporated in 1851 and the first mayor was George Green and the first town council included James A. Brown, M. O. Creswell, C. E. Newlon, G. W. Marley and W. N. Bragg .Bentonsport at that time had three general stores, a millinery establishment, one shoemaker, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop, a tailor shop, a hardware store, a meat market and four insurance agencies and some of the finest homes in the country The first church organization was established in Bentonsport in 1843, when the Congregational Society was formed under the leadership of the Rev. Harvey Adams. The Methodist church was erected in 1857 and the Presbyterian church was built in 1853.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1968 — 3

Sally Redhead and Michael Ross exchange vows Sunday afternoon

FARMINGTON — Arrangements of spring flowers, mums and Easter lilies decorated the altar of the Sharon Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon, Apr. 21, at 2 o'clock, for the wedding of Miss Sally Burretta Redhead and Michael Ross.

The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead, Mason House Museum, Bentonsport. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ross of Bonaparte are parents of the bridegroom.

Mrs. Raymond Cooper of Bonaparte, organist, played traditional wedding marches for the processional and recessional and accompanied the bride's father who sang.

James Farr, of Manchester, served his cousin as best man. Tammy Ross, sister of the bridegroom, lighted the altar candles.

The Rev. Harold Schirm performed the double ring ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ross

S. Moreland

Bride's gown

Mr. Redhead gave his daughter in marriage. She wore a street length gown of exquisite rose lace in French design over silk, suggestive of a full A-line design, with full quarter-length sleeves and low gathered neckline in an off-white eggshell shade. Her matching waist length veil was fashioned by her mother. The bridal bouquet was of a French design with white Shasta daisies, encircling the detachable bridal bouquet of baby sweetheart roses, baby's breath and a shower of trailing English ivy.

Sister is attendant

Miss Kell Ann Jeanne Redhead was her sister's honor attendant. Her dress in crocheted lace, in an off shade brown, followed the A-line style. Her flowers, matching the design of the bridal bouquet but in a different shade were yellow Shasta daisies, baby's breath, yellow sweetheart roses and English ivy.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Redhead chose a turquoise ensemble with beige accessories. Mrs. Ross wore a pastel floral print dress with matching accessories. Pink and yellow sweetheart roses, daisies and baby's breath formed their corsages.

Assist at reception

Following the ceremony, a reception for 73 guests was held in the bride's home, the Mason House Museum at Bentonsport. The bride's three-tier cake was served by Mrs. Mary Bishop of Des Moines, aunt of the bride. Mrs. Donnie Thomas of Bentonsport served coffee and punch. Miss Jeanne Spray of Moline, Ill. and Miss Micky Kay Bartholomew of Farmington were in charge of the gifts.

The bride atended Parsons college and is a laboratory technician at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Burlington. The bridegroom attended Northeast Missouri State college, Kirksville, and is in the U. S. Army. The couple's future address will be Anniston, Ala. The bridegroom will be stationed at Fort McClellan, Ala.

For going away, the bride wore a two piece beige suit in A-line with matching accessories.

Out of town guests attended from Rock Island, Moline, Ill.; Kirksville, Mo.; Des Moines, Manchester, Keosauqua, Bonaparte, Salem, Columbus Junction, Stockport, Bentonsport and Farmington, Ia.

56

DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER ★ ★ ★ July 14, 1968 SUNDAY REGISTER PHOTO

Relaxing in Bentonsport

The General Store in Bentonsport is being managed this summer by Dennis Bishop, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bishop of 5807 Francis st. The youth, who will be a junior at Roosevelt High School this fall, finds the job doubly rewarding in that his salary can be used for his college days when he hopes to study to be a lawyer and also in that he is "filling in" for his mother's ill sister, Mrs. Herbert Redhead, whose husband works at the Burlington Ordnance plant. The Redheads pioneered in restoring Bentonsport to the map from its previous role as "Iowa's Ghost Town." In addition to the General Store they restored the town's 21-room hotel to its 1850 grandeur for tourists to view.

57.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT — THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 1952

Bentonsport to Relive Days of Old Glory at Homecoming, Sat.

BONAPARTE, Iowa — The annual Homecoming and reunion, one of the most enjoyable events of the year for Bonaparte residents, former residents and friends, will be held on the Bentonsport school grounds, Saturday, August 16.

Friends and schoolmates will meet to live again the memories of the old days when Bentonsport and Vernon, just across the river, were two of the largest and most prosperous towns in Iowa and the Middlewest. Both these towns had mills and stores of various kinds and some of the finest homes in the country.

The days activities will be staged among two of the most cherished spots in the memory of those attending, the old Bentonsport academy and the historic Mason House.

Academy Started in 1851

This academy was an individual enterprise, erected in 1851 by John D. Sandford, H. F. Greef, James A. Brown, Seth Richards and Dr. C. W. Cowles, and the building was later sold to the Bentonsport school district although it was used by the school district before the date of its purchase.

Some of the former residents of Bentonsport who later became nationally famous, received their early education in the old academy. They included Thomas E. Clark, the Montana copper king, Wm. E. Mason, United States Senator from Illinois, George McCrary a one time secretary of war, and many others.

First Paper Mill in Iowa

The first paper mill in the state of Iowa was erected at Bentonsport in 1852 by Green Brothers and was operated until 1874 when it was closed and the machinery moved to Blue Rapids, Kansas. Bentonsport also at one time had flour mill, saw mill, and an oil mill, the latter being converted into a woolen mill by Brown and Moore. The first flat boat loaded with produce that ever went out of Bentonsport on the Des Moines river was sent on a boat belonging to Hugh W. Sample.

The town of Bentonsport was incorporated in 1851 and the first mayor was George Green and the first town council included the following prominent citizens: James A. Brown, M. O. Cresswell, C. E. Newlon, G. W. Marley and W. N. Bragg. Bentonsport at that time had three general stores, a millinery establishment, a shoemaker, a blacksmith shop, a tailor shop, a hardware store, a meat market and four insurance agencies, among other industries.

Church in 1843

The first church organization was established in 1843 when the Congregational Society was formed under the leadership of the Rev. Harvey Adams. The first Congregational church was erected in 1856. The Methodist church was built in 1857 and the Presbyterian church was erected in 1853.

The old Mason House at Bentonsport, a landmark, not only in Van Buren county history but also in the state and middle west, is still in a fine state of preservation.

Famous Old Hotel

In the early years when steam boats landed regularly at Bentonsport and during the year the town was the railroad terminus (1857-60), the Mason House was home to many a railroad man and steamboat captain. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mason came to Bentonsport in the early fifties and purchased the large, three story brick building, later to be known to everyone as the Mason House, and this hotel soon became famous all up and down the Des Moines river. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Mason, a son, George Mason, and his family took over the management of the hotel.

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mason, Mrs. Frances Kurtz, was the last owner of the Mason House and since her death some time ago, the courteous and efficient caretakers and residents of the building have been Mr. and Mrs. George Downing.

Furniture the Same

Practically all the furniture in the house today is the same that Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mason had when they resided in the hotel for so many years. There are fine marble top tables, quaint old chairs, lamps of every description, pictures and fam-

ous paintings.

A few years ago Mrs. Kurtz donated one of the back rooms in the building to the Bentonsport library association, to be used as a public library. The late Calvin Brown, one of the older prominent residents of Bentonsport, donated over 400 books to the library association and today the number has been increased to several times the original donation. The Mason House located on a large plot of ground and surrounded by century old trees and shrubbery, makes one of the most picturesque settings imaginable.

Mrs. Anna Meredith, 89, of Bonaparte, was one of the students in the old Bentonsport academy in the early days and her father, Augustus C. Rehkopf, was one of the pioneer business men in Bentonsport where he operated a furniture factory. Many fine pieces of antique walnut furniture that now grace many Van Buren county homes, were products of his facory. He also manufactured burial caskets.

Homecoming Program

The following program will be presented at the Bentonsport Homecoming on Saturday, August 16: Sunrise service at the Presbyterian church at 9 a. m.; ringing of the old Bentonsport school bell by the oldest person present, to start the program at 1 p. m.; invocation, Rev. Worthern, of Ft. Madison; Address of Welcome, Clarence B. McCrary, president of the Bentonsport Homecoming Association; concert by Bonaparte band under the direction of George L. Simmons, and featuring two vocalists, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Calvert; address, Marshall Flake; vocal solo, Donna Pratt, accompanied by Mrs. Clarence Workman; rope spinning exhibition, Chester Patterson, of Marion, Ill., formerly of Bentonsport; vocal duet, Flake Sisters; tap dancing by Nancy Newbold and Lloyd Hohl of Keosauqua; exhibition of magic by Mack Rose, of Warsaw, Ill.; 4-H Girls demonstrations; Old Time Fiddlers. The committee in charge of the program includes Carl Wolf, Mrs. Beatrice Tyler Elliott and Mrs. Effie Seward Dustin.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DATE
192

Bentonsport...

The Village That Time Forgot

Des Moines Sunday Register
Jan. 24, 1965
Local Section
2-L

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Redhead, Kell Ann, stands in front of historic Mason House.

Restoration of the pre-Civil War, steamboat-days village of Bentonsport was started nine years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead with the Mason House, (above). Several buildings and three homes have been returned to their stately, more-than-century-old appearance. Several other structures await a restorer. But the Redheads and those who followed them with their own projects — their homes are pictured here — are concerned that the growth of a junkyard, owned by general store operator William Brant, may scare out potential restorers and kill the project.

Junkyard Threatens Historic Bentonsport

By James Flansburg
(Register Staff Writer)

BENTONSPORT, IA.—A junkyard is jeopardizing the restoration of historic Bentonsport.

On the Des Moines River about five miles southeast of Keo-

SUNDRY ACCOUNTS SHEET NO. 60.

sauqua, Bentonsport was one of Iowa's largest cities (2,500 population) in the steamboat days before the Civil War.

The railroads and a congressional declaration that the Des Moines River wasn't fit for navigation put the town on the decline. Today its population is 35.

Most of the town's buildings have rotted and crumbled away. But testimony to the glorious river days are several native red brick and limestone buildings—classic Colonial and Colonial-Federalist.

Began Restoration

Several years ago Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead of Des Moines and Bentonsport, began restoring some of them.

Two other persons—Des Moines school teacher P. C. Dowell and Bonaparte manufacturer F. M. Corry—followed with their own projects.

And just starting restoration of another of the fine old brick homes is Col. George W. Orr of Des Moines, senior Air Force adviser to the Iowa Air National Guard. Orr plans to live in Bentonsport when he retires from the service.

The Redheads restored the Mason House—a favorite stop for the boat captains, and the place where the explorer and one-time presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, wooed and won Jessie Benton, daughter of Senator Thomas Hart Benton and granddaughter of the town's founder.

Furnished with the trappings of the mid-Nineteenth Century, and set off by the original wallpaper and gleaming walnut woodwork, Mason House was opened as a museum by the Redheads.

As their budget permitted—he's a Des Moines bookkeeper—they continued other restoration work: The old bank, post office, general store.

Bentonsport is virtually hidden from the outside world by huge hills that rise up from the Des Moines River as it twists its way to the Mississippi. A motorist, visiting for the first time, doesn't realize he's getting near the village until he's upon it.

He notices the peacefulness of another age—a slower, more deliberate age—as he drives across the one-lane wagon bridge into the settlement. The red brick buildings are framed by the hills.

But the eye is due for a shock at the end of the bridge. Twenty yards off to the left are several old car and truck bodies, assorted farm equipment and other clutter.

It belongs to William Brant, a junk dealer in Kansas City until he moved here a year ago and bought the general store, the old bank building and about six acres—property once held by the Redheads until they were forced to forfeit a purchase contract because of Mrs. Redhead's severe injuries in a car accident.

Several "Run-ins"

P. C. Dowell, principal of Bird Elementary School in Des Moines and restorer-owner of the old Greef (Bentonsport's original banker) home, says the Redheads and Brant had several "run-ins" soon after Brant came to the village.

"I think a large part of the junk stems from that," he says.

The Redheads own a small tract—about the size of a city building lot—on the river bank, which they cleared and furnished with picnic benches.

On the property line, next to the park, Brant deposited two old car bodies and two pieces of rusty farm equipment.

Mrs. Redhead says the junk caused the number of museum visitors to drop from 7,000 to 3,000 a year.

Drive Right On

"People come into town, but they think everything is junk so they drive right on out again," she says.

"Well, I didn't start this thing," says Brant, "but I'll admit I put some of that junk out there for spite.

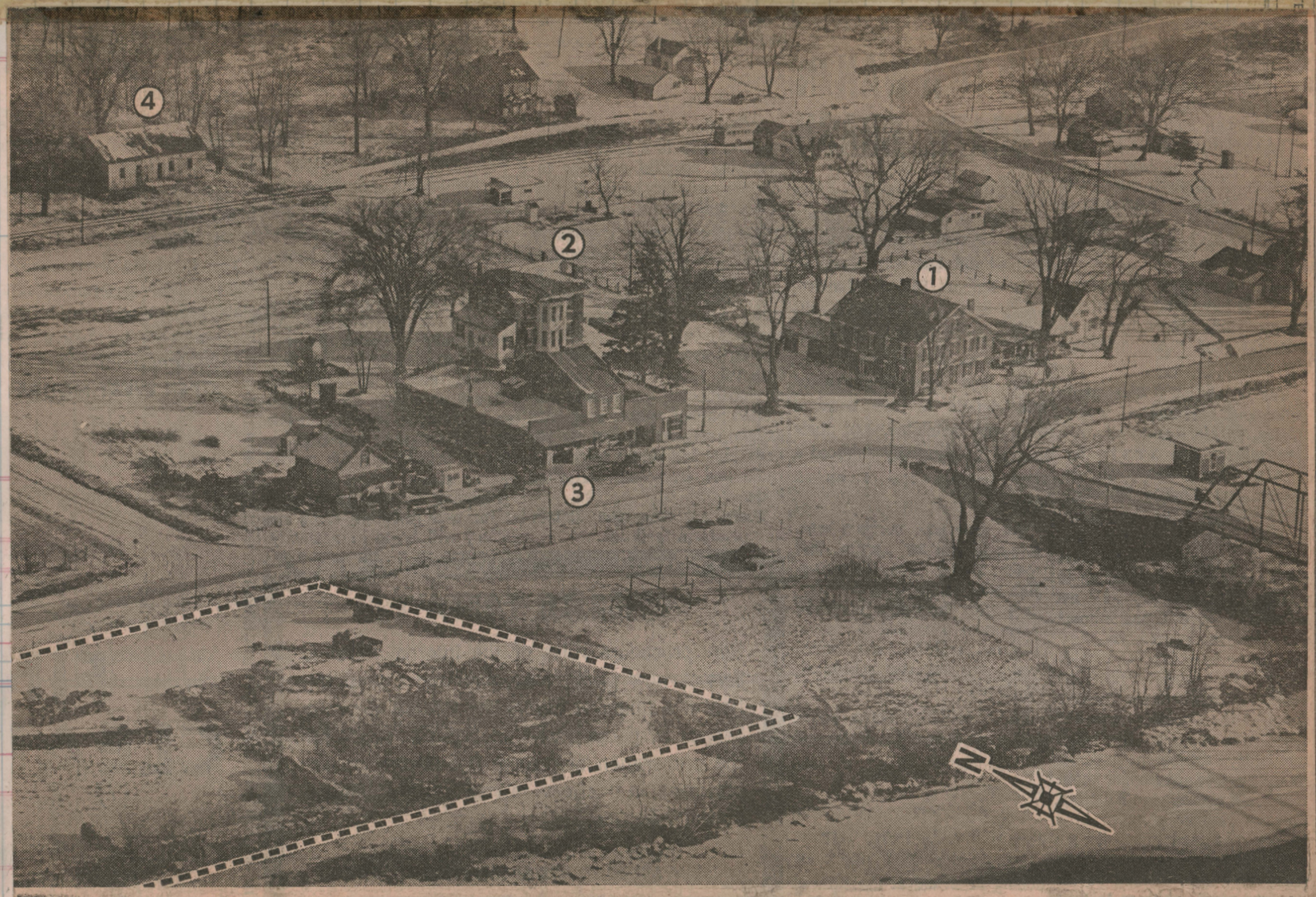
"I think it's still a free country, and I'll tell you this: Everytime she causes me any trouble, I'm going to haul

Some of Bentonsport's old buildings—two churches, the school and a school in the ghost town of Vernon across the Des Moines River from Bentonsport—have suffered little from time and add much to the charm of the Van Buren County village. But a clutter of junk, owned by Bernard Clark, distracts from appearance of the Methodist Church and the church-owned Bentonsport School. Unspoiled are the sites of the Vernon School (owned by the Redheads; above) and the Presbyterian Church (owned by the Bentonsport Improvement Association). Methodist Church is still in use; the Presbyterian Church, except on special occasions, is not.

MRS. REDHEAD

BRANT

ER CRIMPED LEAF
CREDITS
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



REGISTER PHOTO BY TOM DE FEO

A Quaint Village of Yesteryear

This aerial view of Bentonsport, a small southeastern Iowa village, shows a junkyard (dotted lines) which jeopardizes its historical restoration. Centerpiece of the restoration project is a museum, The Mason House (1) and the next-door summer home of P. C. Dowell (2). A year ago, the general store and adjacent buildings (3) were purchased by William Brant, who began collecting discarded cars, tractors and farm equipment, and as a result of an argument with owners of the Mason House moved junk to the fence line just left of the bridge. Falling into disrepair is a stone house (4), built by Mormons in 1846.

SHEET NO. 61.
SUNDRY ACCOUNTS
DATE 192_
MADE BY BAKER-VAWTER CO.
C57C
BAKER-VAWTER GRIMPED LEAF

Home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Corry.

The Corrys in the living room of their home, Bentonsport's most lavish restoration.

another car in and put it up there on the fence line."

A complaint to Van Buren County authorities drew this answer: Since Bentonsport is an unincorporated village and Van Buren County has no zoning, there's no way to control junk yards.

One of Brant's complaints is that Mrs. Redhead reported him to Iowa authorities when he licensed his truck in Missouri. He did it, he says, just to get the title straightened out.

"But it just wasn't any of her business," he adds.

Elected Brant

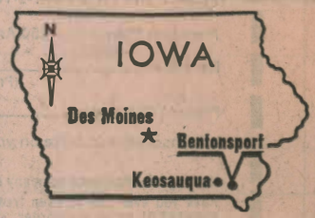
Recently, the 12-member Bentonsport Improvement Association elected Brant as its president.

"I guess nobody else wanted it," he says.

The association, organized to promote Bentonsport restoration, owns the magnificent old Presbyterian church and a limestone house, but decided to sell the house.

Mrs. Redhead's bid of $350 was the highest of several. But Brant contends that the association voted unanimously not to sell it to her. Why?

"It's hard to say," says Brant. "They wanted to sell it to a Burlington buyer for $225 but I wouldn't let them do it. As far as I'm concerned, everybody's got to be in favor of the sale or we won't sell it."



Call For Bids Again

The association will advertise for bids again.

Mrs. Redhead, whose husband is a member of a pioneer Des Moines family (she is the former Buretta Goodman of Des Moines), concludes her side of that story this way:

"Small town people drive me mad. I'm from Des Moines where neighbors mind their own business. Here, everybody knows your business better than you do."

TER CRIMPED LEAF
CREDITS
THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY" R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

MADE BY BAKER-VAWT
DATE
192

Suffering from the removal of its bell tower and a pile of junk is the Bentonsport School.

Brant, 57, has been a long-time exhibitor at Mount Pleasant's annual Old Settlers and Threshers Reunion and says he discovered Bentonsport while driving from Kansas City to Mount Pleasant several years ago.

"Nicest Place in World"

"It's the nicest place in the world here," he says. "When you come down off that hill into this valley it's just as if a load is lifted off your shoulders.

"When we sold out in Kansas City I just came around here looking and bought this place after a half hour."

He paid $7,000 for it.

Mrs. Redhead says she and her husband have about $30,000 in property here and about $100,000 in Mason House antique furnishings.

"I told them," says Brant, "that they could buy me out or I'd buy them out—makes me no difference."

The incidents of disagreement seem to flow as endlessly as the river, 100 yards away.

Brant owns the old bank building; the Redheads possess its original furnishings.

Brant says that Mrs. Redhead has drawn his ire, and more junk, several times by parking her car across the sidewalk so that his customers have to walk out into the road.

In any case, there's little doubt that Brant's litter — ancient tractors, old safes, recovered roofing, piles of scrap —has slowed restoration.

"It certainly distracts from what we want to get done here," says Dowell.

"A person would take a good long look at this situation before ever buying and starting restoration because this is an expensive proposition."

Although it hasn't raised any controversy, there's another pile of junk — owned by Bernard Clark—the equivalent of five blocks northwest of Brant's pile, and it takes up the foreground of any view of Bentonsport's Methodist Church and Bentonsport School, which is owned by the church.

No U. S. Landmark

Last summer the U. S. Department of Interior refused to certify the village as a national historic landmark. While important locally, said the historians, Bentonsport is not sufficiently significant nationally to be certified as a landmark.

Says Brant: "In any case, it's a real pleasant place to live."

Says Mrs. Redhead: "With all this place has going for it, it would still be a real gold mine if it were managed right."

Adds Des Moines Architect William Wagner, who has sketched many of Iowa's landmarks and old buildings: "This is a little town that has been off the beaten path—time just forgot it.

"If it were completely restored it would be a major tourist attraction—even without the great historical significance. It could be a little Williamsburg."

Car bodies litter the lot next to the Methodist Church.

The Daily Gate City.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 1871.

[From our Own Correspondent.]

BENTONSPORT, VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA.

Bentonsport is situated in the extreme western part of Van Buren county, on the Des Moines river, 40 miles northwest of Keokuk, on the Valley railroad. The location is very good, the town being built on an elevation one mile long by a half mile wide. A beautiful range of hills gird the little city, affording protection from the cold winter winds, thus making a fine place for residences as well as for business houses.

Across the river, on the opposite side from Bentonsport, is situated the village of Vernon, which is built on a graceful little hill, a small place of one hundred and fifty souls, and is noted for its manufactories.

Bentonsport has a population of six to eight hundred souls. Contains several well built houses of worship. One paper mill owned and run by G. & J. Green. Here is manufactured the paper on which the GATE CITY is printed. There is also one large Woolen Factory, owned and operated by Brown & Moore. This mill has some of the very best modern carding and weaving machines that are made anywhere. Mr. Brown says that there are 6,640 yards of woolen yarn on a single one of the bobbins used in their weavers. The town also boasts of one flouring mill, which turns out some very nice flour.

Among the many well to-do merchants is numbered our genial friend, Geo. L. Moore, Esq., one of the enterprising men of B. Mr. Moore owns a large dry goods and grocery store, and is doing a good business. He is also one of the members of the firm that runs the woolen mill. May he "Note" his customers and "Tag" his goods for our sake. Messrs. Greef & Bro., bankers and merchants, is the only firm in the banking business in Bentonsport. They are gentlemen who can always be relied upon. They control a large capital, thus enabling them to deal with the leading houses in the United States.

The Ashton Hotel, one of Bentonsport's standbys, is owned and kept by that ever-ready gentleman, Mr. C. Montgomery, one of those men who always make their many friends and customers. He understands all the wants of the traveling public, and especially of those known as Runners or Bummers—just as you choose to have it.

Capt. F. Hancock, who is in the lumber trade, is one of the sterling men of this burg. His many excellent qualities have won for him a large number of friends here and elsewhere.

Mr. Clement Wood is engaged in the grocery business, and is driving a lively trade.

J. R. Reininghaus was very busy, and of course I could not bother him, when he is doing so well. May he pile up "ye green back" high.

A. Barber (I am glad to learn that there is one excellent Barber in Bentonsport) is still at his trade—painting—which is very lucrative at the present time.

Mr. G. W. Jack, dry goods merchant, who keeps the little store "around the corner," is busy, as usual. How could he help it, when his store was "chock" full of customers?

O. C. Rehkoff is proprietor of the only exclusive furniture store in the city. Our friend keeps on hand goods of his own manufacture, which are very neat and durable.

C. Hines keeps the only merchant-tailoring establishment in the place. This gentleman says he would not know what to do without the GATE CITY.

In conclusion I will write a few lines about

VERNON.

This pretty place, which is opposite Bentonsport, is quite a business point. There is one woolen factory and a flour mill, five or six stores, one or two churches and a monster pottery—one of the largest in the west. Its capacity will exceed 3,000 gallons of stoneware per week. Dickinson, Grimsley & Co. are the sole owners and operators. Mr. J. H. Easter, one of the affable gentlemen connected with this immense establishment, very kindly explained the *modus operandi* of making stoneware. This Pottery can be seen from the railroad depot, on the opposite of the river in Bentonsport, and it resembles one of those immense glass furnaces that meet the traveler's eye on the Ohio river.

I must not forget to mention Mr. D. P. Wilson, Postmaster, a clever gentlemen as everybody in this section knows.

J. M. Gelatt, formerly of your place, but now proprietor of the Vernon Woolen Factory, still keeps his live mill in operation, manufacturing all sorts of woolen goods.

May both these towns thrive and grow is my sincere wish. "More anon."

I am truly yours, NATH.

The Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1868

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 9.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

PAPER MILL FOR SALE.

THE Paper Mill situated in Bentonsport, Iowa, is offered at private sale.

TERMS—One-half cash; balance on six and twelve months' time, with security and 10 per cent. interest.

If not sold at private sale before the 1st day of October, 1868, it will be sold on the 3d day of October, 1868, at public sale, on the above terms.

For further particulars address

GREEN, BRAGG & CO.,
Bentonsport, Iowa.

july9 1mo

DAILY GATE CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 28, 1875

THE town of Bonaparte, on the K. & D. M. Railroad, is not apt to attract much attention from those unacquainted with its interests, while passing through on the train. Yet it has several institutions of which its inhabitants can justly boast, and which tend to make it a desirable location.

The woolen mills, owned and operated by Messrs. Meek & Bro., are the largest in the State, and cost many thousands of dollars. About seventy-five persons are employed, who are constantly engaged in the manufacture of cloth, of which they turn out an immense quantity. These goods have gained an enviable reputation in the West, and the demand for them is greater than the firm is able to supply. They also own a large flouring mill, and turn out an excellent grade of flour.

Mr. Joseph Meek has recently bought and enlarged the furniture factory at that place, and is now making superior work of this description. Mr. Meek has put in the latest improved machinery, which enables him to compete with other manufacture both in price and quality of work.

The Eason House at Bonaparte, of which E. W. Eason is proprietor, is kept in good order. If "square meals," clean soft beds and a genial landlord is an object then test the hospitality of the Eason.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.

BENTONSPORT

CREAMERY

BUTTER!

In any quantity to suit purchasers, at

PHILLIPS BROS.

The Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 14, 1857.

BENTONSPORT SCRIP.—The town of Bentonsport has issued $5,500 of scrip and has authorized the issue of $5,500 more on the first of January next. The entire property of the corporation is responsible for its redemption, and the corporation has already levied a tax of $3000,00 which may be used for that purpose. This issue is also secured by several of the ablest citizens of Bentonsport. The scrip is taken on deposit by some, if not all, of our Bankers, who consider it perfectly safe. We understand the issue has been made principally to aid our railroad up the valley, and of course we are all interested in giving it a good name.

CRIMPED LEAF
CREDITS
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

65.

Bentonsport Is 100 Years Old

THURSDAY, AUG. 17, 1939

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

THRIVING TOWN AT ONE TIME NOW LIVES IN ITS MEMORIES

BY O. R. PERKINS
(Gate City Tri-State News)

BENTONSPORT, Iowa, Aug. 17.—One hundred years ago Bentonsport was being founded by men who held optimistic views of the future. For many years the town thrived, playing an important part in Iowa history and industry. Today is has less than 150 residents.

The Declaration of Independence had been signed 63 years at the time the town was laid out by John Bending, Charles O. Sanford and H. P. Graves, but these loyal and patriotic people did not forget the successful efforts of Washington and his soldiers. Their first important celebration was that of the Fourth of July in 1839.

In planning for the celebration, word was sent out that there would be a barbeque. As the early settlers phrased it, this information caused "everyone to fix up and when the time came all were in attendance." Captain James Hall was the orator of the day.

Had Many Mills.

The first paper mill built in the state was erected here by Green Brothers in 1852. The concern was run until 1874 when it was closed and the machinery taken to Blue Rapids, Kas. Hitchcock and Noble built a flouring mill and a saw mill on the banks of the river in 1842. A new flour mill was built in 1854 by James Brown and was a four-story brick structure with three runs of buhrs. The sawmill operated until 1866.

An oil mill was built here in 1865 by James A. Brown and served until 1867. This was the first linseed oil mill built in southern Iowa. It was later changed into a woolen mill by Brown and Moore.

Probably the first flatboat loaded with produce ever to go out of the Des Moines river started from Bentonsport. It was owned by Hugh W. Sample.

Mason House Famous.

The Old Mason House here is a landmark not only in Van Buren county, but also in the stat of Iowa. In the early days when many boats landed here regularly and during the years when the railroad was built only as far as Bentonsport, the Mason House was home to many railroad men and steamboat captains.

In the early fifties, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mason came to Bentonsport and bought the large tree-story brick house which later became familiar to everyone as the Mason House. Here they conducted their hotel until their deaths, after which a son, George, took over the management. The hotel was discontinued when Mr. and Mrs. Mason moved to Des Moines.

The historic old building has weathered two floods and in 1903 the water was half way up on the windows of the first floor. Much of the furniture in the building today is the same that the original owners had when they lived there. One finds marble-top tables, quaint old chairs, lamps of every description, pictures and paintings. In most of the rooms nothing modern has been introduced to disturb the memory of the past.

Three General Stores.

Other industries here included three general stores, a millinery establishment, a shoemaker, blacksmith, wagon shop, tailor shop, stove and tinware shop, a butcher shop and four insurance agencies. Greef and Co. ran a private bank.

The first school was taught in a log cabin. The district struggled along with first one building and then another until 1870 when an academy was built. At one time, 91 scholars were enrolled in this institution.

The flood of 1903 drove 31 families from their homes. One span of the bridge was torn from its piers by a large tree. The span rolled over three times and sank in 25 feet of water. Damage to personal property was $6,000.

Has Civil War Vet.

One of the residents of Bentonsport who is enjoying most his memories of the past during this week's centennial celebration is Eli W. McKinney, one of two living Civil War veterans in Van Buren county and the only surviving veteran who enlisted from this county.

Mr. Kinney came to this section with his parents and settled in 1851 at Columbus which was then a town north of Bentonsport. The family later moved here.

Mr. McKinney was a member of Company K, 45th Infantry. He was stationed at Fort Hendricks, Tenn., where the company's duties were guarding the fort, three railroad bridges and a wagon bridge. His father, William McKinney, was killed in the Civil war and his grandfather, Eli Yarnell was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Gone now are the prosperous concerns which once flourished here. In the memory of the older former residents, however, the centennial celebration is serving to make the Mason House once again the host to rivermen as their boats go up and down the Des Moines.

OLD TIMER

Eli Whitney, Civil war veteran, who has viewed firsthand most of Bentonport's history during its first 100 years. He is still a resident of the town and is enjoying the celebration. The medal he wears in the above picture was given to him when he attended the Gettysburg reunion two years ago.

The business concerns live again in memories only to fade away in dreams broken by the ripple of the river.

CELEBRATION OPENS TODAY

FORMER RESIDENTS REVISIT TOWN

(Gate City Tri-State News)

BENTONSPORT, Iowa, Aug. 17—Scores of former residents and their families, many of whom now occupy prominent niches in other parts of the world, gathered here today for the opening of the town's three-day centennial celebration.

Bentonsport, one of the six Van Buren county towns which passes the century mark this year, is the second to celebrate the event this month. Keosauqua, the county seat located a half dozen miles west of here, observed its centennial the first two days of August.

Supplementing the former residents who were here today for the annual homecoming were hundreds of persons from Van Buren and surrounding counties on hand to assist and witness the opening day events. Most of the visitors from a distance planned to remain in town for the Friday and Saturday centennial program.

Chicago Man Gives History.

Featuring today's events were an "Early History of Bentonsport" given by William McGowan of Chicago, and the singing of "The Bentonsport Centennial," a song written for the occasion.

Today's schedule also included a concert by the Bonaparte school band under the direction of R. L. Tomlinson; an invocation by Harry C. Mason of Pasadena, Calif.; a greeting by Martha Virginia Burton of El Paso, Texas; a tribute to Lida Keck Ralston by her daughter, Meta Ralston Winkless of San Jose, Calif.; and a greeting by Mary Hancock Keck of Flandreau, S. Dak.

Two-Minute Talks.

In addition to prepared addresses, there will be several two-minute talks given Friday by former residents. A musical feature tomorrow will be selections by the Van Buren county Farm Bureau women's chorus under the direction of Mrs. Lee Dustin of Birmingham.

The Friday program also includes music by the Bonaparte male quarter; an oration by David Hallam of Monmouth, Ill., and a talk by Isaac McCracken, federal writer who now lives at Farmington but was a former resident of the Bentonsport community.

Saturday, the closing day, will be featured by a pageant on the platform and dancing of the Virginia reel, in which the public is invited to participate on the school lawn. George Van Nostrand of Fairfield, county attorney of Jefferson county, will deliver an address on Saturday and that day's program will also include the singing of the "Old Spinning Wheel" by little Miss Lambert who will be in costume and several other platform specialties.

DAILY GATE CITY

Bentonsport To Observe Centennial

(Gate City Tri-State News.)

KEOSAUQUA, Ia., March 8—Historic Bentonsport, one of the oldest towns in Van Buren county, is planning to hold a celebration in observance of its centennial some time during the coming summer.

It was in 1839 that John Bending, Charles O. Sandford and H. P. Graves, associates in the Bentonsport company, platted the town.

Four years later, Hitchcock and Nobel built a flouring mill there and later added a sawmill on the river bank. The Gree Brothers built the first paper mill in Iowa at Bentonsport. In 1865, a Mr. Brown built a linseed oil mill and later converted it into the woolen mill of Brown and Moore.

The old village of Vernon is across the river from Bentonsport and was also settled about 1839.

MARCH. 8. 1939

THE GATE CITY

Seven Maple Camps Set Up Along Creek Near Bentonsport

MARCH 16, 1940

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, March 16—There are seven maple sugar camps in operation this spring along Coppers creek near Bentonsport in Van Buren county. So far the weather has not been ideal for the running of sap.

There are over 3,000 buckets catching sap in the various camps, operated by Carl Wolf, Sam Watts, Logan Sadler, Sam Howard, Ray Kisling and Melvin Morris. The Marion-Warner camp is now the largest with over 700 buckets.

The maple sap is boiled down to maple syrup and some into maple sugar.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

RIVER RIPPLES.

The Des Moines now Clear to its Mouth —A Dam Washed Away at Bentonsport, Involving Considerable Loss.

Last night the ice in the Des Moines river at Bentonsport went out with a rush, carrying with it the centre of the dam at that point, and doing a great deal of damage. About one-half of the dam in width and four or five logs deep, was washed away, and through this larger gap the mass was rushing furiously, making a sight at once grand and terrible. The mill owners will suffer a considerable loss by this break, as the dam furnished water power for mills at Bentonsport, and also across the river at Vernon, the delay and expense to them will be a serious item.

The ice also ran out at Croton last night, but no damage is reported. This morning, the Des Moines was clear to its mouth, and the ice was running far out into the Mississippi, so that it was impossible to cross from Warsaw to Alexandria, in consequence of which several passengers came up to this city this morning, to take the train for Quincy.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered at Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

SEPTEMBER 12. 1889

--The large [illegible] mill at Vernon Iowa, that has stood on the south bank of the river since 1859, when it was erected at a cost of $18,000, was recently sold to Farmington parties for $756, and this week a force of a dozen men began tearing it down. The brick will be taken to Bonaparte and the woodwork to Farmington. For years the mill has been idle. Several people who have attempted to operate it in the past have lost money, or bursted up. The massive pile of brick has attracted more or less attention for years, but it will soon pass from view. The machinery was mostly removed several years ago, and for ten years it has been tenantless.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

67-

IOWA BECKONS

Bentonsport House Is New Museum

FAIRFIELD (AP) — Little-known stories of the family Abraham Lincoln's sweetheart, Iowa's only Civil War battle and a 19th century village that defies the passage of time await Fairfield vacation visitors who have a flair for early Hawkeye history.

Settled during Iowa's territorial days, the Fairfield area is rich in names and places sure to capture the fancy of the leisurely traveler who likes to explore backroads and byways.

A weathered stone in Bethel Church cemetery, nine miles south of Fairfield, marks the graves of the mother and brother of Ann Rutledge. Historians disagree over the seriousness of the romance between Ann and young Lincoln, but the story is one of the best known in the life of the Great Emancipator.

The Rutledges were residents of New Salem, Ill., when Lincoln settled there in the early 1830's. A typhoid epidemic claimed the lives of Ann and her father,, James Rutledge and was one of the reasons the family migrated to Iowa in 1837. Mrs. Mary Rutledge and six children established their home in the Bethel Church community were Mrs. Rutledge lived until her death in 1878 at the age of 91.

Of special interest to Civil War scholars is the Battle of Athens which brought fighting to Iowa soil Aug. 5, 1861. The action centered at Athens, Mo., and carried across the Des Moines River to the village of Croton in southwest Lee County.

Moved on Keokuk

A Federal home guard unit of 300 men led by Lieut. Cyrus Bussey was successful in halting a thrust toward Keokuk by Gen. Martin Green and 1,300 Confederate militia during the one-day engagement. A monument marks the battle site at Croton, 40 miles southwest of Fairfield and a short distance from Farmington.

Another spot on the meandering Des Moines River is picturesque Bentonsport, six miles southeast of Keosauqua in Van Buren County. The Fremont survey, the epic march of the Mormons, the gold rush, the western movement of the railroads and the Civil War all are part of Bentonsport's history.

The town's brick and stone buildings, dating from the 1830's, offer a study in period architecture which has no parallel in the state.

Showplace of Bentonsport is the Mason House, built in the 1804's and now Iowa's newest museum. The two and a half story structure is of Modified Georgian style with frames, sills and beams of handhewn walnut.

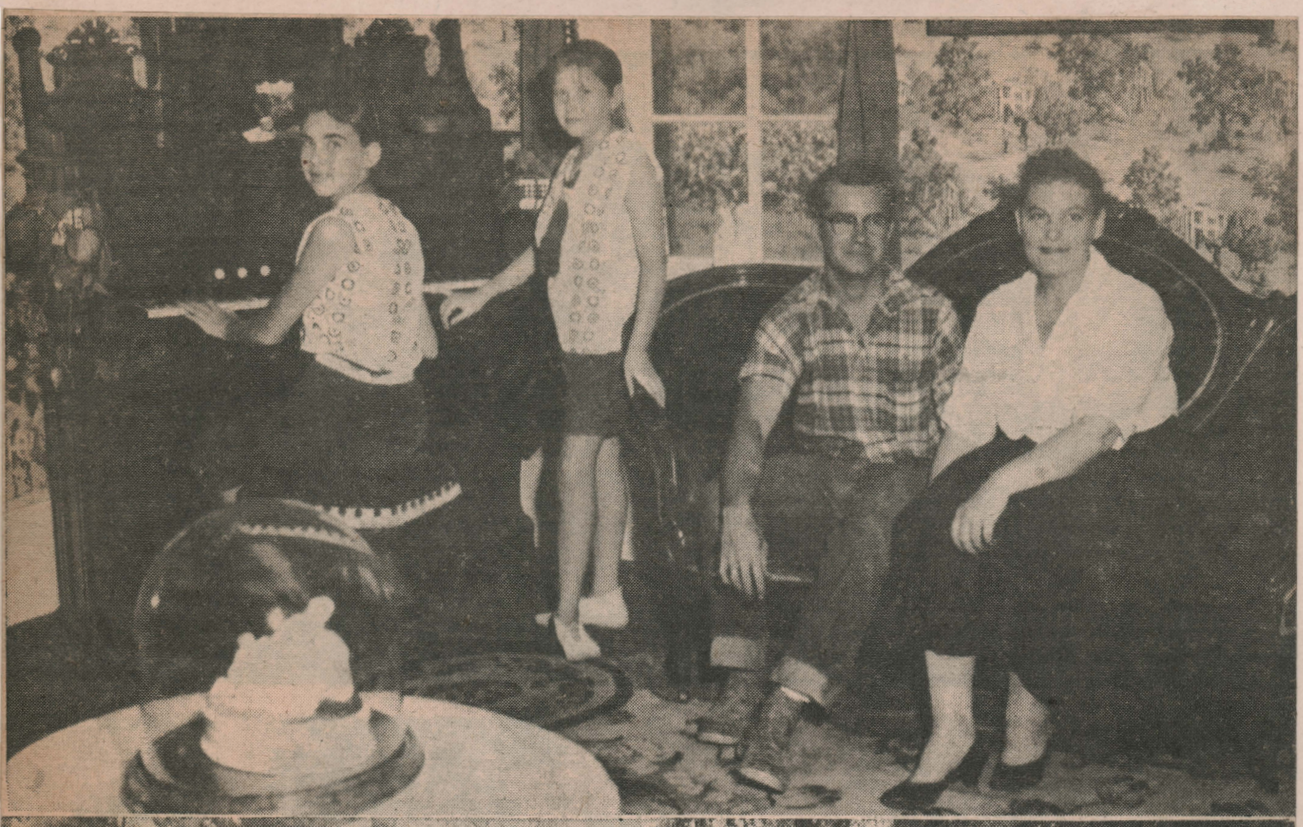
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead, members of a pioneer Des Moines family, purchased the Mason House in 1956. After many months of restoration work, it was opened June 1 as a museum in memory of the owner's grandfather, Herbert S. Redhead.

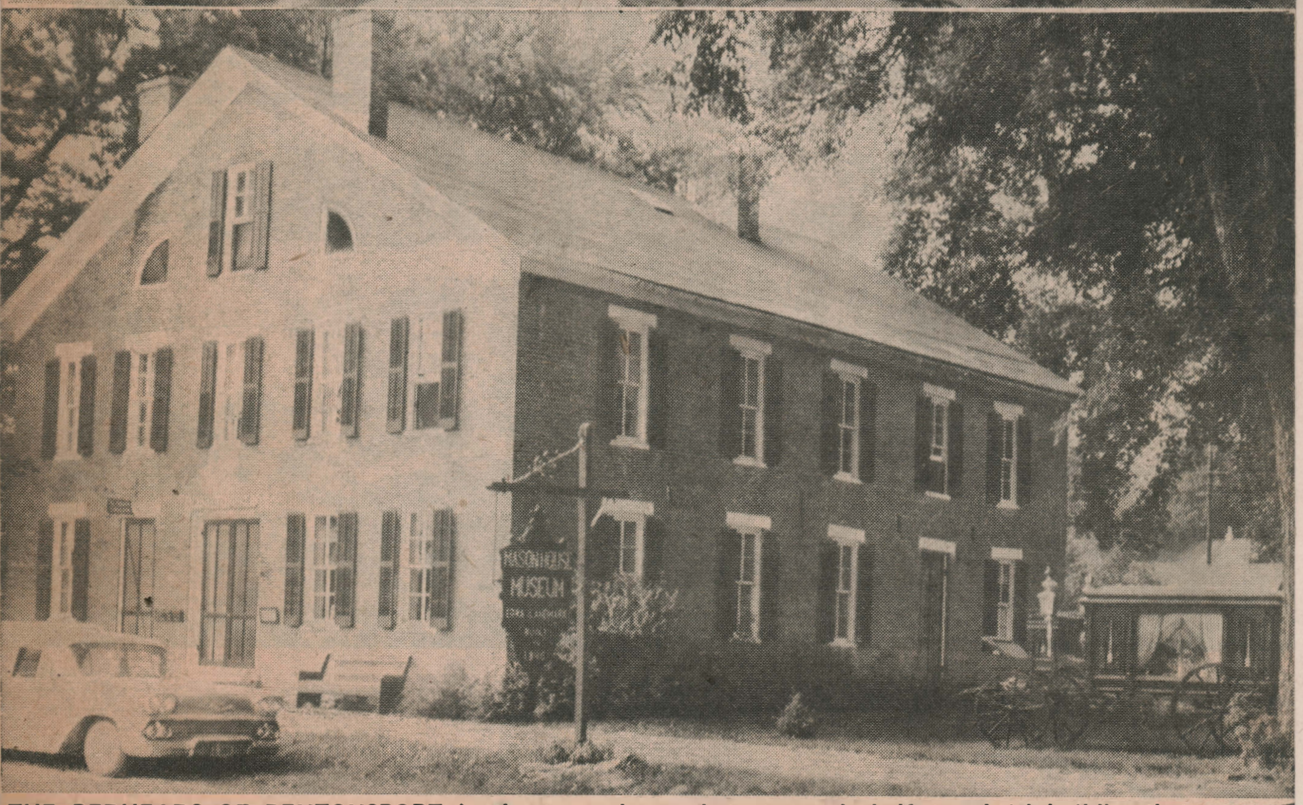
Many of the original furnishings give the Mason House the same charm and beauty it had as a busy inn and tavern of the steamboat era.

HISTORIC HOUSE — Once a busy inn during the Des Moines River steamboat era, the Mason House at Bentonsport is Iowa's newest museum. Built in the 1840s, the brick structure is beautifully furnished with articles of that period. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Redhead, formerly of Des Moines, are the owners.

The Daily Gate City Keokuk, Iowa 3
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1957

Almost dominating the valley is the spire of the Presbyterian Church.





THE REDHEADS OF BENTONSPORT in the top photo are Kell Ann, 15, Sally, 12, Herbert K. and Burretta. They live in Mason House, pictured in lower photo, two-and-a-half story brick building that was once the center of the town's gay life.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

69-

Redheads hope Bentonsport will become Iowa shrine

BENTONSPORT (AP) — Life will come again to this tiny town — a thriving industrial port in the dawn of Iowa's history — if the wishes of a spirited family come true.

In 1959, the thousand persons who once made life bustle here are long since gone. Now only 70 persons call it home. But the inviting charm of what is left makes Bentonsport the life-center of Herbert K. and Burretta Redhead, with their daughters, Kell Ann, 15, and Sally, 12.

People are coming to see the town that is a museum. Interest builds as they tell their neighbors. Even the government is taking a look at this town — torn almost intact from the pages of history.

Recently the Redheads, who actually all have red hair, put up signs pointing the way along a dirt road four miles northwest of Bonaparte in Van Buren County.

Back in 1836, Giles Sullivan, Charles Sanford and a man named Ross drove their teams across the Des Moines River, because there were no roads, and began a town in the plush Des Moines River Valley — a scene like a Grant Wood painting.

Named after Senator

They called it Bentonsport after Missouri's U. S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Early settlers claimed it could have been "bent on sport."

The Redheads are formerly of Des Moines. Herbert Redhead's great, great grandfather, Wesley, was in business in Bentonsport with J. P. Mason in the mid-1800s.

The family now lives in Mason House, a Federal or Modified Georgian two-and-a-half story brick building that was once the center of the town's gay life.

They have kept everything just as it was — much in the way of Williamsburg, Va. — and have opened the solid walnut "steamboat Gothic" post office.

The Redheads show scores of people through the house and town every day during the summer.

Their big hope is that the government will open the post office so it can have a post mark for tourists' post cards. Now the mail is taken away to be cancelled. The government has expressed some interest in this, Mrs. Redhead says.

There is an old country store where chatting is more important than the price of eggs. All the telephones are on one line. They have to be hand rung by a crank and Mrs. Redhead says news travels fast.

The Academy still stands where settlers' children learned to read, and its bell still can toll, although it isn't used. Other Bentonsport memories have faded.

Paper from the town's paper mill, gone now, printed Iowa's first Constitution.

Famous citizens

William A. Clark grew up here before becoming Montana's "Copper King" millionaire and a U. S. senator. Writer Albert Biglow Paine roamed these rolling hills with his childhood pal, Mark Twain. George McCrary went on to become secretary of war for President Rutherford B. Hayes.

There isn't any of the heavy riverboat traffic of the old days. The major east-west train terminal is forgotten. But Mrs. Redhead says the town can be as important to Iowans as it was when it seemed to be headed for metropolitan status.

The hard-working family is attempting to call attention to the town. They say Iowa lags behind the nation in preserving historical places.

Even when traffic is sparse and it doesn't look easy, Mrs. Redhead says her family will stay. And they continue to hope that someday Bentonsport will be an important Iowa shrine.

DAILY GATE CITY

OZRO FRENCH WORKED HARD AT BENTONSPORT

MARCH 8, 1939

In 1852 a sober, hard-working New England preacher was assigned a pastorate at Bentonsport by the American Home Missionary society, an organization supported jointly by Congregational and Presbyterian churches. A graduate of the Andover Theological Seminary, Ozro French had served as a missionary in India for ten years before failing health forced him to return to the United States. In 1851 French was sent to Iowa where he served the attractive little hamlet of Cedar in Lee county. The field of his labors was so restricted, however, that when a vacancy occurred at Bentonsport, French received permission from his superiors to move to that prosperous town. The story of his career at Bentonsport is told by Dr. Philip D. Jordan and Dr. I. H. Pierce in the January issue of "The Palimpsest."

Ozro French purchased a home for $800 and thanked God that his lot had been cast among such people. The routine life of a pioneer Iowa preached is modestly described by Rev. French. "I spend one Sabbath in the month with the Little Cedar church, and preach at two different points. On the other three Sabbaths, I preach each morning at this place. In the afternoon of the first Sabbath, I lecture here on the subject of Foreign Missions, in connection with the monthly concert. The other two Sabbath afternoons, I preach in two neighborhoods, two and five miles distant."

So successful was Rev. French at Bentonsport that in 1856 he had raised sufficient funds to build a chapel. Labor was scarce, however, and much of the manual work fell to the pastor's lot. "I have found it necessary," French complained, "to go into the woods, and with my own hands cut down trees, and get out saw logs, and then assist in hauling the lumber from the mill." The structure was finished and dedicated in 1856 amid general rejoicing.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

OCTOBER 14 1887.

—John Holland, of Bentonsport, one among the oldest citizens of Iowa, died at Bentonsport, Iowa, on Tuesday evening, October 4th, 1887, aged 106, four months and nineteen days. Deceased was born in Castletown, Bearhaven, in the county of Cork, Ireland, on June 15, 1781. He came to America in 1853, and located in New Hampshire, removing from there in 1863, he came to Bonaparte, Iowa, where he lived a short time. From here he went to Bentonsport, which place was his home until death called him hence to receive his reward. Until a short time before his demise he was quite active. Three years ago he visited relatives in New Hampshire. In 1885 there were five persons in Iowa older than Mr. Holland, one of them being Mary Brannan, of Story county, who was 112 years of age. Whether any or all of the five persons are still living we are not prepared to say.—Bonaparte Journal.

Des Moines Sunday Register
Sept. 17, 1967
Local Section 4-L

Making Grenade, Hurt in Blast

BENTONSPORT, IA. — Mrs. Buretta Redhead of Bentonsport is recovering at Burlington Hospital from serious hand wounds suffered when a hand grenade she was working on exploded at the Army Ordnance Plant at Burlington.

Mrs. Redhead was also burned on her face and upper body in the explosion.

She and her husband, Herbert, own the historic Mason House hotel here which they have restored and opened for tourists visiting this former river town five miles southeast of Keosauqua.

Bentonsport home of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Dowell.

Des Moines Sunday Register
July 5, 1964
Local Section 2-L

By George Shane
(The Register's Art Critic)

BENTONSPORT, IA. — The quiet enchantment of a river village, now half-forgotten by the elderly and unknown to a younger generation, still may be enjoyed in a visit to a quiet southeast Iowa community which slumbers on the banks of the Des Moines River.

This is Bentonsport, one of Iowa's most important manufacturing cities during the mid-Nineteenth Century.

Progress somehow forgot Bentonsport, yet the community with its classic Colonial and Federalist - Colonial buildings, never quite died.

Victorian-Pioneer Blend

It lived on as one of those cities "which time forgot" and today draws tourists and Sunday drivers who like to see a place where the graces of a Victorian era are blended with the hardy qualities of early American pioneer life.

Last week this writer made a return visit to Bentonsport, the first such trip in more than 10 years. A decade ago Bentonsport (and the town of Vernon across the river) seemed fallow material for a Williamsburg, Va., type of restoration.

The dam which the first territorial legislature of Iowa, in 1839, had authorized Bentonsport to build, had washed way, lost to the fury of a century of floods.

Restoration project of Col. George W. Orr.

But the old town still was there. The mills which once made quality writing paper, newsprint, textiles and flour were gone. But many of the town landmarks remained.

Usually it is a sad experience for those who cherish the architecture and primitive arts of the past to return to a place like Bentonsport, haunted with the ghosts of old things and holding onto the outer shell of the past.

Notable Exception

But Bentonsport is a notable exception. The visitor today drives down an improved gravel road, south of Keosauqua, and is reassured at once by the sight of the bright white tower of the old two-story Vernon school.

He crosses the old wagon bridge and sees the riffles of the old power dam. These are the churning waters which send their whispered messages of Bentonsport past to the half-somnolent fisherman along the heavily shaded banks of the Des Moines.

At the crossroads is the Mason House Museum, the city's once famous 21-room hotel, now converted into an exquisite Victorian restoration by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead of Des Moines.

Next door is a mid-nineteenth century store which Redhead has restored, using the old Bentonsport railway station for the building.

Beside the store is the old Bentonsport post office, ready for action should progress touch this dreaming community once again.

The neighboring Greef home is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pherrin Dowell of Des Moines. It has undergone the loving restoration which only those who cherish the past may accomplish.

Blount's grocery is now a variety store, handling an impressive range of new and used merchandise.

Modern Ravages

After 10 years, the returning visitor sees the ravages that have been brought by Modern Living. There are a few of the junked cars in weed patches which thrive in all river towns. But here, as in few other places, dedicated citizens have kept abreast of the times, without the rich foundation aids which go into most state and national monuments.

There is a delightful profusion of wild lilies along the roads and this fall the goldenrod will add its color to the fall magic of the wooded hills.

There are some 40 residents of Bentonsport today. It is a convenient place for persons working in stores or industries at Keosauqua or Bonaparte to reside. Community pride is evident. Lawns and gardens are well-kept. There are no tethered goats or rambling hutches for rabbits, often seen in half-forgotten villages.

Up the hill the Presbyterian and Methodist churches are proud guardians of the scene and midway to the river the old Hancock House is unchanged, the bell in its unique onion-dome bell tower ready to give the alarm should the Twentieth Century become too oppressive.

Probably there are seven brick dwellings in Bentonsport which might provide joyous restoration projects to others having the spirit of the Redheads and the Dowells.

Meanwhile, the waters of the Des Moines, flowing over the broken rocks of the old dam, whisper their message of solace to those sentimental ghosts who may still be around, and to the sentimentalists who like to fish and think of yesterday.

Mason House

Operating as a museum, the Mason House is open from 9 to 6 p. m. seven days a week, Apr. 1 through Nov. 1. The admission is 75 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Admission to the pioneer store is 10 cents.

The privilege of napping or picnicking in the riverside park or fishing at a port where steamboats from St. Louis once tied up is free.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

71-

Rich tapestry of past is blended with present in little Bonaparte

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1962

(Editors note: All photographs, unless otherwise stated, are by courtesy of Mrs. Edith Meek Baker of Keokuk who is the granddaughter of Isaiah Meek).

By Dorothy Pickett

Shades of yesterday hover over the unruffled little town of Bonaparte — a community filled with memories of past glories, yet not unmindful of the rich blessings of today.

One hundred and twenty five years have slipped by since a rude hut village on the banks of the Des Moines river, originally called "Meek's Mill," was founded by William Meek, together with his sons and a Dr. Roger N. Cresap.

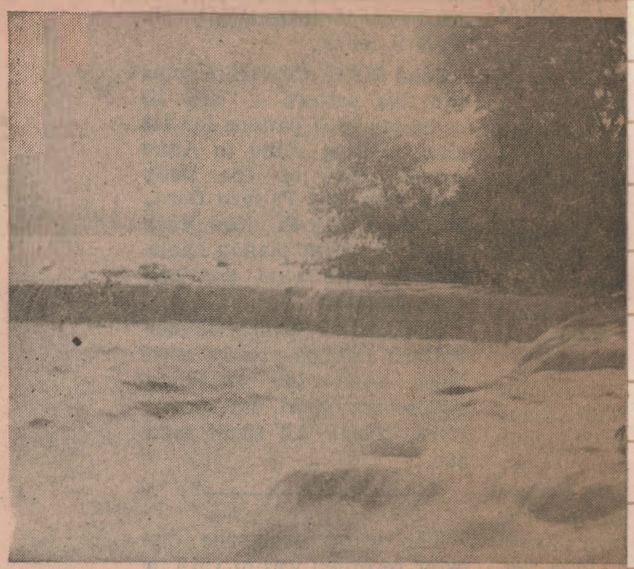
However, the first permanent settler in the immediate vicinity was Robert Coates in 1836, who shortly sold his claim to Robert Moffitt. He, in turn, sold it to William Meek upon his arrival in 1837 with his three daughters and six sons — Johnson, who later settled in Sand Prairie; William going on to California; Benjamin, the youngest son who died in 1838; with the remaining three, Isaiah, Robert and Joseph, destined to perpetuate the business enterprises initiated by their father.

Admired Napoleon

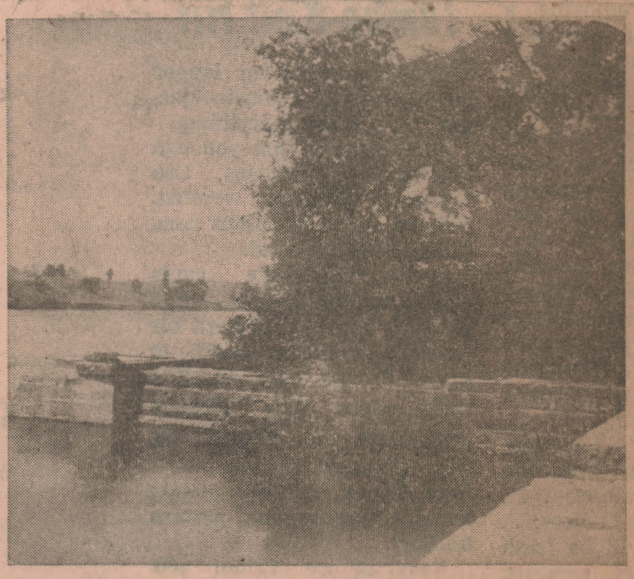
These rugged pioneers of Scottish ancestry cleared the ground preparatory to the laying out of the town by Cresap. Both families, being great admirers of Napoleon III, named the new frontier town "Bonaparte." At about the same time a projected village directly across from Bonaparte on the south side of the Des Moines was named "Napoleon." However it failed to compete with its sister city and never was actually built up.

William Meek's first step in establishing a manufacturing empire in this new-found territory was the building of a dam across the Des Moines river. This first dam, built in 1838, was a crude brush and rock-wing structure, but it served its purpose in supplying power for the first saw and Grist mills.

The following year the legislature granted Meek the



LAST VESTIGE OF BONAPARTE DAM still stands as a sentinel back of the old woolen mill.



EARLY PHOTO of Bonaparte dam.

FIFTH GENERATION OF THE MEEK FAMILY is represented in Bonaparte today by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Meek — Margie (back left), Nancy (right) and Tommy (lower left); and the children of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Meek — Marshall (center back), Isaiah, Michael and Mark (front row).

—Daily Gate City Photo

Meek Brothers Company.
PROPRIETORS OF Bonaparte Woolen Mills (INCORPORATED.
AND CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS.
SANDERS CO. ST. L.

Bonaparte, Iowa. Feby 13th 1905

W. W. B. Daniel,
Keokuk, Iowa,

Dear Boo:

Your favor rec'd and in reply will say that I will be in Farmington in a day or two and will find out all I can about the Elevator. I am under the impression that this property has not been taken care of as it should have been. I will write you again in a day or two

Yours Resp'y
Kirk Meek

right to construct a finer dam ... one of logs reinforced by a rock wall. Work was completed in 1841, and in accordance with stipulations set forth by the state, the dam was 135 feet long with a 35-foot passageway. Such dam and locks were to allow "the passage of steam, keel and flat boats; rafts and other water craft."

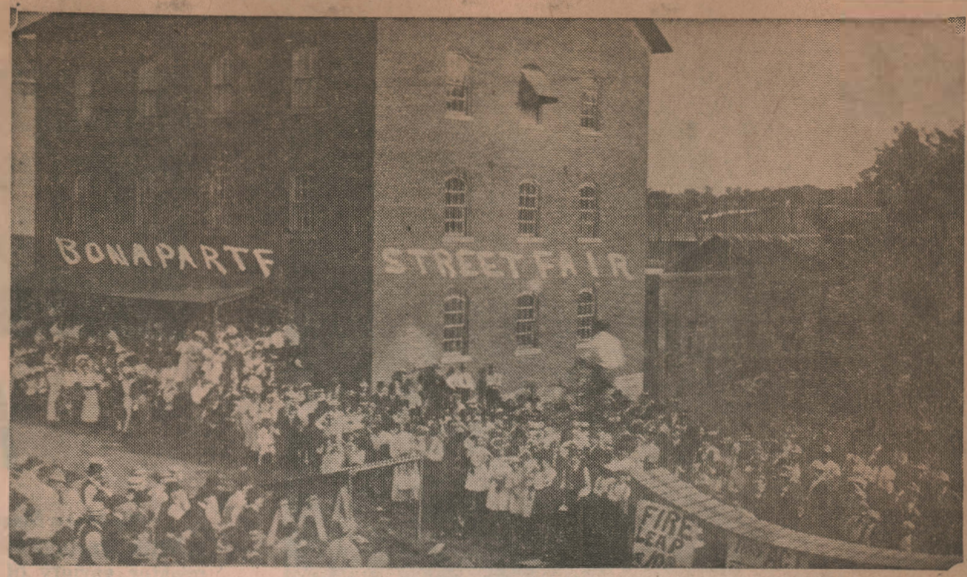
Third dam

At about the time of the Civil War a third and finer crib dam was built for the government and later it was bought outright by the Meeks.

All of these dams played an important part in the industrial development of Bonaparte and the era of prosperity would probably have continued had not a series of nature's disasters stepped in — A flood in 1902 impaired the dam slightly, ice played havoc the following year, another flood in 1903 and finally the remainder of the structure was swept away in the great flood of 1905.

Only a small strip of the stone retaining wall is visible today, but the citizens of Bonaparte are still talking about a dam ... this time it will be for recreational purposes only. The town hopes to complete in the near future a $17,800 dam that will raise the river six or seven feet, thus creating a four mile long lake and a small boat harbor.

From 1841 until after the turn of the century the Meek family — first William Meek, followed by his sons — and in turn, their sons — fostered construction, manufacturing and business enterprises that made Bonaparte one of the outstanding communities in southeastern Iowa. It was the "golden era of the mills."



STREET FAIR TIME IN BONAPARTE at the turn of the century. The Meek Woolen Mill is pictured with the old bridge in the background.

BONAPARTE ACADEMY BUILT IN 1865, later used as public school until destroyed by fire in 1914.

New businesses

New and diversified businesses appeared in rapid succession — a flouring mill was built in 1844, a wool-carding building went up in 1846, a woolen mill — the first of its kind in southern Iowa — was constructed in 1853, and seven years later a saw mill.

The original woolen mill was destroyed by fire in July of 1863 but Robert F. Meek and Brothers immediately started rebuilding and before the end of the year a fine 50 by 85 foot building on the water front became Bonaparte's first "sky scraper." It was three stories high plus a basement and an attic.

This factory housed 1,640 spindles, six sets of carding machines and two shearing machines — all run by water power. The mill turned out 22,000 yards of cloth every four weeks, plus an additional 1600 to 1800 pounds of stocking yarn.

A new saw mill went up in 1860, followed by a new six-story flour mill in 1878.

The Meeks Pants factory opened in 1889 where garments were manufactured from raw wool. It was the only such firm west of the Mississippi river at that time.

Bonaparte Academy

Educational, cultural and spiritual facets of life kept pace with the industrial growth of Bonaparte. The first district school was built in 1844 and served until it was destroyed by fire 15 years later.

In 1865 work started on a $20,000 academy erected by the Bonaparte Academy Association. The institution flourished and in 1878 when Bonaparte had a population of 1200, the academy listed 168 students. The building was later used for the Bonapart public school until it burned in 1914.

Perhaps Bonaparte's present industrial status is not as diversified as at the turn of the century with its woolen and flouring mills, its wagon factory, brick yard, pottery factory, saw mill and glove factory — but it remains a prosperous, cultural and ambitious community surrounded by rich farm lands.

Part of the converted woolen mills is now the Bonapart Community building, housing the fire department, an auditorium and Legion

Hall. Another of the early buildings is now occupied by the Corry Machine and Tool Company. The Pants factory has become a glove factory.

William Kerrs

Bonaparte, in addition to its manufacturing outlets has several retail establishments, a library, and an enterprising press — the weekly Record-Republican, published by another family of long standing in the community — the William Kerrs. His grandfather, William Kerr, I, operated the first lumber yard in Bonaparte.

Approaching the city from the south one sees a row of the old Meek buildings, but the entrance is not made over the original narrow deck span bridge which was built in 1877.

This has been replaced with a continuous steel girder type bridge that is 924 feet long with a 28-foot roadway, constructed at a cost of $409,000. The bridge was dedicated December 3, 1960.

This modern approach might be considered symbolically as Bonaparte's happy blending of the old with the new.

SHEEP ON MEEK'S FARMS of more than 2000 acres. The wool went directly to the woolen mill.

ONE OF BONAPARTE'S oldest buildings now houses the weekly Record-Republican newspaper plant. **—Daily Gate City Photo**

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

APRIL 6, 1893

ISAIAH MEEK.

Death of One of Iowa's Oldest and Wealthiest Manufacturers.

At Bonaparte, Iowa, yesterday morning occurred the death of a citizen whose acquaintance was not bounded by the town in which he lived nor the great state which he helped to upbuild. This man was Isaiah Meek. He had been ill for several weeks, but it was hoped that his life would be spared for many years yet. But that hope was vain.

Mr. Meek was born in Harrison county, O., Jan. 13, 1821, and came to Bonaparte with his father, Judge Meek, in 1837. His father established the Bonaparte woolen mills, which have grown to be the largest manufacturing industry of the character in Iowa. Mr. Meek and his brother Robert succeeded their father in the business and greatly developed and enlarged it. The brother died about eight years ago and Mr. Meek continued the business, which had also grown to include a flour mill and other enterprises, and established a pants factory a few years ago. His wealth was estimated at nearly or quite a quarter of a million and a small army of men and women owed employment to him. Personally Mr. Meek was a splendid type of the western gentlemen and had the honor and respect of all.

There survive him his wife and the following children: Mrs. John S. Moore and W. B. Daniel, of this city; Mrs. T. W. Boyer and Hugh, Bryon and Kirk, of Bonaparte. A brother, Johnson of Vincennes, and Joseph of Bonaparte, also survive him.

DAILY GATE CITY

APRIL 30, 1934

OLD LANDMARK BEING WRECKED AT BONAPARTE

BONAPARTE, Iowa, April 30— The wrecking for road material of the old Meek wool house here is attracting much attention as this building is one of the landmarks of the town and was erected about seventy-five years ago. This building is of stone and is being crushed by the city crusher for road building, this work being one of the projects in the work relief program. Wool was sorted and dyed in this building for many years and it was also used as a wool store house for many years. In later years it was used as a public garage but has been vacant since 1922. Forty persons have employment in Van Buren county under the new relief measure but very few if any, receive more than thirty cents an hour or have work for more than a day or two each week. Seven of the men, in charge of the county engineering department are building a bridge near Bentonsport, six are working at Farmington and eleven men are preparing material for road work at the stone quarry near Keosauqua.

FROM THE FILES OF THE LATE CALLED HISTORY
A. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

75.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1875.

RAMPANT BONAPARTISTS.

A Squad of Women Make a Raid on the Saloons.

BONAPARTE, Ia., Sept. 10.

EDITORS GATE CITY: There was the biggest excitement in town yesterday that has occurred here for some time. About a dozen of the most prominent ladies in town armed themselves with axes, hatchets, &c., and set out for war on the saloons. They did not believe in praying and singing as the crusaders did. They adopted more forcible measures. They first visited the billiard hall and saloon of R. T. Cresap, where they proceeded to empty out all the liquor they could find, which consisted of five or six kegs of beer and one or two barrels of wine.

They didn't do any other damage there, but proceeded to Pulse's saloon, where they smashed in the door and entered. The leader ordered the bar-keeper from behind the bar and proceeded to demolish things generally, smashing candy jars, bottles, decanters, glasses, clocks, and everything pertaining to the bar. They then went out and smashed in all the windows. The damage here was about $200.

By this time about all the men and boys in town had gathered together and followed them to the next saloon, which was that of Davy Crane. Here the leader gave the door—which was locked—a tap with an ax, breaking it open, when they entered and commenced their work of destruction.

The Constable here stepped in and endeavored to arrest them, but it was no use, they were determined and nothing could stop them. After smashing up about all the bar fixtures, and finding no kegs or barrels, they left, and there being no more saloons to conquer, they went home.

The affair created a big excitement, some taking sides with the women, but most of the citizens opposing such unlawful proceedings. The saloon keepers say they will make them pay all damages.

BONY.

THE GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 3, 1875.

THE BONAPARTE SALOON-DEMOLISHING CASE.

Preliminary Examination of the Ladies who Participated in It.

The trial of the Bonaparte ladies for demolishing the saloons at that place, came off last week, James Hagerman, appeared for the State, and Judge Williams, of Ottumwa, for the defendants. The charge was malicious trespass. After a two days' trial, during which the ball of justice was packed with people interested in the proceedings, the Court discharged all but Mrs. Joseph Meek, and ordered her held under bonds for her appearance at the next term of the District Court. Her friends offered to go upon her bond, but she declined to give bail at all, but announced her readiness to go to jail, and would not permit bail to be given for her. This was a phase of the case not anticipated by the Court. The lady, it is said, reported at the train next morning ready to go to jail, but nobody appeared to claim the right to take her there, and she is still at large. The Court has the matter under consideration, but the conundrum, "what will he do with her," is, up to date, unsolved.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 22, 1870.

REMINISCENCES.—Our friend Dr. Cresap, of Bonaparte, visited us yesterday. And later came the new organ of the Van Buren Democracy, *The Van Buren Democrat*, and has this little scrap of biography and history, not uninteresting hereabouts.

He was born in Allegheny county, Md., Sep 10th, 1809. He lived in Virginia a short time; went to Tennessee in 1829; went to near Chattanooga for a short time; went from there to Northern Alabama. From there he came to the foot of the Des Moines rapids Wisconsin territory, where Keokuk is now situated. He landed there about the first of April, 1833. He was then on his way to Galena. His, as well as six other steamers, were delayed, to light over the rapids.

The delay gave him an opportunity to talk with some of the people who lived at that point.

Dr. Samuel C. Muir had lived there; was a well educated gentleman and a noted physician, a graduate of Edinburg, and was a surgeon in the United State army. Dr. Muir died a short time before Dr. Cresap's arrival Several of the inhabitants advised and imp rtuned him to locate there, and take the place of Dr. M., who was the only physician there. He concluded to do so.

He rented a cabin from a Mr. Neddy. John Gaines, Isaac R. Camp, Moses Stilwell, Joshua Pa lon and Paul Bissette each had houses of moderate dimensions. Madame St. Amant and her son in-law, William McBride, lived in a log house about one mile above the landing, and near to a pretty, clear spring, that gushed from a ledge of rocks on the bank.

These were all the buildings he remembers, except the principal structure, which was one story high and contained six rooms. It was the business house of this section of the country—or rather it became so after the fur company left it. A store and tavern were established in it. The rooms were used for merchandising, drinking, fiddling, fighting, dancing and sleeping in, and much of the time, in the various departments, quite a brisk business was done in that establishment, which gained for it a wide-spread notoriety and it was dignified notoriously by the appellation of "Rat Row."

Money was tolerably plenty, and Rat Row was really the treasury department of this section. The general banking business of the "Row" was transacted between the hours of supper and breakfast.

While he lived there he noticed many hard cases and some of quite depressed character. He left there in 1834 and came to this point, where he made his home, and has continuously resided on this quarter section, on a part of which is situated the town of Bonaparte

Since he moved to this point he has made many visits to Keokuk, and has watched with lively interest the growth of that place.

The Daily Gate City.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 18, 1871.

LOOKING BACK.—We said the other day that our friend Dr. R. N. Cresap of Bonaparte had sat down in our sanctum and given us an entertaining chat about early times hereabouts. Dr. C. came up the Mississippi on the first boat that made its way up the river, and put in an appearance at this port in the early Spring of 1833. It was his purpose to go to Galena as his future home. But above here the ice still locked the river from shore to shore. And Keokuk wasn't the railroad center then that it has since become. There wasn't any convenient way of getting further northward. Then Dr. Muir, that pioneer Galen, had died just a few days before, and left this incipient borough without a hero of the pill-bags. The few well regulated citizens that were here didn't fancy dying without medical aid. Finding Dr. C. was of the profession they persuaded him to stop here. Keokuk was an inviting place for a grave yard at that time, but scarcely for living, to any body who hankered after a metropolitan abode. Rat Row nestled in pre-eminence of amplitude at the bottom of the hill; and its six consecutive doors opened as a home to about all the people there were here. A little below the present foot of Main street, Isaac R. Campbell had his little cabin of boatstores and groceries. And there Dr. C. hung out his shingle and disposed of his little stock of drugs in store fashion. A path led up through the woods; rather jack-oak thicket, to the level of Second street, where Palean had his cabin. And another path through the thicket, led out a little farther to another cabin where Stilwell lived. A Frenchman, name forgotten, lived near Stilwell. There may have been one or two other cabins on the present site of Keokuk. But they were in the brush, as all of this metropolis was at that time. A lively creek murmured to neighborly oaks and elms and rubbed its wet cheek against the outstretched arms of the willows, along where Johnson street flow is.

All the brow of the hill hereabouts where we write was an Indian burrying ground. Not particularly careful were the aborigines about the depths to which they consigned the mortal remains of the braves

who had gone off on the long journey to the Unknown hunting grounds. And so a Sabbath morning ramble through Keokuk woods might bring you up standing, till you got used to it, with a copper colored hand or foot pushed up out of the ground like Banquo's ghost. Or a grinning skull staring with hollowness for eyes into the woody silence you had invaded.

Dr. Cresap was here a year. Shortly after he came the cholera broke out. A steamboat brought it and left it. One morning Stilwell called for Cresap to go with him and get a piece of fresh beef that John Gains, or some other settler had slaughtered. Going and coming, Stilwell complained of being unwell. Dr. C had hardly reached his drugstore, when he was summoned to Stilwell's cabin. It was only a few moments since they had parted, but Stilwell was scarcely recognizable. He lay upon the floor blackened and contorted. In a short time he was dead. It ran a short and violent race in the little town. Dr. Cresap was himself attacked with it. He checked its paroxysms, but lay for twenty-one days without taking any kind of nourishment whatever. Dr. Galland, not likely to be soon forgotten in this generation, was his physician.

Finding that he was recovering his strength but slowly, Dr. C. concluded the following season to change his home. A brother of Dr. Galland at Farmington had brought famous accounts of the beauty and fertility of the Des Moines valley. It was in its native primitiveness. No plow had furrowed its prairies; scarce a trace of the pioneer's ax anywhere in the woods. In the Spring of 1834 a company of four rode through the woods and over the prairies to Farmington. At Sweet Home the hungry travelers found a late meal at a settler's cabin. An extra meal was no every-day occurrence in that habitation. And a chicken having been slain for the benefit of the new comers, a party of tow-headed youngsters stood about with hungry eyes, as the squad ate like men who had been all day in the saddle. And as the feast grew protracted, with one sympathetic impulse the youngsters sat up a simultaneous howl, crying "they're eatin' up all the chicking," and piled out of doors in tumultuous disgust.

Traveling up the Des Moines to the present site of Bonaparte, the beauty of that locality attracted them, and they pitched their tent and staked off claims. The tract of land Dr. C. then chose is still his home

Constitution-Democrat.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1892.

ISAIAH MEEK DEAD.

He Passed Away Early Friday Morning at His Home In Bonaparte--Biographical Sketch.

At his home in Bonaparte Friday morning the venerable Isaiah Meeks passed away, after an illness of over two weeks' duration. He had been a sufferer from the grip, which developed into pneumonia, causing his death.

Mr. Meek was born in Harrison county, Ohio, January 13, 1821. His father, Judge Meek, was a native of Ireland, and his mother was a Virginian. In 1837 he came to Bonaparte with his father, who had been territorial judge in Michigan, and has ever since made that place his home. All his life he has been engaged in the milling business, and his Bonaparte woolen and flour mills are well known, he being the largest manufacturer of woolen goods in Iowa.

He was associated in business with his brother, Robert Meek, up to the time of the latter's death eight years ago, when he bought the outstanding interest and has since conducted the vast interests himself. He was one of the very few men in the northwest who ever made a great success of the woolen mill business. He was also a farmer on an extensive scale, and owned large quantities of land in Van Buren county. Retiring in disposition and modest in demeanor, Mr. Meek seldom showed his greatness. He was essentially the poor man's friend and his demise will be mourned by the laboring man rather than the capitalist. It pol itics he was an uncompromising democrat, and only his inate modesty prevented his attaining prominence in national government circles. But a few years ago he was prominently spoken of as a candidate for congress, but declined to present his claims. He was married at Columbus, Iowa, to Cynthia A. Ingalls, who, with the following children, survives him. Mrs. John S. Moore and Mrs. W. B. Daniel, of this city, and H. H. Meek, Kirk Meek, Byron Meek and Mrs. Dr. Boyer, all of Bonaparte.

Constitution-Democrat.

APRIL 13, 1892.

ISAIAH MEEKS.

An honorable and useful life was ended Friday morning. Isaiah Meeks is dead. Why is it that the announcement of the sad event causes sorrow and regret among those who have never seen Isaiah Meeks in this life? Because the fame of his kind heart and good deeds have gone abroad throughout the land, He was a good man. And that is as noble an epitaph as could be written of any human being. He was the friend of the poor. In the conduct of his vast business enterprises he had the inclination to think of the welfare and comfort of his fellow beings. He provided hundreds with opportunities to help themselves and get on in life. There was not a single thought of him but in kindness. He had no enemies. In him was found a splendid example of our rugged strong western manhood. He belonged to a school of pioneers who are passing away, and it is with regret that it must be said that there are not those who may take their places. The conditions which developed such men as Isaiah Meeks no longer exist. There are few of them left, and there the stand, a decimated band, upon the narrow peninsula on the eve of passing over to the great unknown beyond. Iowa was proud of Isaiah Meeks as a citizen, and the west was honored in that he was one of her sons. All the honors which he wore he won as a private citizen. Had he desired public honors they were his for the asking. When importuned to accept important and honorable office of a national character, he steadfastly and firmly declined. He considered that his field of usefulness lay in another direction. Such a man could not have been other than a noble and kind husband and father. Truly his domestic life was worthy of emulation. Those who deeply sympathize with the bereaved family in their sorrow and grief are not only of this vicinity. They are everywhere.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, SATURDAY, APRIL 23. 1887

A Voice from the Past.

Bonaparte Journal.

Quite a curiosity was brought to our office this week by Robt. Cresswell of Vernon Prairie. It is part of the trunk of an elm tree which was cut down by him for firewood last winter. The trunk had been sawed off into stove lengths, and in splitting it up one of Mr. Cresswell's sons noticed a wind shake about four inches from the outside. He concluded to try the wedge there, thinking it would be easier split. After splitting off a piece he was surprised to see something resembling letters on the wood and called the attention of the others to his discovery. The balance of the outside of the log was then carefully taken off, care being taken not to damage or efface any marks thereon. An examination showed that the marks had been made with a sharp instrument, seemingly a small ax or hatchet. It has been examined by quite a number of persons and the most that can be made out of the marks is something like this:

+ O M A M M x

The curious thing about the inscription is that it is covered by 92 annual growths, and the tree was deadened two years ago--making it certainly 94 years since they have been cut. Now 94 years ago what white man passed through this country? (for the marks are certainly English letters made by a white man) what was he doing and what do the marks commemorate? The first white man of whom we have any record, passed the point where Keokuk now stands, in 1773; only 8 years before the time indicated by the rings on the wood, and for 30 years thereafter we have no record of any others reaching that point. Can any one give us any light on the subject?

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DAILY GATE CITY
MARCH 18, 1937

OLD RESIDENT OF BONAPARTE IS SUMMONED

Kirk Meek, a Member of One of Iowa's Oldest Families, Dies at the Graham Hospital at 11:25 O'Clock Last Night.

Kirk Meek of Bonaparte, father of Mrs. Edith Baker of Keokuk, and a member of one of Iowa's oldest pioneer families, died at the Graham hospital here last night at 11:25 o'clock after a period of illness. He has been in the hospital here for the last ten days.

The Meek family has resided in the Bonaparte vicinity for 100 years and at one time operated woolen mills which were among the most extensive in the middle west. The first representative of the family to come to Iowa was Juge William Meek, the decedent's grandfather, who settled in what later became the town of Bonaparte in 1837.

Born in Bonaparte.

At that time the place was known as Meek's Mill and it carried that name until the present town of Bonaparte was laid out in 1844.

Kirk Meek was born in Bonaparte on August 13, 1861, and was the youngest child of the late Isaiah and Cynthia Ann Ingels Meek. All of his life was spent in Bonaparte where he attended the public school.

He also attended Howes' Academy at Bonaparte, Knox college at Galesburg, Ill., and the University of Chicago.

In Woolen Business.

After completing his education he returned to Bonaparte to enter business with his father and brothers in woolen manufacturing. The firm was known as Meeks' Bros., and was one of the most substantial in this part of the country.

On June 24, 1886, Mr. Meek was united in marriage with Agnes Bell Marshall who survives him. Three children were born, Hazel Kirk who died in infancy, Mrs. Edith Meek Baker of Keokuk, and Kirk Marshall Meek of Bonaparte.

Besides the wife and two children he is survived by four grandchildren, Kirk Meek Baker and Marshall C. Baker of Keokuk, Dean Miller Meek and Edith Meek of Bonaparte.

The body was taken to Bonaparte this morning.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION LABEL KEOKUK, IA.

Sep 30, 1904

CITY NEWS.

—State Line Democrat: The Meek Bros. have surely had hard luck, which has pursued them for a number of years. Beginning with the panic of 1894, which found them with a large stock of wool and woolen goods on hand, wool went down to 10 cents a pound and woolens declined one-half. They must have lost $20,000 and perhaps much more than that. Then came the enforced litigation in regard to the fishway in the dam, which was very expensive. Attorneys took advantage of the large amount of property involved and inflated their professional fees accordingly. Then came the big flood of 1903, which carried away their dam and submerged their factory and machinery. Their loss at that time was probably not less than $25,000 to $30,000. Then came the flood of 1905 which damaged their property considerably and caused a long suspension of work at a time when the mills needed to be run night and day. None of these disasters could have been foreseen and were not the result of any fault or negligence of theirs. No ordinary business firm could withstand such repeated strokes of ill-fortune, and taken in connection with the enforced sale of the property at a fourth or a fifth of its value, constitute a series of misfortunes that few mortals are called upon to bear.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

79-

DAILY GATE CITY.
JULY 24, 1939

New Building Will Replace Old Log School

(Gate City Tri-State News)
BONAPARTE, Iowa, July 24—The contract for building the new Pleasant Ridge school house in Lick Creek township was awarded Saturday to John Selman and son of Drakesville. Work of constructing the new building is scheduled to start immediately and is to be completed by October 1.

The contract price was reported as slightly over $3,400. Six bidders submitted proposals at the letting of the contract.

The new building will replace an old log building which was erected during the Civil war. It was the only log structure in Iowa in active use as a school, according to school officials in that vicinity. The original log structure is still intact, but the weather boaards had been nailed on the exterior. The school is also known as the Stadler school and is the oldest school house in the vicinity. 1939

THE GATE CITY,
Published Daily & Weekly by
HOWELL & DELAPLAIN.

OFFICE: CORNER MAIN & SECOND STREETS.

50,000 lbs. of Wool Wanted

By the Undersigned.

THE Proprietors of the Bonaparte Woolen Factory, would inform their friends and patrons that they have established a branch of their Factory Woolen Store, at

No. 65 Main St., bet. 2d & 3d, Keokuk, Iowa.

We offer the largest and most substantial Stock of Factory Woolen Goods that has ever been offered in this market, at wholesale and retail at precisely the price that we sell for at the Factory. Our stock consists of

Heavy and Light Cassimeres, Satinets Jeans. Tweeds Doeskins, Dress Flannels, Shirting Flannels, Sheetings, Gray and White Blankets, Gents' and Ladies' Shawls Balmorals Knitting and Weavers' Yarn,

All of which we will sell low for Cash, or exchange for Wool. We want all the Wool we can get, at our Wool Depot, and Bonaparte Factory Store.

may18 1868 MEEK BROTHERS TO

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

Burning Limestone Was Once Common Thing at Bonaparte

MONDAY, MAR. 22, 1937 * * * * * *

ONLY ONE KILN NOW STANDING

(Gate City Tri-State News)
BONAPARTE, Iowa, March 22—Opening of a limestone quarry on the C. S. Stebbins farm across the river from Bonaparte has revived memories of the old-timers to the days when the working of line kilns was an active business in this section which abounds in coal and limestone.

There were several kilns at that time. One man owned two, selling from one while the other was burning. Now only one of the numerous kilns remains standing. It is located on Slaughter's creek about four miles east of Bonaparte.

Built to Last.

For seventy years this kiln, constructed in the days when things were made to last, has survived the ravages of time and the elements. The construction was done by Asa Steadman and his father, James Steadman, pioneer Bonaparte stone workers.

Twenty-four feet wide and thirty feet high, the kiln has a circular hole extending from the top to the bottom. The method of burning lime was to place brush or light, easily kindled wood at the bottom and then add a layer of heavy wood or coal and finally a layer of limestone. More limestone and fuel were added in alternate layers. When the kiln was filled, the fuel at the bottom was set afire and the contents of the kiln left to burn, usually for several weeks.

Like Popcorn.

Older people tell of the strange noises caused by the burning lime. They also tell of raking out pieces of the burned limestone and putting cold water on them, the operation causing the stone to swell like huge grains of popcorn.

Lime from the kiln was used in many of the older buildings here. At that time lime was used extensively as mortar in building chimneys and other stone work.

The vicinity in which the kiln is located is also known as a habitat for rattlesnakes. Levi Cummings, a few years ago, killed one of the largest ever known in this part of the country. The reptile had 21 rattles and a button.

The location of the old lime kiln has been forgotten by most people and now stands alone. It has served its purpose and is now only a dim memory of bygone days.

LONE SURVIVOR

Old lime kiln on Slaughter's creek, three miles east of Bonaparte, is only survivor of several which once dotted countryside in that neighborhood.

Ask your Dealer for BONAPARTE PANTS!

AND SEE THAT YOU GET THEM.

None Genuine except those bearing the name of ISAIAH MEEK on the Ticket.

1890

80-

The Cresap House in Bonaparte.

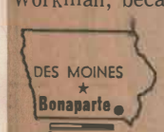
Mrs. Leonard Rex (left) and Mrs. Clarence Workman

Two Women Convert Old House Into Museum

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

BONAPARTE, IA. — The old Dr. R. N. Cresap house in Bonaparte, which was built in 1846, is being restored and is now the Bonaparte Museum.

Two Bonaparte women, Mrs. Leonard Rex and Mrs. Clarence Workman, became interested in the house and decided it should be restored. They started work in May and now the museum is open from 9 to 5.



Free Tours

Located two blocks east of the Des Moines River bridge and 1½ blocks north, the six-room brick house has been furnished with antiques. There will be no admission charge for tours but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Mrs. Rex, owner of the house, bought it from Mrs. Workman in December of 1967. Mrs. Workman bought the property from the late Jeannette Jerome 25 years ago.

Dr. Roger Nelson Cresap was one of the first settlers of Bonaparte, the oldest river town of Van Buren County. He was born Sept. 26, 1809, in Maryland and died on an excursion boat, the Golden Eagle, at Martins Landing May 31, 1880, when he was 71.

According to records of the present owner, Dr. Cresap homesteaded in this area in 1821. His homestead was just east of the present town.

Five years later, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Dr. John Temple, he went to Hampshire County, Virginia, and began the study of medicine. In the fall of 1829 he moved to Marysville, Tenn. He completed the study of medicine and graduated from Knoxville Medical College in 1830. In October of that year in Tennessee, when he was 25, he married Angeline Thompson.

Move to Keokuk

They moved to Keokuk, Ia., in the spring of 1833 and were engaged in the grocery and drug business.

According to other historians, it was in the fall of 1834 that Dr. Cresap located a homestead in the Bonaparte area.

He and his wife, Angeline, lived in a cabin east of the present town. He farmed and practiced medicine. Angeline's death was the first of this new settlement on Dec. 10, 1835. She was 24. She was survived by a son, John T. B. A daughter, Mary, preceded her in death.

Dr. Cresap's second wife, Mary S. Keith, was born Nov. 19, 1813, in Culpeper County, Virginia. They were married Oct. 3, 1836. Their only daughter, Angeline, died Sept. 15, 1844, when she was 7.

The town was named Bonaparte on Apr. 8, 1841, in honor of Napoleon. Originally called Meek's Mills, it was laid out in 1837 by Dr. Cresap and William Meek and was in Wisconsin Territory.

Build "Tavern"

The Cresaps lived in the house until they built "The Tavern" a two-story building which was the first hotel.

The Sidney Parker family moved into the house in 1863 or 1864. Legend has it that Mrs. Parker hid her two daughters in the basement when she heard a group of Mormons was to pass through the town.

It was often told that the Mormons took young girls away with them as they traveled across the country.

On June 3, 1867, Dr. and Mrs. Cresap sold to Sidney and Margaret Parker. Later, Mrs. Carrie Parker bought the house. Jeannette Virginia Jerome bought the place in June of 1935.

From Mrs. Workman's 1847 silver from England, to the old organ in the parlor, the house has the old, the cherished treasures of a bygone era.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1870.

HENRY COOLIDGE,
BONAPARTE, IOWA,

A sufferer from Cancer for over 30 years, and after having endured a thousand tortures from different medicines and operations, has discovered from his own experiments a

A Sure and Permanent Cure

FOR

CANCER!

And Challenges the World to find its Equal!

☞ Please investigate for yourself. ☜
nov6-d1t&wit

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

81.

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF IOWA

KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY By JOHN ELY BRIGGS MONDAY, OCT. 28, 1935

Denmark Academy as it appeared about 1905.

3. Academies

When Robert Lucas came to Iowa in the summer of 1838 to be the first Governor of the new Territory, he made a trip to Dubuque and back to Burlington. He visited most of the settlements along the way and talked with many people. Though he found pioneer conditions everywhere, he was surprised at the culture of the men and women he met. They were intelligent, educated ladies and gentlemen with high hopes and ideals.

The pioneers who started the towns along the Mississippi river, who staked out claims for arms in the woods and on the prairie of the Black Hawk Purchase, who built churches and published newspapers were determined that Iowa should be a land of opportunity. It is not surprising that the representatives of these people made laws creating schools for higher education before their children had finished the simple subjects. Even while Iowa was a part of Wisconsin Territory, leading citizens in Dubuque, Denmark, Fort Madison, West Point, Burlington, Mount Pleasant, Augusta, Farmington, and Davenport were invited by law to establish academies, or colleges as some were called. Only the one at West Point was actually built, but the act of the legislature shows what the people wanted to do.

When Iowa became a separate Territory, these academies were approved and more were planned. They were to provide training in science and literature for both boys and girls who had finished the common schools. The subjects were similar to those now offered in high school. Foreign language, especially Latin, algebra, bookkeeping, surveying, English rhetoric and literature, nature, and the Bible were usually listed. The academies organized by companies of stockholders, were to be supported by tuition. They were not public schools.

Although many of the academies that were planned while Iowa was a Territory were never opened and others soon closed, some lived for a long time and did much good. Of these none was more important than Denmark Academy. Established before Iowa became a state, it served the educational needs of its community in Lee county for almost 70 years, and during part of that time its influence extended beyond the borders of the state.

The village of Denmark, which in 1838 contained three houses and a Congregational church, was inhabited by people from New England. Moved by Yankee zeal for learning, and encouraged by the minister, Reverend Asa Turner, the Denmark pioneers began to talk about starting a college as early as 1837. Five years later the Territorial legislature established Dnmark Academy, the first "high" school in Iowa that outlived its infancy.

When Denmark Academy opened in 1845, only a few local pupils and one teacher were present. At first a low, one-story building was used for school, church, and town hall, but in 1848 a neat two-story stone home for the academy was built. By 1852 only 18 students enrolled in September, but before the end of the year 90 had attended. Two years later the number of students had more than doubled, and the academy continued to grow. The peak of attendance was reached in 1865 with 270 students from 15 States and Territories. A larger building was erected in 1867.

For girls who went to Denmark Academy at that time there was a special course. During the first year they studied grammar, arithmetic, Latin, algebra, physiology and geography. The second year's work included more Latin, geometry, history, and botany, geology, geography and astronomy. In the last year, morals, nature, Christianity, literature, Latin, and chemistry were the principal subjects. Meanwhile, the boys were in the scientific course which contained no Latin, but added bookkeeping, economics, surveying and government. For those who wanted to go to college, special preparation was offered. And because of the increasing demand, both vocal and instrumental music was taught.

Although the academy was not a boarding school, parents were told that "those in charge would maintain a watchful care" over all pupils. Morals and correct habits were taught every day, and lessons from the Bible once a week. All pupils were expected to go to church on Sunday. Swearing, card playing, dancing, and the use of intoxicating liquor were forbidden. Here was "just the kind of school to which parents would wish to send their children." Moreover, Denmark was "a quiet, healthy place" which, though not on a railroad, was easily reached, and where students were "secure from the temptations" of large towns. Character was put before book learning.

For half a century Denmark Academy did much for education in Iowa. Its graduates held important places in public life as teachers and civic leaders. But when public high schools were

tablished everywhere, attendance at the academy dwindled until it was again only a local school. At last, when a new high school building was erected in 1912, the name Denmark Academy High school was adopted, and so the old academy passed into history.

Other Iowa academies were much like the one at Denmark in character and influence. Howe's Academy at Mount Pleasant was remarkably successful in training scholars and gentlemen. At Iowa City the old Mechanics' Academy, McClain's Academy, and Willis's Academy served a useful purpose. Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage. the Prairie Home Seminaary at Waterloo, and many others did their share in preparing young people for more intelligent living.

The early academies welcomed both boys and girls. About the time of the Civil war, however. several schools were started especially for girls. The Female Eclectic Institute at Davenport aimed to prepare young women for "independent support" and also for "domestic life." This was a new idea. The subjects proposed were of a practical sort for teachers, milliners, writers, and home-makers. Sad to say, however, the plan does not seem to have been popular. Girls still preferred an education that would fit them for college, or at least to be cultivated ladies, rather than practical training in housekeeping or some trade. Typewriters had not yet been invented.

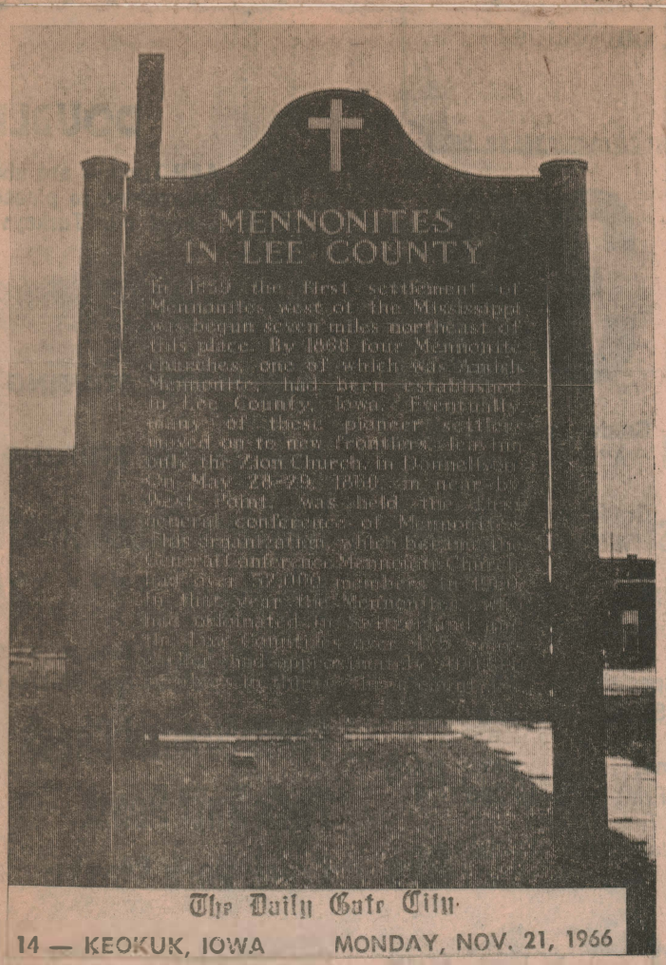
The Mount Pleasant Female Seminary was probably more typical. This was a boarding school. The 80 girls who attended the first year (1863) were advised to bring "an English dictionary, an atlas, and a Bible," as well as an umbrella, a pair of thick-soled shoes, and part of the furnishings of a room, "including a carpet if desired." Parents were asked not to provide expensive jewelry and dresses, or send candy, because these caused "discontent and sickness among the pupils" and brought "increased care, anxiety and labor for the teachers." Gentlemen were not allowed to call without special permission.

Some of the other academies for girls were the Mount Ida Female college at Davenport, the Dubuque Female Seminary, Lyons Female college, and St. Agatha's Seminary at Iowa City. With the growth of the public school system, these special schools, like the other academies, lost much of their usefulness. Gradually their attendance shrank and one by one they closed their doors.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1947

Donnellson Has Lee County's Only Mennonite Church



THIS SIGN commemorates the Mennonites of Lee county who settled in the Donnellson area and organized a number of churches including Zion Mennonite church which is still active. —Gate City

BY CAROLYN MENKE.

DONNELLSON, Ia.—Donnellson today has the only Mennonite church in Lee county—Zion Mennonite. There were once three thriving Mennonite congregations in Lee county—at Franklin and West Point. But members of those congregations migrated at the close of the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries to Kansas and Illinois and in the years following the churches became extinct.

The church at Donnellson celebrated its 75th year in October, 1926, accordingly it must have opened as a county parish about the year 1851. At the present time the congregation is 96 years old. When the Diamond or 75th anniversary was celebrated, there was an all-day Sunday meeting in which three choirs sang; the active choir of 1926, the choir of 25 years previously, and the choir of 50 years before.

The first Mennonites came to Iowa in 1839 and settled in West Point township, in Lee county. The first family to arrive were Mr. and Mrs. John C. Krebiel and son, John J. By 1845 there were enough new settlers to establish a church of their faith. John Miller, a native of Bavaria, Germany, was an old and saintly man, to whom the Mennonites eagerly looked to begin their first church organization. He was to preach on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 1845, but during the night he was murdered by two robbers, the Hodge brothers, who were hanged in Burlington a few months later. The death of Miller delayed the organization plans until four years later when a log church was built one and one-half miles east of Franklin, and three miles south of West Point. Because it was built in the woods the log church was known as the "Busch Kirche." In later years the church was discontinued, but in 1941 the foundation stones still marked its location, and a few tombstones nearby indicated the burial of some of its first members.

A Mennonite church was dedicated in West Point in 1863, although for years prior to that the Mennonites held services there. One of its first preachers was John C. Krebiel, grandfather of the famous Dr. Hertzler, known as "The Horse and Buggy Dr." of Halstead, Kansas.

Settlement Grows.

A new inrush of Mennonites from Germany arrived in Lee county in 1852, and settled in Franklin township, in which Donnellson is located. With the coming of these families, a larger house of worship was needed, and a stone church with a basement for use as a schoolroom was built two miles northwest of Donnellson. At an early date, the church became known as the Zion church, a name it retained. Henry Ellenberger was selected as the first pastor, and served for about eight years. In 1861, Christian Schowalter was chosen and ordained the following year, after which he served as pastor for 42 years. He also taught the basement school. He was a capable leader, and accomplished much for his church.

The Mennonites in Lee county are members of a church that numbers 400,000 adherents, scattered through many parts of the world.

The Iowa Mennonites are the descendants of the Swiss Anabaptist Brethren, whose leader was Menno Simon, who established his new sect in 1536. Later the more strict members, adhering to certain rigid rules became known as the Amish, with Jacob Aman of Alsace their leader.

Their Belief.

The Mennonite-Amish took for their watch word the Biblical command of "Be ye not conformed to the world." This they interpreted to mean that the Christian's sense of values, his interests, his purpose in life, must all be different from those of the unbelievers. The outward expression of this command took the form of extreme simplicity in dress and home furnishings; the plain black bonnet, plain full skirted dress of the women, absence of all adornment even to the wedding ring; the wide brimmed black hat of the men; the round legged trousers; sober square beard, and the absence of mustache. The houses, built for convenience, held furniture constructed for use, with no embellishments. The walls bore no pictures. The church was a "box" with no spire; the worship without musical instrument. All of these restrictions meant the building of a strongly knit community group that had a social life distinct from that of the surrounding neighborhood. The Mennonites did not vote, did not go to law to settle disputes, did not enter military service. Their way of life, they emphasized, was the way of peace.

Become More Liberal.

While the costumes of the Mennonite-Amish changed little during the last century, some amount of liberal thought gradually seeped into the Iowa communities and elsewhere, until 1942 saw the churches varied from the most conservative "Old Order of Amish" to the most liberal "General Conference Mennonites." The latter remained conservative in religion and personal habits but adopted the newest machinery in their farming, as is the case in Amish communi-

ZION MENNONITE CHURCH is one of four churches in Donnellson and its roots date back to the earliest days of the town. —Gate City

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

Mennonites Celebrate–

Donnellson Church Reviews Its 100 Years of Service

FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 1951

BY ANNA INGERSOLL

DONNELLSON, Ia.—Following is colorful history of Zion Memmonite church at Donnellson, which is celebrating its centennial this month:

On September 11, 1850, several Mennonite families left Germany for several reasons, such as religious freedom, relief from military service and to make a more substantial living. They arrived in New York, October 29, and on November 9 they arrived in the home of friends in Ashland county, Ohio, where they remained during the winter. The following spring they arrived at West Point, Iowa, where sveral Mennonite families had made their home as early as 1839. From there they inspected the surrounding country and found Franklin township, Lee county, the most suitable place to make their homes. The group consisted of five families and a few single men. They started a congregation in the fall of 1851 and held their first church service in a little frame school house, one mile north of the Mennonite cemetery, northwest of Donnellson.

Church Founders Listed.

The founders of the church were Henry Ellenberger, Minister; John Krehbiel, Jacob Galle, Jacob Eyman, Peter Weber, Jacob Kagy, Christian Rings, Daniel Rings, Henry Krehbiel and Christian Krehbiel II.

The first minister of Zion church was Henry Ellenberger, who was well advanced in years. Among those who arrived in 1852 were three men who although not highly educated, were ministers, and these men, Jacob Krehbiel, David Ruth and Jacob Schnebele, assisted him in services. More families arrived and the membership increased so that the school house was too small for church services, so the St. Paul Evangelical church located at that time about one mile north of Donnellson, allowed them to use their church on Sundays when it was not needed by them, as they had church services only every other Sunday.

Decide on New Church.

September 5, 1853, they organized and adopted a constitution. By this time the membership had increased to about 35 families. As they could have church services in St. Paul church only every other Sunday, they decided on January 28, 1854, to build a church of their own. They desired to build in such a way that a school room could be established in the basement. As their means were limited, they decided to build as cheaply as possible, so they constructed a rough stone building, which they also thought more substantial.

The congregation started to build in the summer of 1854, and succeeded in getting the structure under roof the same year. The church was completed the following year, and one October 21, 1855, it was dedicated by the Rev. Henry Ellenberger. It stood very nearly in the center of the cemetery and church grounds, but did not prove as substantial as expected, so in 1880, it was rebuilt a little northwest from the place where the first church stood.

It was decided later to build the church in town. Work was started in August of the same year and the

ties. This progress came from the belief of the Mennonites that agriculture was the field in which they could make a special contribution to humanity. And their farms have gone far in indicating this ideal.

MENNONITES CELEBRATE-1 Nov. 16, 1951-#1
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
KEOKUK, IOWA

85

building was completed in January of the following year. It was dedicated on February 2, 1909.

Ministers Who Have Served.

The ministers who have served the congregation are the following: Henry Ellenberger was the first and he was assisted by Jacob Krehbiel, David Ruth and Jacob Schnebele. The Rev. Ellenberger was handicapped by advanced age and became almost blind toward the end of his life. He died in October, 1869, at the age of 85 years. For some years after the Rev. Ellenberger was unable to help much with the services, the Rev. Krehbiel was the leading minister. He died after a short illness October 18, 1861, at the age of 58 years.

At this time Christian Schowalter was chosen as minister, by lot, as was customary. He preached his first sermon on Christmas Day, 1861, and was ordained to the full ministry the following year by the Rev. David Ruth, who later moved to Summerfield, Ill. The Rev. Schowalter served the congregation from December, 1861, until in the fall of 1904, with the exception of nearly two years when he was principal of the Wadsworth, Ohio, college, in 1868 and 1869. When he took charge of this work, the congregation chose out of their midst, a young man Daniel Krehbiel, for their minister. He was assisted by the Rev. Schnebele.

42-Year Pastorate.

The Rev. Schnebele died very suddenly on November 6, 1878, at the age of 79 years. The Rev. Krehbiel, although a talented man, did not feel himself able to serve as minister so he discontinued his service in 1869. In the same year the congregation again sent a call to Christian Schowalter, then in college work at Wadsworth, Ohio. He accepted the call and served the congregation until the fall of 1904 when he resigned on account of failing health after having served this congregation about 42 years. He died on April 12, 1907, at the age of 78 years. He was succeeded by the Rev. P. P. Hilty who began preaching in June 1905, and was installed by the Rev. Schowalter. The Rev. Hilty remained as pastor until 1919 when he received a call from Fortuna, Mo. He left for that place in August of the same year,. having served Zion church over 14 years. He was succeeded by Elmer Basinger, who started his service in February 1920. The Rev. Basinger served until 1924 when he received a call from Freeman, S. D., as minister and also as teacher in Freeman college.

The Rev. Mr. Basinger was succeeded by John E. Kaufman, who commenced his service the first Sunday in August 1924. The Rev. Kaufman served the congregation until May 1929, when he took charge of his work at Aberdeen, Idaho, to which place he had been called in the early part of the year. He was succeeded by Carl J. Landes, who served for three months during his summer vacation in 1929 while he attended college at Bluffton, Ohio. The Rev. Landes was succeeded by Delbert E. Welty who started his service the first Sunday in March 1930. The Rev. Welty resigned in December 1935, after having received a call from the Noble, Iowa, church. He left for Noble March 1, 1936.

Adolph Friesen commenced service the first Sunday in June 1936. The Rev. Friesen resigned Jan. 13, 1941. His resignation was accepted and a call was sent to H. E. Nunemaker. The call was accepted and on June 5, 1941, the Rev. Nunemaker and family arrived here. On June 15 he was installed by the Rev. Welty of the Noble, Iowa, chuch. In the spring of 1946 the Rev. Nunemaker received a call from the Goshen, Ind., church. He resigned as minister here and left for Goshen in October 1946. Thereafter student pastors served the church.

A call was sent to one of the former pastors, the Rev. Elmer Basinger. He accepted the call and began his service in October 1948. In January, 1951, the Rev. Basinger resigned as he wished to retire on account of impaired eyesight, the resignation to take effect April 1. April 15, 1951, the congregation elected Vernon H. Neufeld as pastor. He was ordained into the ministry in his home church June 10, 1951, and installed as minister of Zion church Sunday, Sept. 23, by the Rev. Basinger. He began serving Zion church April 11, 1951, and is the present minister.

Women of the Church.

A Ladies' Missionary society was organized in 1869, Sunday school in 1878, Christian Endeavor society in 1891 and the Goodwill Mission circle in 1948.

A two story parsonage was built close to the church in Donnellson in 1920.

It was in the first church of Zion congregation where the movement was made in 1859 for a Mennonite conference, but what they called the first real conference was held a year later at West Point, Iowa, May 28, 1860. This was the beginning of what is now the general conference of the Mennonite Church of North America.

Oldest Congregation.

The Zion Mennonite congregation is one of the oldest if not the oldest Mennonite congregation west of the Mississippi river. The present membership is about 220, not counting the children, and has been very much the same over a large portion of the time since its organization. The reason for this is that, from time to time, a large number of families have moved farther west and were instrumental in building up new congregations, especially in Kansas and California, and quite a number have moved to the other states.

During the summer of 1951 extensive improvements have been made in the church and an electric organ has also been installed.

Constitution-Democrat.

A PIONEER SETTLER IS DEAD.

W. A. Donnell, for Whom the Town Was Named Dpearts at an Advanced Age on New Years Day.

JAN. 11. —— 1899

W. A. Donnell, an old settler of Lee county, died at his home in the town of Donnellson Sunday morning, New Year's day, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and led a Christian life.

The town of Donnellson was named after him and he was as widely known as any man in Lee county. He has been going down the hill for several years, and for a year past has been nearly helpless and confined to the house.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. W. T. Benjamin of Donnellson, and Mrs. McLean of Florence, Kas., also three sons, Thos. H. of Donnellson, John E. of Camp Point, Ill., and Geo. W. of Ottumwa.

DAILY GATE CITY

CENTENNIAL NEAR FOR EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN LEE CO.

Emigrants from Germany Organized Church at Franklin About 1840 —Donnellson Church in 1850.

TUESDAY, Nov. 19. 1935

DONNELLSON, Iowa, Nov. 19— About the year 1840 a goodly number of Evangelical immigrants from Germany settled in the Franklin, Charleston and Harrison townships of Lee county, Iowa. In order to preserve their Evangelical faith for themselves and their children a congregation was organized. The Evangelical Synod supplied a pastor. A church of logs was built a few miles east of Franklin. Within a year the immigration from Germany increased and people from the surrounding countryside gathered in the log church on Sundays. Soon it was too small to accommodate them all.

In view of this fact, and also because of the hazards of distance and inclement weather conditions, it was resolved in a congregational meeting held on January 3, 1850, to divide the congregation into two parts, the one to be known as St. Peter's Evangelical church (the Franklin church of today), and the other to be known as the St. Paul Evangelical church, and to erest a house of worship west of Franklin. Both congregations being governed by the same constitution and served by one and the same pastor.

The group known as St. Paul's church, the present Donnellson church, effected an organization

consisting of a membership of twenty-five families, were without a building site. The plot of ground on which the first church was erected, about one and one-half miles north of Donnellson now containing our Evangelical cemetery, was presented to the congregation by Adam Wiegner and Henry Feldman. In the summer of 1850 the erection of a well constructed stone church building was begun and on Sunday, October 26, 1851, the new church was dedicated by its first pastor, Rev. M. K. Kroenlein, assisted by pastors John Christian Young, of Quincy, Ill.; Rev. Theodore H. Dressel, of Burlington, Ia., and Rev. Gambell, of Fort Madison, Iowa. The first church board consisted of John Holdefer and Martin Saar. Both congregations flourished, the Franklin congregation growing to be the stronger of the two and demanding the greater part of the attention of the pastor. The Franklin congregation insisted on morning services and the little church out on the prairie did not want to satisfy itself with afternoon services.

In 1874, the two congregations dissolved their joint arrangement. In 1871 the Zion Evangelical church at Primrose had been organized. Its pastor was requested to serve St. Paul's church which he consented to do. This arrangement did not continue long.

In 1877, St. Paul's called a pastor of its own, Rev. Dahl, an independent pastor, belonging to no church organization. In 1878 the congregation erected its own parsonage near the church. In 1884, Rev. W. Echelmeier became pastor but continued only until 1886. For a number of years the church was served by Rev. Fred Rasche (1887-1889) and Rev. Buschmann (1890 to 1893), of Franklin. During this period there was no congregational growth or development to speak of, in fact after 1887 the congregation dwindled down to a membership of 14 families.

Finally a heroic effort was made to save the organization. In 1893, the congregation resolved with the help of God, to build a new church in Donnellson, also to move the parsonage to Donnellson. The congregation made an arrangement with the Evangelical church at Charleston to call a pastor jointly. Rev. Theodore Storch was called and was present for the dedication of the second church building which served its purpose until December, 1925. The old church building which was a source of blessing for 32 years was built by Henry Mehl and George Banst, the latter still a resident of Donnellson. Pastor Gehrke, president of the Iowa District, dedicated the old church on Sunday, November 12, 1893, and delivered the dedicatory sermon.

For this second church building the congregation purchased its first organ and the bell, which is now in the new church belfry. A period of lively church activity followed. Sunday school work was taken up in all earnestness and a church choir organized. A Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1895. In the same year the parsonage was rebuilt and a barn erected. In 1899, the little Evangelical school house was built and all are glad to have it today as it serves for many purposes.

The Rev. Karl Fauth became pastor of the church in 1900 and served until 1907. During these years many improvements were made in the church and a new organ was purchased. The membership of the church also increased greatly.

Rev. William Kreis was pastor of the church from 1907 to 1917. During his pastorate the present parsonage was built and dedicated Oct. 10, 1910. The 60th anniversary of the church was also observed at that time.

The next pastor was Rev. Paul Benthin who served from 1917 to 1922. During his pastorate the development of the congregation was such that the present church building became inadequate. We do not know just where the new church movement was born, but it was kept alive by Rev. Benthin. The spirit was here but it needed a little cultivation to make it grow. In the yearly meeting in January, 1924, it was voted to build a new church and a building committee of seven members and a finance committee of six members were chosen by the church board.

These committee went to work, the building committee looking at plans and the finance committee soliciting the necessary funds. July 4 of the same year a meeting was held by the church board and the two committees and the bids received for building the new church which after much deliberation was let to Theodore Naschert of West Point. Washburn and Carswell of Burlington being the architects.

Tht members of the church moved the old building across the street where it was used for church services for a short time.

The work of the new church was repeatedly delayed and in September, 1924, the corner stone was laid with fitting cermonies. In time too the new church was completed. Sunday Dec. 20th. 1925, marked not only the dedication of the new church, but also of the observance of the 75th anniversary of Diamond Jubilee, which was fittingly observed in the afternoon service.

The new church was erecttd on the site of the old, but is considerably larger, having a seating capacity of 508 without using aisle space.

During the pastorate of Rev. Stoerker who served the congregation from 1923 to 1929 the congregation flourished in all its branches. The Young People's League purchased a pipe organ which was dedicated on Oct. 10, 1926. In 1929 Rev. Stoerker received a call to become superintendent of the Emmaus Home at St. Charles, Mo. Rev. Wm. F. Kamphenkel was then called by the St. Paul congregation and is the present pastor. Under his leadership the church has continued to flourish and has now a membership of 528, of which 323 are confirmed communicant members. The members of the church board are:

President—Elmert Roth.
Secretary—W. F. Bentzinger.
Treasurer—V. M. Schmitt.
Milton Sander, Ben C. Wahrer and Edw. J. Dahms, elders.

Miss Alice Scheffler is organist and renders faithful and efficient services.

There are 244 enrolled in the Sunday school, Mrs. Arthur Fett is superintendent of the beginners and primary department, Roy Lowenberg junior superintendent, and R. L. Schmitt superintendent of intermediate, senior. young people and adult divisions.

The Women's Union which was reorgaized a year ago has a membership of 65 and Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitt is president. Miss Irene Hulsebus is president of the Young People's League, they have a membership of 49. In the church choir there are 26 voices who are always ready and willing to inspire and beautify the services. All the different branches of the congregation are active in their own special work and then all work in harmony to make it a real Christion church

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Schmitt entertained their Bridge Club at their home Friday evening. Four tables were in progress. High honors were won by Mrs. Roy Lowenberg and Ben Schlicher and the traveling prize by Mrs. Eddie Weber. Mr. and Mrs. R. Agnew, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. David T. Hirschler were guests.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
KEOKUK, IOWA

THE GATE CITY FRIDAY, AUG. 30, 1940

GERMAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES FORMED EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION IN COUNTY

DONNELLSON, Ia., Aug. 30—Members of the St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed church here will observe the ninetieth anniversary of its organization in three special festival services within the next ten days.

First of the observances will be held on next Sunday morning, September 1, when the Rev. Otto Kieriker of St. Louis will be the speaker at the 10:30 o'clock morning service.

Second of the anniversary programs is set for next Wednesday evening, September 4, with the Rev. Theophil Blaufuss of Stratford, Wis., as the special speaker.

Observance of the anniversary will be concluded with two special services on Sunday, September 8. The Rev. A. W. Fruechte of Chicago, will deliver the address in the morning but the name of the speaker for the evening program has not yet been announced.

Started Near Franklin.

Although the local congregation was not formed until 1850, religious worship in Lee county by the original members of this Evangelical group dates back a few years more. Their first affiliation was with the congregation at Franklin, located a few miles east of Donnellson.

It was more than a century ago—during the decade of 1830 to 1840—that a number of Evangelical immigrants from Germany settled in the Franklin, Charleston and Harrison townships of this county. In order to preserve their denominational faith for themselves and their descendants, a congregation was formed by them.

A pastor was supplied for this group by the Evangelical Synod and a church of logs was erected a few miles east of Franklin. Within a year the number of immigrants from Germany increased greatly and the log church soon became too small as many people from the surrounding countryside began gathering there regularly for Sunday worship.

Divide Congregation.

For this reason and also because of the hazards involved in traveling long distances during inclement weather, it was resolved at a congregational meeting on January 3, 1850, to divide the congregation into two groups. The one was to be known as the St. Peter Evangelical church (name of the present Franklin edifice) and the other as the St. Paul Evangelical church.

It was voted to erect a new church west of Franklin and both congregations were to be governed by the same constitution and served by the same pastor.

The St. Paul group organized with a membership comprised by 25 families. The congregation, however, was without a building site until a plot of ground about a mile and a half north of Donnellson, where the Evangelical cemetery is still located, was presented to it by Adam Wiegner and Henry Feldman.

New Stone Church Built.

It was in the summer of 1850, just 90 years ago, that erection of a well-constructed stone church building was started. It was more than a year later, however, on Sunday, October 26, 1851, that the new church was dedicated by the pastor, the Rev. M. K. Kroenlein, who was assisted by the Rev. John Christian Yung of Quincy, Ill., the Rev. Theodore H. Dressel of Burlington, and the Rev. Mr. Gumbell of Fort Madison.

The first church board consisted of John Holdefer and Martin Saar.

Both congregations flourished but the growt hof the original one was more rapid and this group demanded the greater part of the single pastor's attention. The St. Peter group also insisted on having morning service sand the others attending the little stone church on the prairie were not long content with having services in the afternoons.

Dissolve Share Plan.

In 1874, the two congregations dissolved their joint arrangement. The pastor of the Zion Evangelical church which had been organized at Primrose in 1871 consented to a request to also serve the St. Paul church. This arrangement was also unsatisfactory, however, and did not last long.

Three years later, in 1877, the St. Paul group called a pastor of its own, the Rev. Mr. Dahl who was an independent minister belonging to no church organization. The following year, in 1878, a parsonage was erected near the church.

The Rev. W. Echelmeier became pastor of the St. Paul congregation in 1884 but continued only for two years.

For the next seven years, from 1887 to 1893, the church was served by the Rev. Mr. Rasche (1887-1889) and the Rev. Mr. Buschmann (1890-1893) of Franklin. During this period there was little or no congregational growth or development. Membership had dwindled to 14 families.

Move to Donnellson.

Finally an herois effort was made to save the church organization and in January of 1893, the congregation resolved to build a new church in Donnellson and also to move its parsonage to this place.

The congregation then made an arrangement with the Evangelical church at Charleston to secure a pastor to serve both places jointly. The Rev. Theo Storch was called in time for the dedication of the second church which was used here until 1925. That edifice was built by Henry Mehl and George Baust. The Rev. Mr. Gehrke, president of the Iowa district, dedicated the church on Sunday, Nov. 12, 1893, and delivered the dedicatory address.

For this building, the congregation purchased its first organ and the bell which today hangs in the belfry of the present church.

Lively Development.

A period of lively church development followed the move to Donnellson. Sunday school work was embraced with great earnestness and a church choir was organized. A Ladies' Aid society was formed in 1895, and in this same year the parsonage was rebuilt and a barn was erected. In 1899, the little Evangelical school house, which is still in use, was constructed.

The Rev. Karl Fauth became pastor of the church in 1900, serving until 1907, and during these years many improvements were made in the church, including the purchase of a new organ. Membership of the church also increased greatly during that time.

For the 10-year period from 1907 until 1917, the Rev. William Kreis was pastor and it was during this period that the present parsonage was built. It was dedicated on Oct. 16, 1910, when the 60th anniversary of the church was also observed.

The next pastor was the Rev. Paul Beuthin who served until 1922. During these five years the

development of the congregation was so great that the church building became inadequate. It is not known just where the movement for a new edifice was born but it was kept alive by the Rev. Mr. Beuthin.

The Rev. Theophil Stoerker had become pastor in 1923 and at the yearly meeting in January of 1924 it was voted to build a new church. A building committee of seven members and a finance committee of six members were chosen by the church board. These committees immediately went to work, with the finance committee soliciting necessary funds and the building committee looking over plans for the new building.

On the Fourth of July of this same year, 1924, a meeting of the church board and the two committees was held and bids were received for construction of the new church. After much deliberation, the work was let to Theodore Nashchert of West Point. Washburn and Carswell of Burlington, were the architects.

Move Old Building.

Members of the church moved the old building across the street where it was used for religious services for a time. Work on the new edifice was repeatedly delayed, but it was completed at last.

The Sunday before Christmas of 1925, December 20, marked not only the dedication of the new structure, but also the diamond jubilee—75th anniversary—of the St. Paul congregation. Both events were fittingly observed in an afternoon program.

The new church was erected on the site of the old one, but it is considerably larger. It has a seating capacity of 508 persons without using the aisle space.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Stoerker, from 1923 to 1929, the congregation flourished in all of its branches. The Young People's league also purchased a new pipe organ which was dedicated on October 10, 1926.

In 1929, the Rev. Mr. Stoerker received a call to become superintendent of the Emmaus Home at St. Charles, Mo., and the Rev. William F. Kamphenkel was secured as pastor of the local church. He served from 1929 to 1938 and under his leadership, the congregation continued to flourish. It now has a membership of 418 persons, of which 302 are confirmed communicant members.

On Nov. 17, 1935, the congregation fittingly observed its 85th anniversary.

Many Recent Improvements.

The Rev. E. K. Schneider, present pastor of the St. Paul church, accepted a call to Donnellson and preached his first sermon here in June of 1938. During the first two years of his pastorate many improvements have been made to the church.

During the summer of 1938, the church floor was refinished, the interior of the church was replastered and redecorated, and the Assembly room was also redecorated.

The rededication services were held on Nov. 6, 1938, with the sermon delivered by the Rev. A. H. Bisping of Keokuk, vice president of the Iowa district. The choir of 29 voices, under the direction of Mrs. David Hirschler, with Mrs. Pora Haeffner as organist, appeared for the first time as a vested choir at this service. That same evening, the Rev. J. H. Buescher of the First Evangelical church at Burlington, delivered an inspiring address.

At the annual congregational meeting held in January of 1939, the church voted to affiliate with the Evangelical Synod of North America. This made it necessary to write new articles of incorporation, which was done by C. C. Martin of Fort Madison, and the papers were properly recorded. Oscar D. Seyb was the delegate who represented the local church at the district conference.

Reception Service Held.

The service of reception of the Donnellson church into the North America Synod was held in the local edifice on July 30, 1939. The Rev. E. Seybold of Ackley, Ia., president of the Iowa district, delivered the sermon at the morning service, and the Rev. A. F. Koelling of the Zion church in Burlington, spoke at the night program.

During the summer of 1939, the church school house was made more suitable for Sunday school and choir work, for meetings of the Women's Guild and for community gatherings. Other improvements of church property have also been made.

The church cemetery has received much special attention during the past several years. A power mower was purchased in 1938 and is used to mow the entire cemetery. Evergreens have been purchased and planted by interested persons, making the cemetery more attractive. The lot of ground adjoining the cemetery and on which the stone school house is located, was acquired in 1938 and is now a part of the cemetery property.

During the past spring months, a new well was bored on the church property to supply water needs of the parsonage and the church.

Officers of Church.

Members and officers of the church board of the St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed church here are Roy Lowenberg, president; Elmer Roth, vice president; Melvin Graber, secretary; Arthur Fett, treasurer; Ben Schlicher and Earl Trump, elders; and Mrs. Paul M. Wickersham, organist and director of the choir.

Superintendent of the Sunday school which has en enrollment of 240, is R. L. Schmitt. Other officers are Armin Seyb, assistant superintendent; Letha Mae Seyb, recording secretary; Hubert Dahms, statistical secretary; Harlan Bentzinger, treasurer; Florence Schlicher, pianist; Mrs. Arthur Fett, cradle roll superintendent; Florence Schlicher, birthday fund treasurer; Gladys Miller, primary superintendent; and June Bentzinger, junior department superintendent.

Officers of the Womens Guild are Mrs. Roy Lowenberg, president; Mrs. H. E. Best, 1st vice president; Mrs. O. J. Schock, 2nd vice president; Mrs. E. J. Dahms, 3rd vice president; Mrs. Earl Trump, secretary; and Mrs. James Wilson, treasurer.

Officers of the Young People's league are Armin Seyb, president; Florence Schlicher, vice president; Letha Mae Seyb, secretary; Martin Kimler, treasurer; and Ruthanna Wahrer, pianist.

Officers of the vested choir are Hubert Dahms, president; Letha Mae Seyb, vice president; Ruth Schlicher, treasurer; and Harlan Bentzinger, librarian; Edward Lalta is church custodian and V. M. Schmitt is cemetery custodian.

"THE GREAT DUST-HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

89.

Where we fled from Indians--

OLD FORT MADISON

Iowa's first stronghold was the scene of dark drama--
Indian warfare, a siege, stealthy departure
by night, and a final conflagration.

by RUTH S. BEITZ

The IOWAN is published quarterly by the Sentinel Publishing Company, Box 446, 118 South Elm Street, Shenandoah, Iowa. This issue dated December 15, 1961. Vol. 10, No. 2. Second class mail

FOR NEARLY half an hour Lieutenant Alpha Kingsley, U.S. Army, had been struggling with the composition of a letter to General Henry Dearborn, the Secretary of War. Now he was satisfied, and laying aside his quill pen, sat back to read over the final draft:

"Garrison at Belle Vue, near the River Le Moine"—He paused to look once more at the thick arbor of trees framing a broad vista of shining waters, the Mississippi. Most of the branches were bare, but some autumn-hued leaves still clung to the boughs. The rim of hills and steep bluffs looked dark and romantic against the sky. It was a beautiful view, indeed. After a soulful contemplation of the sunset shadows creeping over the river's edge, Kingsley returned to his reading:

"Sir: Having received orders at Belle Fontaine, to move up the Mississippi River as far as River Le Moine, with Captain Pinckney's company under my command, and fix a suitable location for a fort, as nigh that place as possible, not finding any place nearer to that designation than this—I have accordingly fired on it, which is about 25 miles above Le Moine. The season be-

ing so far advanced when I arrived here (26 Sept.) that it was impossible to put up such buildings as were necessary to answer the object in view, I therefore thought it expedient to erect temporary houses for the winter. Having set a good picket around my camp, with bastions at right angles, I then commenced upon the factory, and other store houses, barracks, etc., all of which are small and done in a rough way, but will answer the purpose, they being nearly completed. I shall by the first of next month commence on building a small fort with 3 block houses, of hewed timber, so disposed as to have a full command of each angle of the fort—a plan which I humbly submit. Having plenty of timber convenient, and that of the best quality, I am fully of the opinion that by June next I will have the fort ready for the reception of the troops. The expense of that work to the U.S., will be but a trifle, when put in completion (comparison) with the good effect that will result to the Government.

"This situation is high, commanding an extensive view of the river and adjacent country—also an excellent spring of water—and I believe there is no place on the river which will prove more healthy, and none more advantageous to the Indian trade. I shall prosecute the work of the fort with all possible expedition, and hope by spring to have it so far advanced that it will bid defiance to the evil-minded savage, and at the same time insure the respect and friendship of the better disposed. With these sentiments at heart, having the public good in view, at the same time wishing to comply with my orders, which, though not pointed, leave me latitude, for which I have above promised, and fully expecting your approbation, I shall proceed to complete the work.

"I am with high consideration, sir, your very obedient servant,

Alpha Kingsley, Lt.
1st U.S. Regt. Inft."

The lieutenant wondered if he should underline the word "healthy" . . . Some of the bottomlands farther south bred third day ague, and when he and his company had traveled up the river that fall, many of the men were so ill with malaria that they could hardly hold their places in the keelboats.

Kingsley had been glad to set foot on high ground, and when they pitched camp, he made up his mind that this should be the permanent place for the new fort . . . . It was a long way from his old home in Vermont . . . . He felt a touch of the poet as he appraised the virgin forest—the oak, sycamore, cottonwood, and walnut trees. Bluffs and a ravine completed the section of landscape. In his enthusiasm for the beauty of the place, he quite overlooked the natural advantages that might aid concealed and lurking Indians. The land actually belonged to the Sacs and the Foxes. The proposed building was in violation of a treaty they had signed, and it would be strange, indeed, if they did not offer some opposition.

The lieutenant sent off his letter. It was duly received and approved, and he set about building the permanent post. The men under his command toiled all winter, hauling timbers hitched to sleds. In the absence of horses and oxen, the soldiers pulled the heavy logs themselves, sometimes as many as fifteen were teamed up together. The finished siding consisted of white oak logs fourteen feet long, and hewed on both sides after the bark had been removed.

Unhappy Indians watched the construction and begged the builders to stop working and go back down the river again. Some would have used force to drive the intruders away, but were restrained at seeing that the Army men kept their weapons close beside them. One of the watchers was Chief Black Hawk, who stood grimly, with folded arms, and remarked (as he wrote later in his autobiography) that "The whole party acted as they would in an enemy's country."

Lieutenant Kingsley reported to the War Department under date of April 19, 1809 that he had planted pickets and built block houses in two weeks, "lying on our arms during the night," and that they had moved into the sronghold five days earlier. He dated the letter from "Fort Madison," in honor of James Madison, who had been inaugurated as President of the United States on March 4, the preceding month.

The lieutenant had at first planned to build the factory for the sale of goods to the Indians inside the walls, but a little reflection revealed the weakness of the plan—it would be too easy for enemies to swarm in under pretext of making purchases. Therefore, he decided to erect the building about one hundred yards outside. In May, he wrote the War Department that his soldiers could not finish both the factory and the fort that season, and he asked for instructions. The reply was that the soldiers should first build the factory and "receive extra pay therefore at the rate of ten cents per day and one gill of whiskey for each man" to be paid by the factory department.

In the meantime, the Le Moine factory had opened in temporary quarters, in charge of Colonel John W. Johnson, a native of Maryland. An inventory showed the following goods in stock:

Seven hundred ten pounds of beaver at $2 per pound; 1,353 muskrat skins, at 25 cents each; 25,021 pounds of shaved deerskins, valued at $6,255.25; 3,000 deerskins "in the hair," $601.20; 20 first quality bearskins—$30; 44 second quality bearskins—$44; 176 other skins—$2; 100 pounds of beeswax, at 20 cents per pound; and 968 pounds of tallow, at 12 and half cents per pound.

Credit was freely granted, in an effort to induce the Indians to trade at Le Moine instead of with rival British establishments just east of the Mississippi River.

Events of a few weeks later, in May 1809, justified Lieutenant Kingsley's wisdom in building the factory outside of the fort walls.

A large party of Indians, led by Pashepaho (Stabbing Chief), and Black Hawk, arrived with a white flag, smiles, and wampum. They had come, they said, to settle accounts, and to celebrate their happiness in dealing with the white men. They would like, they requested through an interpreter, to dance before the white warriors to show their gratitude and friendship. All the bad chiefs had gone to war against the Osage, and they, the visitors, thanked the Great Spirit that the smoke had disappeared and that the sun shown once more. They desired to dance—but the ground was rough and bumpy—it would hurt their feet, and the festivities could be held more felicitously inside the stockade.

So spoke the interpreter to Lieutenant Kingsley, while Pashepaho waited confident and at ease, for an answer. As he stood listening to the flow of talk, he toyed with a large knife, carelessly stabbing into a plug of tobacco he was carrying. Black Hawk, proud and erect, was posed near the gateway, flanked by ten other Indians, while the rest of the party was massed close behind.

Lieutenant Kingsley was ready for the visitors. Looking toward the river, he saw the squaws waiting in a fleet of canoes. What was the meaning of the ropes they were handling? Well, all the soldiers inside the fort were under arms; bayonets gleamed in windows, doors, and portholes . . . How sharp Pashepaho's knife looked as arcs of the blade caught the sunlight!

After a tense silence, Lieutenant Kingsley made his reply. The gate swung open, to disclose a six-pound cannon and a soldier standing by with lighted flare, ready to fire the artillery.

Kingsley spoke sternly to the interpre-

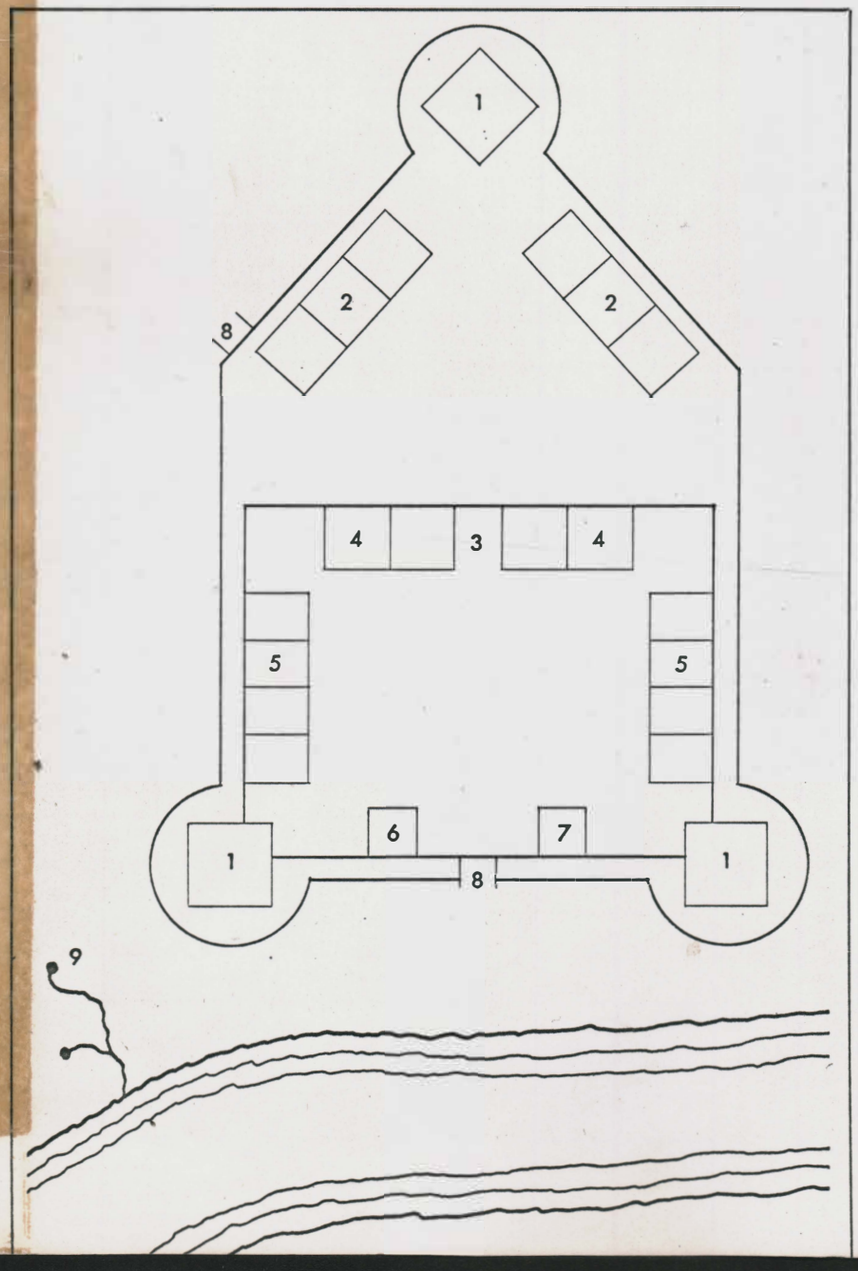
ter: "Tell Chief Pashepaho that the first man who steps over the gate sill will be fired upon. That is my answer to his request."

Pashepaho stared fixedly ahead for a moment, then slowly held up his hand in a signal to retreat. His warriors turned about, each raising the war club he had concealed under his blanket. With a chorus of furious and disappointed whoops, they dispersed to their canoes, and were gone within twenty minutes. Pashepaho, too, was allowed to leave, with Kingsley's reprimand and warning still ringing in his ears.

Afterward, some folks said that the Fort Madison commandant had been warned of the plot, possibly by an Indian girl who admired him or one of his men, or by an eavesdropper who had overheard the war plots. Pashepaho had intended to plunge his knife into Kingsley's breast, and while his followers overpowered the garrison's defenders, the squaws would rush up with their long ropes to bundle and tie up the factory goods to carry away in their canoes.

An interval of comparative calm followed. Kingsley and his force continued to construct the permanent buildings. The roster of the garrison showed that besides the commander, a first lieutenant, the following were on duty at the Mississippi River post: Second Lieutenant Nathaniel Pryor, one surgeon's mate, three sergeants, three corporals, two musicians, and sixty privates. Seven persons also served at the factory warehouse.

The original plan of Fort Madison which was designed and started under Lieutenant Alpha Kingsley included three block houses (1). Other buildings in the fort were factory (2); passageway (3); officers' quarters (4); *two rows of barracks* (5); *guardhouse* (6); *and surgeon* (7). *Gates* (8) *to the fort were located near factory and on river side. The spring (9) was between the river and a blockhouse.*



In August, 1809, Kingsley was relieved by Captain Horatio Stark, a Virginian. The new commandant was accompanied by his wife, Hannah, a native of Connecticut, and by their baby daughter, Mary.

The Starks remained at Fort Madison until 1812. Another daughter, Rozanna, was born to them on September 28, 1810, and it is possible that the birth occurred at the fort, but more likely it was in St. Louis, where Mrs. Stark died in September, 1812, after the birth of yet another child.

Captain Stark was succeeded in command by Lieutenant Thomas Hamilton, who, it was rumored, had left his previous post in Illinois in disfavor after marrying Catherine, the daughter of the commanding officer, Captain John Whistler.

It seems probable that Mrs. Hamilton, like Mrs. Stark, spent part of her time at St. Louis, and was not at Fort Madison in the last months, when the Indian situation rapidly deteriorated.

The Indians had been unhappy and disgruntled from the beginning at what they believed was an invasion of their rights and their territory. The British were stiff commercial competitors to the American factories. They offered high quality goods—especially firearms and powder—at high prices. Items sold by the Americans, it was said, were of inferior quality—the blankets were thin and skimpy, the calico poorly woven and liable to fall apart. The one advantage to the Indians was the invitation to buy on credit. The lure of easy credit proved as dazzling to the naive red men as it always has to countless other would-be purchasers.

The War of 1812 precipitated hostilities.

On September 5, 1812, a prospective settler named Graham moored his boat at the river's edge and went inside Fort Madison to make inquiries. Black Hawk and a party of two hundred Winnebagoes, who were gathered together and awaiting a favorable opportunity, decided that the moment had come. It was five thirty in the afternoon, and only one luckless soldier was outside the gates. He was quickly struck down, and soon his scalp was swinging from a warrior's belt.

Firing from both attackers and de-

fenders continued until dark. Early next morning the Indians renewed their assault. They burned Graham's boat and several other craft tied up at the river's edge, and from the shelter of the ravine fired flaming arrows at the stockade. Inside the fort, the soldiers converted their gun barrels into syringes and squirted water on the roof to prevent it from burning.

Outside, the Winnebagoes trampled through a cornfield, killed livestock, and plundered and set flames to a cabin belonging to one of Colonel Johnson's helpers.

It was a calm, windless day, the flames did not spread, and the block house roof failed to catch fire. Several Indians crawled into a stable and began to shoot from its shelter, but were routed by a blast from the six-pound cannon which had been hauled into action.

Lieutenant Hamilton gazed thoughtfully over at the factory. If the wind should rise and the attackers set fire to the warehouse, the conflagration would spread to the fort itself and inevitably destroy it. At dusk he dispatched a man to burn down the factory while the air was still calm, and the garrison defenders could stand by with water to guard the fort itself. In three hours time the factory was safely consumed, along with its contents of beaver skins and other peltries—a total loss of buildings and goods valued at $5,500.

By September 8 all was quiet. Some canoes were seen gliding out over the river, and by the next day there was not an Indian in the vicinity.

Fall and winter dragged by, and officials seriously considered abandoning Fort Madison. In the spring of 1813, 100 men from the First and Twenty-fourth Infantries were there, with Lieutenant Hamilton still in command.

The Indians made two more attacks in July, and on July 18, a few days after the second attack had been repulsed, Hamilton wrote Lieutenant Col. Daniel Bissell, commanding officer of troops in the District of Louisiana, making clear his own position, and asking for support:

"I must repeat that I do expect to hear from you within one month, and when I do, I wish most cordially that it may be for the evacuation or removal of this garrison. If I do not hear from you by the 20th of August and the Indians continue to harass me in the manner they appear determined to do, I do not know but I shall take the responsibility on myself, that is, if they will permit me to go away. It is impossible for us to do duty long in the manner that I have adopted."

Tension mounted within the fort as day after day passed without orders or reinforcements. Lieutenant Hamilton was desperately aware that his post was the only fort on the Upper Mississippi above St. Louis. He waited for the inevitable climax, while one of the enlisted men, Corporal Harding, penned a detailed picture of the summer attacks and the concluding siege in the journal he was keeping at the request of his sweetheart back in Pennsylvania.

Here is an account of the last days of Fort Madison, as set down in Corporal Harding's own words:

"July 8. The Indians are growing restless, and most dreaded news—that Black Hawk, the warrior chief, has joined forces with the English. Keokuk still remains friendly, and leads a considerable faction, but he has never had the following of war-tried men that Black Hawk has. It is very ominous for us.

"July 9. We have had trouble yesterday, and are greatly alarmed. Two of our soldiers had gone for water down at the spring when they were suddenly shot from ambush. The men were among our best soldiers, and our hearts were very heavy. It seems to me that this fort is built in the wrong place. I believe the idea of Belle Vue (the original name) haunted the builder, rather than its present name, Fort Madison. The spring is close to the river, and is surrounded with gullies and ravines, where the Indians can ambush and prevent us from obtaining water.

"July 14. All our work gone for nothing. Corporal Smith and two privates were detailed to guard the blockhouse by the spring. Whether they were careless, we will never know, but they were outside in the moonlight, smoking. The Indians suddenly sprang on them. The men tried to regain the blockhouse. One truly savage thrust his spear in the opening before they could shut the door, they forced the door wide open and in ten minutes the three were dead—worse than dead.

"July 18. Our food is low, our ammunition worse. We dare not shoot guns for fear of wasting our bullets, and our diet is restricted in consequence. Lieutenant Hamilton wrote to St. Louis today, asking for 50 pounds of musket powder — and protested vigorously against the useless waste of his brave men in such a place.

"July 21. We have been busy strengthening our defenses.

"August 20. The calm has lasted long. We dare not lay down our arms, and yet for almost a month, we have heard nothing of the savages. No message has come from St. Louis, and we are undecided whether our message reached there. I am sure we will have trouble soon.

"August 29. We are desperate. The savages are attacking in a systematic, regular siege. Where is our aid from St. Louis?

"August 31. I have not slept for two nights. The warwhoop sounds constantly, and we are on our feet night and day. The Indians have become very expert and shoot through the loopholes. Our provisions are very low, our ammunition almost exhausted. Aid must come quickly, or we will have to abandon this spot we fought so hard to keep.

"September 1. The die is cast. As soon as a trench can be dug, we will leave this fort and go down the river. Our boats have been safely guarded, and now we will have to use them. Only a handful of corn meal is today's food. Our garrison is much reduced, and we have but 30 able bodied men.

"September 2. Lieutenant Hamilton was wounded today, and now I am responsible for the carrying out of our plans. We work all the time, and the trench is near completion. Only 25 men can work and they must take turns guarding the blockhouse.

"September 3. Tonight we shall leave this place, this Belle Vue, which has been the grave of so many brave men.

"September 5. Afloat on the broad river—bound for St. Louis—beaten and defeated. Shall I tell you how we left? As soon as it was dark on the night of September 3, the men carried the wounded through the trench to the open flatboats, which were all we had. Then they all embarked and I waited to fire the forts—we dared not leave them for the foe. When the last man was safely on the boats, I took the torch and set fire to the building and left sadly and humbly. Yet my blood was fired with the weirdness of it all. The flames licking the homes of the brave frontier guard, the silent trees waving a requiem, the river lapping a sorrow-song and the warwhoops sounding wildly in the dark, echoed from shore to shore. We were going but we will come again. Civilization beaten back for a second, will yet pulse onward victorious, and woe betide the one who stands in its path! The Indians did not discover our escape until we were on the river and the flames showed them the truth. We could see them rushing into the burning building, but there was little to tempt

(Continued on page 53)

Old Fort Madison

(Continued from page 35)

them. Once I heard Black Hawk's voice, which once heard, is always remembered. 'Come out, my warriors! This is Po-To-Wo-Nok, place of fire!' To the Indian it may be, for it is forever the place where his race desires are sealed. To us it is Fort Madison, the frontier advance of that wave, which cannot be repelled."

For many years a lone chimney reared aloft from the ruins of the fort. It was all that was left in an abandoned and deserted area. The Indians avoided the "Place of Fire," and for nineteen years no white man set foot on the land.

Then, in 1832, a botanical or "mullein leaf" doctor named Peter Williams ventured in and built a log cabin 500 yards from the old stockade. The country was not yet open for settlement, and news of his arrival speedily reached Fort Armstrong (now Rock Island, Illinois). Troops were quickly dispatched to tear down the cabin, throw the logs in the river, and remove Williams back to Illinois.

When, eventually, a town was established on the site, the name Fort Madison was adopted.

A century after the garrison troops' dramatic departure, the Jean Espy Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, set up a marker on the site. It was in the form of a chimney, with a tablet set into the fireplace area and bearing the name, dates, inscription. A few words told the story . . . Built . . . . Evacuated . . . . Burned . . . .

★ ★ ★ ★ E
Des Moines Sunday Register
June 9, 1968
Third News Section
2-T

AIM: RESTORE FORT MADISON

By Otto Knauth
(Register Staff Writer)

CLINTON, IA. — A partial restoration of old Fort Madison will be included in the Iowa Conservation Commission's legislative askings for next year.

The commission voted at its meeting here last week to include the project in its 1969 program.

The remains of the old fort, the first built in Iowa territory, were discovered in the summer of 1965 in a parking lot of the Sheaffer Pen Co. in Fort Madison.

Des Moines architect William Wagner, who was hired by a group of Fort Madison residents, outlined the restoration plans for the commission.

A corner of the old stockade and part of the officers' quarters would be reconstructed in the parking lot and the rest of the fort outlined with appropriate markers, Wagner said.

Across Highway 61, which runs through the site, one of the fort's blockhouses fronting on the Mississippi River would be reconstructed.

Wagner estimated the cost would come to about $40,000. Part of this could be raised locally, Bernard Hesse, head of the Fort Madison delegation, said, and federal funds also might be available.

Later, Hesse said, it is hoped to reconstruct the fort's factory, or trading post, in Fort Madison's Riverside Park.

Dr. Marshall McKusick, Iowa City, state archeologist, described the excavation of the fort, which was built in 1808 by the U.S. 1st Infantry Regiment. It was burned and abandoned under Indian attack in 1813.

93-

OLD FT. MADISON

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DAILY GATE CITY

GEN. TAYLOR ESTABLISHED FORT MADISON

OCT. 20, 1937

Fort Was Built in 1808 But Lasted Only Until 1813 When it Was Abandoned by Soldiers Who Tunneled to River.

There are many significant dates in the history of Lee county but one of the earliest on record is that of 1808 when General Zachary Taylor established a military post at the present location of Fort Madison. It was called Fort Madison in honor of James Madison, then president of the United States.

The post was continued until 1813 when the Indians became very hostile and the garrison, very small at the time, was ordered to abandon the fort. On September 3 of that year the soldiers completed a tunnel from the stockade to the river and after setting fire to the building made their escape to the Mississippi despite the howling savages who surrounded the post.

"Lone Chimney."

For many years after the burning a blackened chimney remained to mark the site of the fort and because of it the early trappers and river navigators called the place "Lone Chimney". The Indians called it "Potowonock", or place of the fire. Although the goverment ordered the post to be rebuilt, no action was ever taken and the site is now occupied by the W. A. Sheaffer Pen factory.

It was not until 1832, that the present town of Fort Madison was settled. The first settlement was said to have been made by Peter Williams, a mullen leaf doctor, in the fall of 1832. He took out a claim and built a log cabin near the bank of the Mississippi some distance below the ruins of the fort.

Williams vs. Government.

At that time a treaty existed with the Indians whereby no white man was to settle in the Black Hawk purchase until July 4 of 1833 but Peter Williams completely ignored that agreement and maintained his right to claim public domains. The government soon intervened, however, and Williams incurred the enmity of an officer and twelve men when he refused to obey their orders and move across the river. They are said to have tied him to a tree and to have destroyed his cabin and cord wood before his eyes.

Following the demolition of his cabin, Williams was taken as a prisoner to Commerce (Nauvoo) but soon gained his release through the intercession of friends and returned to resettle his claim in 1833. On his return, however, he found a neighbor, Richard Chaney, who had cleared a patch of ground and raised a crop of grain. The two men soon began to dispute about their boundaries and the argument eventually developed into a miniature war which Williams won through the assistance of friends from Fort Des Moines (now Montrose). Other settlers began to filter in at about that time and in 1834 John H. Knapp is credited with laying out the first plat of the town which consisted of four cabins.

Early Survey.

During 1835 and 1836 there was a considerable influx of pioneers and the site began to take on the appearance of a small community which was finally incorporated as a town on March 3, 1837 with William W. Corieli and George Cubbage as commissioners.

Both Fort Madison and Keokuk are located in what was at one time known as the "Half-Breed Tract", a land settlement made with the Sac and Fox Indians who had relinquished their claims to their former holdings in Missouri but still held the triangular piece of land between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers.

The Surveyor

This tract was originally surved by Jenifer T. Sprigg, a surveyor for the state of Missouri in 1832 and 1833. According to his survey, the records of which, along with Sprigg's diary, are still on file in the auditor's office at Fort Madison, the northern boundry of the triangle started at a point just above Croton and extended to the Mississippi at about the location of what is now Twelfth street in Fort Madison.

Sprigg not only located the boundries of the tract but divided the land into the townships and sections which still exist. In some cases, he surveyed only fractional townships and in such instances, his lines do not jibe with those made when the sections were resurveyed at a later date. This is the reason why section lines are so irregular in the center of Van Buren township, for example.

Kept Diary

Sprigg's diary, in which he recorded daily events as well as his land marking, is a very interesting as well as historical document. When he surveyed the townships in the lower portion of the county, he did not name them but designated them by figures and letters such as: Jackson 65n, 5w; Des Moines 66n, 6w; Montrose 66n, 5w; Van Buren 67n, 7w, etc.

These figures were derived from the principal meridians and base lines as used in surveying. The point, from which all Iowa public land surveys were made, was the intersection of the fifth principal meridian and the base line. This meridian is the line which runs due north from the old mouth of the St. Francis river in Arkansas, passing through eastern Iowa along the boundries of Jones and Cedar counties. The base line was the parallel of 34 degrees 44 north latitude which crosses central Arkansas just north of Little Rock.

Thus, when Sprigg noted in his diary that he was surveying township 65n, 5w, it meant that he was in the 65th township north of the base line in Arkansas and the 5th west of the principal meridian, or Jackson township. These figures and letters, by the way, are still used in maps of the county, but as marginal notations.

The Daily Gate City.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1871.

INTERESTING RELICS OF THE REVOLUTION.

FT. MADISON, Iowa, Jan. 16, 1871.

FRIEND BENTLEY:—While in conversation with some friends a few evenings since I was greatly surprised to learn that Ft. Madison can boast of some hallowed relics, the sight of which cannot fail to send a thrill of pride through every American who beholds them. They are the two chairs upon which Gen. George Washington and Col. George Ross sat while consulting with the lady who designed the form of the American Flag. The chair belonged to Jacob Albright, Esq., whose wife has the inestimable privilege of knowing that her grandmother was the one who was honored with the arrangement and plan of our first starry banner! On one of these reception chairs, in the city of brotherly love, sat our country's defender, with his serene countenance animated by the interest he felt as he listened to her description of what that ensign should be that was to lead his advancing hosts to victory. What a compliment to our sex that this emblem of the Free, now recognized and revered by every nation under the heavens, should have been entrusted by our patriot fathers to woman! Fashioned by her hand, followed by her prayers when her loved ones marched beneath it, embalmed by her tears when they returned to her in silence, wrapped in the colors they had died to defend, who shall say that our interest in our flag is less than man's? It was this lady (Mrs. Elizabeth Ross by name) who suggested to the distinguished General the propriety of retaining the thirteen original stripes and adding a star whenever a new State was received into the Union, and it was her glorious privilege to be spared to see the blue of her country's banner studded with many stars.

Well might that grand-daughter feel proud as she laid a hand on each of those treasured chairs and said: "In one of these General Washington sat while our grandmother unfolded to him the design she had decided upon." On which I turned reverently from one to the other, and felt as a mother might who had lost a child in battle and on searching for the burial spot could not tell which of two graves was his, and so strewed flowers on both and wept over both, because she could not learn which

96-

held her child. It might have been "womanish weakness," or it might have been idolatry, but I did long to bow down before those silent mementoes in grateful acknowledgement to Heaven for the bestowal of such a man as Washington in the hour of our greatest need. How hope and fear must have held alternate sway as he came daily to watch the progress of the first flag! How perfectly his sublime faith seems emblemed in its pictured sky of blue and in those unwaning stars! How harmonious seems its snowy stripe with the spotless purity of his character! How like the dauntless warrior, ready to spill his life-blood in the struggle, seems its crimson band! Ah! grandmother Ross, yours was an artistic eye—there was deeper meaning in what you wrought than your descendants comprehend! I felt this as I stood there and fancied Washington in one chair and you in the other, gazing rev erently at him, and weaving in silken meshes this symbol of the life that has made us free.

If there be one among us whose ignorance of his birth place makes his nationality doubtful, let him lay his hands upon these antique chairs and stand the test. If a patriotic thrill electrifies him until he seems to stand face to face with our illustrious dead, then is he thoroughly and unquestionably an American; but if he listlessly gazes on their quaint workmanship, manifesting no emotion, then is he an alien and a stranger.

KATE HARRINGTON.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MARCH 9, 1892.

THE OLDEST SETTLER.

Demise at Fort Madison of John G. Kennedy, Who Has Seen Nearly all of the Town's History.

John G. Kennedy, the oldest pioneer settler of Fort Madison, died of dropsy in that city, Sunday night, aged seventy-eight years, and was buried yesterday. The following is a biographical sketch of the veteran:

"John G. Kennedy was a pioneer resident of Fort Madison and was the only man living in this vicinity who was here at the time he made his first settlement in Lee county, in 1836. He is possessed of a rich and peculiar experience, and the changes which he has witnessed since his first arrival here have been as remarkable as they are pleasing. The country was wild and unsettled at that time, and only wild animals and Indians roamed over the plains and through the forests. Here and there, to be sure, was the cabin of a lonely but adventurous settler, but they were few and far between, and it required a courageous spirit to decide upon making a location in such a wild region, and wait for the slow advance of civilization. The pioneers of the olden time, however, were made of stern stuff, and John G. Kennedy was a fine example of the men of that day. He came to stay and had no thought of going back after he had once put his hand to the plow. Jchn G. Kennedy was a native of Granville county, N. C., and his birth occurred April 17, 1812. His father, John Kennedy, was born in the same county, and his grandfather, James Kennedy, was a native of Ireland.

"The subject of our sketch was the youngest child of his father's family. He was but four years old when he was deprived of the affectionate care of his mother, and seven years old when his father removed to Tennessee. He remained with his father until the age of seventeen, when he engaged to learn the carpenter's trade at Lexington, where he served for three years. In 1833 he set his face westward, going into Illinois, and making his first location at Rushville, Schyler county, where he commenced to work at his trade. In the spring of 1835 he went to Galena, making the trip via the Mississippi river. The boat touched at Burlington, and during the few moments of its delay there he, with others, went ashore and assisted in raising the first frame house in that now thriving and prosperous city. He remained at Galena two months, then returned to Rushville, and lived there until the following year, when he set out to cross the Mississippi, and on the 12th day of April found himself at Fort Madison, where he soon found employment at his trade. He pursued this for some time, and in 1852 started for California, via the Mississippi river and Isthmus of Panama. He entered the mining regions there and was occupied for a time, thence proceeded to San Francisco, and was again employed at his trade until 1854. Then, longing for the sight of old friends and associations, he returned to Fort Madison and settled down, resuming his former occupation.

"When Mr. Kennedy came to Fort Madison there were only a few cabins in town, in fact it had hardly assumed the dignity of a village. It has seemed to him like the dream of a night when he compared the scenes of that time with those of the present. He has been a useful man in his community and has assisted by every means in his power toward advancing its interests, concluding rightly that the interests of the community were also inentified with those of each individual member He enjoyed the highest respect and esteem of his fellow citizens."

Constitution-Democrat.

JANUARY 23. 1884

A Bit of History.

The court house building at Ft. Madison was erected in 1842, says a writer in the Gem City, the ground, including the two lots upon which the jail is located, being donated by Guy Wells, James Wilson and Amos Ladd. Wilson and Ladd are both dead, and Wells is living at Duluth, Minn. Amos Ladd and J. Madison were the contractors on the building. Prior to 1842 court was held in the old Washington hotel building, along the river front at the foot of Elm street, the property of Mrs. Knapp. It was torn down about fifteen years ago, and a two-story frame substituted, now owned and occupied by Andrew Paine.

In April, 1841, Francis S. Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," was at Ft. Madison and conducted a lawsuit relative to the title of the land upon which the town of Montrose now stands. He was accompanied by his son, Barton, ho wafterwards was killed in Washington by General Sickles for alienating the affections of the latter's wife. Barton and D. F. Miller, Sr., now the oldest living Iowa lawyer in point of service, were most intimate friends, and both being young men at the time of Mr. Key's visit, a warm attachment sprung up, which lasted until the latter's tragic death.

Charles Mason, of Burlington, was the first district judge to preside in the new court house. The attorneys of Fort Madison then in practice were Alfred Rich, Philip Viele, W. E. Mason, Henry Eno, O. H. Peck, Lewis R. Reeves and Daniel F. Miller, Sr., all of whom are dead excepting Mr. Miller, who is still engaged in active practice, which is a large and remunerative one.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1866

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 2.

FIRE AT FORT MADISON—ATLEE'S MILL BURNED.—The Fort Madison *Plaindealer*, Extra, gives the following account of the burning of Atlee's mill Wednesday afternoon:

The heaviest loss by far, that has befallen Fort Madison during the period of our residence here, occurred yesterday afternoon, in the destruction by fire of Atlee's mill: ignited, as it is supposed, by sparks from the smoke stack of the planning mill; in a few minutes it was wrapped in flames, and its destruction was at once inevitable. The dry house filled with choice materials, was also consumed By the prompt and strenuous exertions of the employees and of the citizens, the planning mill was saved, the course of the wind being favorable, otherwise it too would have been lost. The lumber yard, fortunately, was uninjured.

The estimate loss is $12,000.

We are glad to learn that the mill will be rebuilt immediately, and made stronger and better than it was before, with the latest and most approved machinery. Lime for building, and a part of the machinery have been already ordered. The stone for the foundation is on the ground.

Mr. Atlee thinks that he will have the new mill in running order in about six weeks.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
KEOKUK, IOWA

Tombstone 116 years old found in Rodeo park at Fort Madison

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1959

A tombstone of 116 years ago was uncovered recently in the development of 25 additional acres in Rodeo park at Fort Madison.

Benrard Boyles, park caretaker found the tombstone while clearing a picturesque knoll for a picnic area.

Part of it was broken and buried in the ground and some of the smaller parts were found in heavy vegetation nearby.

The inscription

The inscription, still legible reads:

"Sacred to the memory of William M. Box, son of John Box. Born Oct. 3rd 1824; Died Oct. 24th, 1842. Belonged to the Christian church, died in full assurance of a blest immortality."

Boyles has recovered all parts of the stone and has restored it over the grave standing about 20 yards from a picnic table and fireplace.

There is evidence that a cabin stood on the knoll many years ago and parts of the foundation are buried in the ground. It was probably the pioneer homestead of the Box family and the 18 year old youth was buried near the cabin.

INDIANA FIRM HAS THE LOWEST BID

The Treasury Department Announces Bids on Postoffice at Fort Madison.

FT. MADISON, Iowa, Jan. 1.—A synopsis of the proposals for the construction of the new postoffice building in this city, which were advertised for on October 15 and opened December 17 at 5 o'clock p. m., was received from Congressman Kennedy this morning. The synopsis gives the number of bidders, the amount of the certified check deposited to guarantee completion of their part of the contract, the names and location of the bidders and the amount of their bid. The time specified for completion of the building was that specified by the treasury department—June 1, 1914.

The lowest bidder was Moore and Danner, of Kokomo, Ind. Their bid was $62,692.

JAN. 1, 1913

97-

Surveyor marker of 1832 is found in Ft. Madison

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1959

Charle E. (Gene) Hales, Lee county engineer and a licensed land surveyor, has discovered a government surveyor's marker, believed to be the first ever laid in Iowa, near a cornfield at the northwest corner of the corporate limits of Fort Madison, according to a Fort Madison Democrat story by Dick Fleckstein.

According to available records, the marker was laid in 1836 by a deputy United States surveyor, William A. Burt.

Legible markings

Although the marker has been broken from its base, possibly by machinery, the surveyor's township and range markings are still legible.

"This was and still is an important corner (marker)," noted Hales. "I've seen a lot of surveyor's markers, but this is the first one I've seen so carefully inscribed," he added.

Hales declared that the old marker was apparently carefully fashioned from limestone and a monument maker expertly engraved the markings on all four sides.

Territorial survey

Available records support the theory that this marker was the beginning of the survey of the Territory of Iowa. All indications also point to the probability that this marker is still the major township "corner" from which all present land descriptions within the state are taken.

Because of the increasing number of homesteaders, the surveyor general's office in Cincinnati, Ohio commissioned deputy Surveyor Burt to begin a survey of the Territory of Iowa north of the Sullivan line in 1836. The Sullivan line was surveyed by Col. John C. Sullivan in 1816, and was intended to mark the territory ceded to the United States by the Osage Indians. This line eventually became for the most part the boundary between Missouri and Iowa.

The line stretched from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River, and was planned to have run in a true easterly direction. Because of the lack of today's precision instruments and aerial photos, however the line ended up pointing slightly north of east.

Half Breed tract

The Sullivan line in Lee county was the northern boundary of what was known as the Sac-Fox "half-breed tract." Today the line still divides, for administrative purposes, South Lee county and Keokuk from North Lee county and Fort Madison. The line was the base point for Avenue L in Fort Madison, which runs in a slightly northeasterly direction.

Burt's orders in 1836 were to establish a township corner marker at a point between Ranges four and five west of the fifth principle meridian and 4,525.96 feet north of the Sullivan line, beginning at a point now known as "Baxter's Corner."

This spot — exactly 4,525.96 feet north of Baxter's Corner — is where Hales found the marker.

The points between Ranges four and five eventually became Fort Madison's west corporate limits. The old stone marker is the northern boundary of today's city.

North extension

In making this initial survey of the old Iowa Territory, Burt also had orders to extend the fifth principal meridian north of the Sullivan line. Burt did this by using the marker discovered in Fort Madison as his principal "corner."

All lands in Iowa today are described according to their relationship to Burt's extension of the fifth principal meridian through eastern Iowa and to the national base line, established earlier near Little Rock, Ark.

The technical description of lands on many documents may include such terrifying symbols as: "SE¼ of the NW¼ of Sec. 1. T69H, R6R of 5th P.M."

This simply means that the land described in the document is about 414 miles north of the national base line near Little Rock and is about 36 miles west of Burt's extension of the fifth principal meridian (P.M.).

All valuable

Years ago surveyors used stones or stakes to mark all sections. Sections are one-mile-square segments of townships, which are in turn parcels of land six miles on a side. Surveyor's townships do not necessarily coincide with civil townships.

"All these townships and section corner markers are valuable," said Hales, "Many however, are carelessly treated. They become either broken or lost. Then sooner or later there's the expense of a new survey and the re-establishment of a marker."

Hales plans to re-establish the old township marker in Fort Madison. He said he will embed the marker in a concrete foundation and perhaps place a new copper plate atop the marker, inscribed with the surveyor's markings which are now engraved in the limestone.

98-

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

Con JANUARY 18. 1889

A Bit of History.

The court house building at Ft. Madison was erected in 1842, says a writer in the Gem City, the ground, including the two lots upon which the jail is located, being donated by Guy Wells, James Wilson and Amos Ladd. Wilson and Ladd are both dead, and Wells is living at Duluth, Minn. Amos Ladd and J. Madison were the contractors on the building. Prior to 1842 court was held in the old Washington hotel building, along the river front at the foot of Elm street, the property of Mrs. Knapp. It was torn down about fifteen years ago, and a two-story frame substituted, now owned and occupied by Andrew Paine.

In April, 1841, Francis S. Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," was at Ft. Madison and conducted a lawsuit relative to the title of the land upon which the town of Montrose now stands. He was accompanied by his son, Barton, who afterwards was killed in Washington by General Sickles for alienating the affections of the latter's wife. Barton and D. F. Miller, Sr., now the oldest living Iowa lawyer in point of service, were most intimate friends, and both being young men at the time of Mr. Key's visit, a warm attachment sprung up, which lasted until the latter's tragic death.

Charles Mason, of Burlington, was the first district judge to preside in the new court house. The attorneys of Fort Madison then in practice were Alfred Rich, Philip Viele, W. E. Mason, Henry Eno, O. H. Peck, Lewis R. Reeves and Daniel F. Miller, Sr., all of whom are dead excepting Mr. Miller, who is still engaged in active practice, which is a large and remunerative one.

.THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

General Zachary Taylor Established Old Fort Madison in 1808; Burns During 1813

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1946

There are many signficant dates in the history of Lee county but one of the earliest on record is that of 1808 when General Zachary Taylor established a military post at the present location of Fort Madison. It was called Fort Madison in honor of James Madison, then president of the United States.

The post was continued until 1813 when the Indians became very hostile and the garrison, very small at the time, was ordered to abandon the fort. On September 3 of that year the soldiers completed a tunnel from the stockade to the river and after setting fire to the building made their escape to the Mississippi despite the howling savages who surrounded the post.

"Lone Chimney."

For many years after the burning a blackened chimney remained to mark the site of the fort and because of it the early trappers and river navigators called the place "Lone Chimney." The Indians called it "Potowonock," or place of the fire. Although the government ordered the post to be rebuilt, no action was ever taken and the site is now occupied by the W. A. Sheaffer Pen factory.

It was not until 1832, that the present town of Fort Madison was settled. The first settlement was said to have been made by Peter Williams, a mullen leaf doctor, in the fall of 1832. He took out a claim and built a log cabin near the bank of the Mississippi some distance below the ruins of the fort.

Williams vs. Government.

At that time a treaty existed with the Indians whereby no white man was to settle in the Black Hawk purchase until July 4 of 1833 but Peter Williams completely ignored that agreement and maintained his right to claim public domains. The government soon intervened, however, and Williams incurred the enmity of an officer and twelve men when he refused to obey their orders and move across the river. They are said to have tied him to a tree and to have destroyed his cabin and cord wood before his eyes.

Following the demolition of his cabin, Williams was taken as a prisoner to Commerce (Nauvoo) but soon gained his release through the intercession of friends and returned to resettle his claim in 1833. On his return, however, he found a neighbor, Richard Chaney, who had cleared a patch of ground and raised a crop of grain. The two men soon began to dispute about their boundaries and the argument eventually developed into a miniator war which Williams won through the assistance of friends from Fort Des Moines (now Montrose). Other settlers began to filter in at about that time and in 1834, John H. Knapp is credited with laying out the first plat of the town which consisted of four cabins.

Early Survey.

During 1835 and 1836, here was a considerable influx of pioneers and the site began to take on the apeparance of a small community which was finally incorporated as a town on March 3, 1837 with William W. Coriell and George Cubbage as commissioners.

Both Fort Madison and Keokuk are located in what was at one time known as the "Half-Breed Tract", a land settlement made with the Sac and Fox Indians who had relinquished their claims to their former holdings in Missouri but still held the triangular piece of land between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers.

The Surveyor.

This tract was originally surveyed by Jenifer T. Sprigg, a surveyor for the state of Missouri in 1832 and 1833. According to his survey, the records of which, along with Sprigg's diary, are still on file in the auditor's office at Fort Madison, the northern boundry of the triangle started at a point just above Croton and extended to the Mississippi at about the location of what is now Twelfth street in Fort Madison.

Sprigg not only located the boundaries of the tract but divided the land into the townships and sections which still exist. In some cases, he surveyed only fractional townships and in such instances, his lines do not jibe with those made when the sections were resurveyed at a later date. This is the reason why section lines are so irregular in the center of Van Buren township, for example.

Kept Diary.

Sprigg's diary, in which he recorded daily events as well as his land marking, is a very interesting as well as historical document. When he surveyed the townships in the lower portion of the county, he did not name them but designated them by figures and letters such as: Jackson 65n, 5w; Des Moines 66n, 6w; Montrose 66n, 5w; Van Buren 67n, 7w, etc.

These figures were derived from the principal meridians and base lines as used in surveying. The point, from which all Iowa public land surveys were made, was the intersection of the fifth principal meridian is the line which runs due north from the old mouth of the St. Francis river in Arkansas, passing through eastern Iowa along the boundaries of Jones and Cedar counties. The base line was the parallel of 34 degrees 44 north latitude which crosses central Arkansas just north of Little Rock.

Thus, when Sprigg noted in his diary that he was surveying township 65n, 5w, it meant that he was in the 65th township north of the base line in Arkansas and the 5th west of the principal meridian, or Jackson township. These figures and letters, by the way, are still used in maps of the county, but as marginal notations.

99-

Find Old Fort's Officers Quarters

Des Moines Register Page 3
Fri., July 9, 1965

By a Staff Writer

FORT MADISON, IA.—Excavators digging in a parking lot of the Sheaffer Pen Co. here have uncovered the officers quarters of old Fort Madison, the first U. S. Army fort built in what is now Iowa.

McKUSICK

The new find, which includes a wealth of all manner of goods and equipment, definitely establishes the location of the old fort, which was burned and abandoned by the Army in 1813.

All sorts of army equipment of the early 1800s, teapots, tea cups, bottles and building hardware have been found in the ruins of the newly discovered site, said Dr. Marshall McKusick, state archeologist and member of the University of Iowa Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Dr. McKusick will begin intensive excavation of the site this morning with a crew of 20 university students.

"This find appears to be in an astounding state of preservation," McKusick said Thursday. "When the fort was burned, the remains of the officers quarters caved into the cellar under the building. Over the years, the hole filled in and its contents were preserved."

The discovery of the original fort, after which the present city was named, began in mid-June when construction machinery dug into the Sheaffer parking lot to dig trenches for water mains for a new water tower.

McKusick was notified when parts of an old limestone wall were uncovered. Further probing subsequently proved this to be the foundation of one of the fort's four blockhouses, McKusick said.

Further Excavations

His assistant, Robert Alex, U. of I. graduate student in anthropology, stayed on to watch further excavations which led to the discovery of the officers quarters Thursday.

Detailed maps of the old fort are available, McKusick said, so that the site of the entire fort can now be laid out.

The fort was built in 1808 as part of a treaty agreement with the Sac and Fox Indians. It was constructed under the direction of a Lieut. Alpha Kingsley and was the first fort he built.

After looking over several locations on both sides of the river, Lieutenant Kingsley made his choice. It was not a good one.

The fort was built on the first bench above the Mississippi River. A deep ravine bordered it on the west. A rather high ridge rose behind it.

When Chief Black Hawk led attacks of the fort in 1812 and 1813, the ravine provided shelter for his braves and the ridge enabled them to fire directly into the fort from above.

Provide Protection

A palisaded walkway and blockhouse were subsequently built on the ridge to provide protection for the fort from that direction but it became increasingly obvious that the fort was untenable.

The soldiers finally burned it while under attack, took to their boats and sailed downriver to St. Louis.

This rather hasty evacuation forced the soldiers to abandon much of their equipment and supplies. It is this equipment which is now being uncovered and preserved for posterity, McKusick said.

When white settlers returned to the site in subsequent years to found the present city, the exact location of the old fort was never found. It has remained a mystery until now. A monument near the Sheaffer factory marks what was thought to be its most likely location.

The Sheaffer Pen Co. has cooperated fully in the present excavations, McKusick said, and so far has stored 18 tons of rock and beams from the old fort. In addition, it has agreed to release to the state whatever material is found in the fort with a view to further reconstruction, the state archeologist said.

DAILY GATE CITY

FIND ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GRAVE

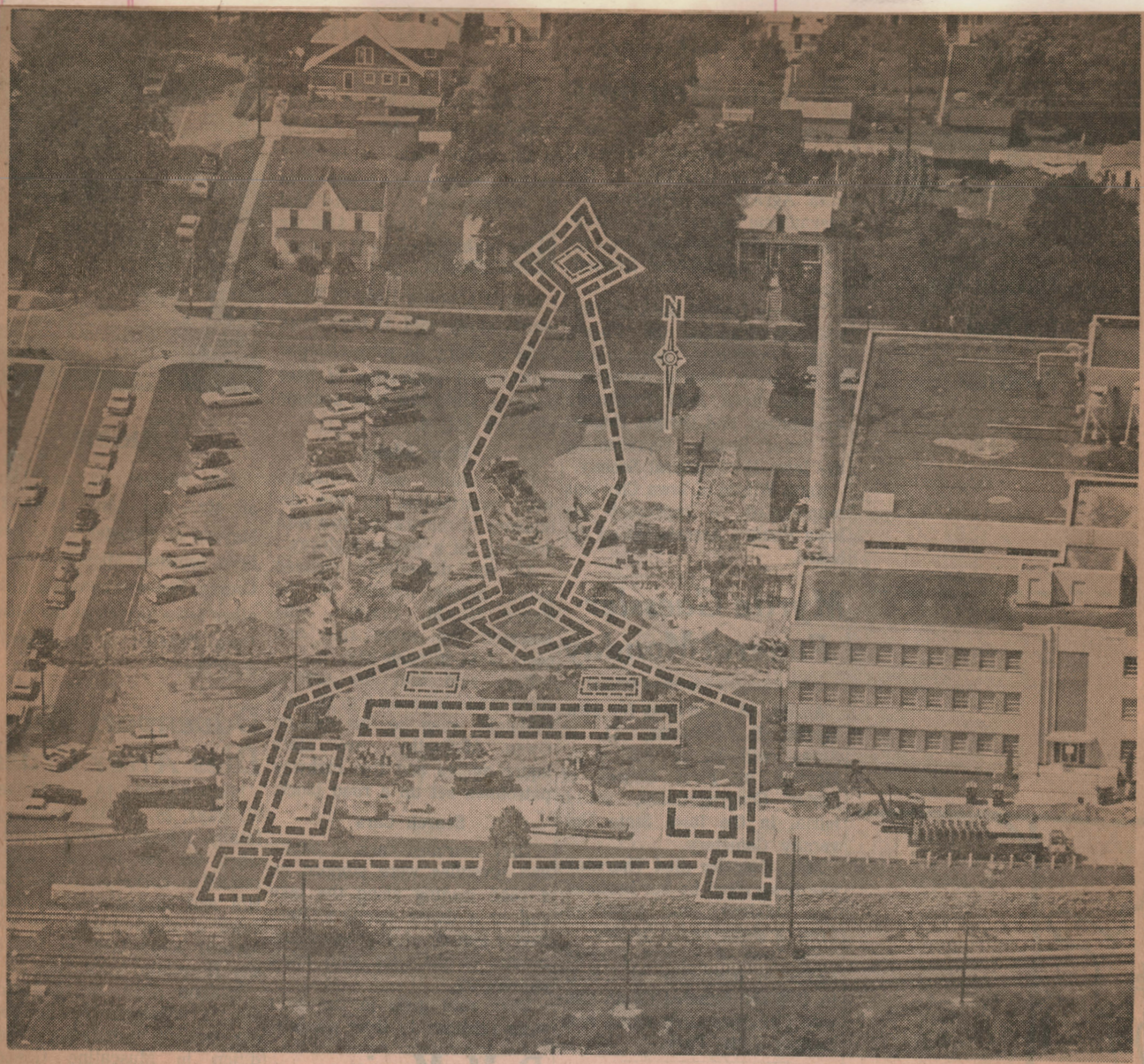
Fort Madison Finally Gains Recognition For Timothy Breese Buried In Lost Creek Cemetery.

OCT. 22. 1929

The ten-year quest of Jean Espy chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution at Fort Madison, for recognition of the burial place of another Revolutionary soldier in Iowa has been successful and honor will be paid to the memory of Timothy Breese whose grave is in Lost Creek cemetery five miles north of Fort Madison. Keokuk Chapter along with other local organizations had a part in marking the grave of George Perkins in Sharon cemetery many years ago. It has been definitely establisehd now that the Breese grave is to be given attention.

Breese served throughout the duration of the war, it is claimed, and the claim has been substantiated by the evidence presented by Mrs. J. M. Casey, former regent of the chapter, R. N. Johnson and C. C. Linsenmeyer, who with Mrs. Frank Keuper, regent, met with the Revolutionary war commission in Des Moines last week. The commission visited Fort Madison and agreed that the claimes made for Breese were authentic.

The first effort to gain recognition for the grave was made by Mrs. J. M. Casey, ten years ago, when she was regent of the Fort Madison chapter.



REGISTER AERIAL PHOTO BY LARRY NEIBERGALL

Digging Up Old Fort Madison

Diagram shows approximate layout of old Fort Madison, a U. S. Army fort built in the winter of 1808-1809. Fort was built to protect a trading post for the Indians. It was attacked many times, and was abandoned and burned in 1813. Foundation was struck while construction was under way for a 122,-000-gallon reservoir in the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co. parking lot. Trading post was left of center of fort.

Old Army Fort Sparks Interest in History

Des Moines Sunday Register
July 11, 1965
Local Section 3-L

By Otto Knauth
(Register Staff Writer)

FORT MADISON, IA.—Even the timeless Mississippi River has changed since First Lt. Alpha Kingsley built his fort here 157 years ago and named it after President James Madison.

When Kingsley and his men of the 1st Infantry Regiment arrived here in September, 1808, there was only the river and the hills. They built the first fort in what is now Iowa.

Its location, lost in the memories of present Fort Madison residents, was recently re-discovered in a parking lot just west of the main plant of W. A. Shaeffer Pen Co. here.

A partial excavation is being conducted by a group of 20 students in a summer archeology project headed by Dr. Marshall McKusick, state archeologist.

Lieutenant Kingsley became the builder of the fort through default when his commanding officer, Col. Thomas Hunt, died as he was about to leave St. Louis. Though he had never built a fort nor commanded a post before, Kingsley did his best. The result was not a happy one.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
F. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER—JULY 17, 1960

New Discoveries Provide Clearer Picture Of What Old Fort Madison Was Really Like

By Otto Knauth

ART combined with history recently at the University of Iowa in Iowa City to produce the most nearly accurate drawing known of old Fort Madison. The old army fort, the first ever built in Iowa, was constructed in September, 1808, to protect a trading post established under terms of an Indian treaty.

The fort was abandoned and burned under Indian attack five years later. Time and the Mississippi River covered the remains and its exact location in the city of Fort Madison was not known until it was discovered last summer in the course of construction at the Sheaffer Pen Co. Detailed archeological excavations were subsequently made under the direction of Dr. Marshall McKusick, state archeologist, and a team of 20 U. of I. students. Only one map and several contradictory sketches of the old fort were in existence when the excavation got under way.

The above drawing by George Vaklev, a U. of I. art student, combines the knowledge gained in last summer's dig with what historical records remained of Fort Madison. One change from earlier records is shown in the blockhouses which, the excavation showed, were built with the second floor turned 45 degrees to the first floor, so as to provide overhangs at the corners. The extensive use of cobblestone paving also was revealed in the excavation.

The original fort consisted only of the enclosure formed by the three blockhouses at the right of the picture. The long "tail" and the fourth blockhouse were added later to extend the fort to a ridge in the rear from which Indians had been able to fire into the original enclosure.

The large building outside the fort was the "factory" or trading post; the large building placed across the inside of the fort was the officers quarters; the other one was the enlisted men's barracks.

The front gate led down to the Mississippi River. There was another, smaller gate at the central blockhouse.

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA MONDAY, AUG. 15, 1966 — 9

102-

Archeologists find 30 Indian gravesites near Fort Madison

IOWA CITY — The remains of 30 Indians who lived in the late Woodland period have come to light for the first time in 70 to 140 years at a road construction project near Fort Madison.

The graves were recently uncovered by an archeological crew including six students from The University of Iowa. They removed for further study parts of at least 12 clay pots, several projectile points, carbon samples for analysis and dating, and Indian skeletons.

Dr. Marshall McKusick, state archeologist and associate professor of anthropology at U of I, said that most of the bones are in such "a poor state of preservation" that they are extremely difficult to remove.

Disintegrate

Ground moisture had leached the calcium from the bones, leaving only fragile outlines. Adrian Anderson, assistant state archeologist in charge of the excavation, said that even teeth, which usually resist decomposition, disintegrated when touched lightly with brushes by the crew.

Twenty-nine of the skeletons were apparently "bundle burials," Anderson said. These were placed in individual burial pits under six mounds. The bones had been stripped of flesh and the skeletons dismembered. The long bones were placed in the north end of the grave, and the skull at the south.

The 30th was buried in the "flexed" position, with the head at the south and the knees drawn up to the chest as in the womb. The flesh had been left on these bones, Anderson said.

Artifacts

"Grave goods," artifacts like pots and projectile points, were found in only one of the 30 graves. Anderson said the goods were apparently "an intrusion" from a later period. This group of late Woodland Indians did not place gods with the actual burials but placed pots — upside-down — higher up in the mounds.

The crew had gone to Fort Madison to find an outer wall of the old army fort which was discovered last summer in the parking lot of the W. A. Scheaffer Pen firm. Some of the students struck up a conversation with townspeople who asked if they were going to investigate the Indian mounds on Route 61 where the highway was being widened.

The mounds were scheduled for immediate leveling by the construction men, but the crew obtained time to excavate the remains under terms of the Federal Highway Antiquities Act, adopted by the Iowa legislature last year and never before used in this state.

Valuable find

The find was especially valuable because so little is known about the Indian tribes of the late Woodland period, which these skeletons represent, Anderson said.

The members of the archeological crew included a high school student and a student at Harvard Medical School. Anderson acepted as a volunteer Bill Hemmings of Donnellson, a high school student who hopes to enter U of I in 1967 as an anthropology major.

Miss Margaret Bean of Iowa City is a medical student at Harvard, and is the daughter of Dr. William B. Bean, professor and head of internal medicine at the U of I College of Medicine.

The six U of I students included George Judy, West Point, law; Bob Vis, Orange City, senior; William Vinall, Davenport, senior; Jon Swanson, Montezuma, graduate; Stan Witkowski, Rockford, Ill., graduate; and Bob Alex, Bettendorf, graduate.

Constitution-Democrat.

SEPTEMBER 23 1896

PETER MILLER DEAD.

Fort Madison's Oldest Pioneer Passes Away — Lived in Lee County Sixty Years.

Peter Miller, Sr., brother of the late D. F. Miller, Sr., of this city, died at his home in Fort Madison Sunday at midnight, aged eighty eight years. The funeral was held from the residence this afternoon.

Peter Miller was born March 9, 1808, in Allegheny county, Maryland. His parents were tillers of the soil and were people of intelligence and piety. They moved to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1815. Peter left his parental home in 1828 and went to Huron county, Ohio. In 1831 Mr. Miller was married to Pamelia Kellogg, a native of Massachusetts. It was just sixty years today that Mr. Miller landed in Fort Madison, in which he had lived ever since. Neither has he during his life occupied a home in any ward but the present First ward. After his arrival in Fort Madison he opened the first blacksmith shop there. Making this first venture a success he sold the shop and engaged in general merchandising, which he followed for a period of thirty years. In 1868 and for many years afterwards he was engaged in the lumber business. His business interests did not prevent the people from calling him to offices of public trust. He was elected the first treasurer of Lee county in 1838 Later he was elected county commissioner. Under Van Buren in 1839 he was appointed postmaster and served as such for three years. In 1841 he was president of the board of trustees of the town of Fort Madison. Five years later he was elected sheriff of Lee county. The office of mayor of Fort Madison was held by him in 1869. In 1851 he was married to his second wife, Isabel Galespie, who died in 1867 in Fort Madison. His first wife died in 1848.

Mr. Miller leaves three sons, Napoleon B., Peter M., and Martin A. Miller.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK IOWA

PRESIDIO
September - 1965

★ Edited and published monthly by the men of the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa. ★

City With A Past

By Eddie O'Connor

As construction workers started excavating for a new reservoir at the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company, little did they know they would uncover a bit of the past at this exact site and then a foundation was discovered. First reports were made that the foundation that was found could possibly be the old trading post which was located outside the old fort. After these first reports, members of a newly formed group, Old Fort Madison, Inc., which is headed by Bernard Hesse IV, asked the Sheaffer Company for permission to further investigate the diggings. The Sheaffer Co. consented and Old Fort Madison Inc., called on Dr. Marshall McKusick, archeologist and assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Iowa, for a professional opinion. Dr. McKusick in turn sent his laboratory assistant, Robert Alex, a graduate student in anthropology to the project. Alex and members of Old Fort Madison Inc. spent several days searching and checking objects and bits of buried materials that were bared by draglines; charcoal and small animal bones which could have been the sites of Indian fires, also bits of crockery, a stem to a clay pipe (the type used by frontiersmen), pieces of glassware, old Army buttons, and other bits and pieces that could have been anything, but are still being investigated at this time in laboratories at the State University of Iowa. On June 17, Dr. McKusick came to the excavation to study some of the findings himself and after looking over the site and other artifacts such as nails, hinges, Indian beads, etc., Dr. McKusick stated: "There's no doubt that this is the foundation of one of the military buildings of the old fort, probably a blockhouse." Later, Alex, Dr. McKusick and John Vincent, an authority on Indian lore and the frontier period in Iowa, and Director of Sanford Museum at Cherokee, continued the investigation and all doubt was removed and the long-time dispute between old--timers and residents as to the exact location of the old fort was ended as Dr. McKusick, Alex and Vincent stated that this was definitely the site of the old fort that was built in 1808 and burned to the ground in 1813.

The Turbulent Frontier

The history involving the Old Fort is a bloody saga that has notched itself in the minds of historians as a time and place that was all but doomed before it was ever begun, because as the Marquis de Casa Yjuro, Spanish minister in Washington wrote to his government: "It is beyond question that there exists in this country an infinite number of adventurers, without property, full of ambition, and ready to unite at once under the standard of revolution which promises to better their lot." This was after the treaty of 1804, in which the Indians had been all but robbed of fifty-one million acres of land, which included all the lands claimed by the Sac and Fox Indians on the east side of the Mississippi for a grand sum of $2,234.50, which was delivered on the spot, and the Nations were to receive $1,000 a year in goods, and (not to forget) the friendship and protection of the United States.

Black Hawk Chief Of The Sac And Fox

Black Hawk, who was the number one chief of the Sac and Fox nations, sneered at the treaty and said, "I will leave it to the people of the United States to say whether our nation was properly represented in this treaty? Or whether we received a fair compensation for the extent of country ceded by some of my people? I could say much about this treaty but I will not at this time. It will be the origin of our difficulties." And it was, as history points out, one of the most sinister undertakings during the early days of the frontier, and had a direct bearing on the hostile feeling the Indians had for the first settlers that blazed the trails to Fort Madison. Black Hawk would not forget.

Black Hawk, whose Indian name was "Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak" which amounts to a series of Indian sounds that tell of a black sparrow in flight, was the son of Pyesa and was the inheritor of a medicine bag filled with trinkets to which Black Hawk attributed mysterious powers. There is no mention made of his mother, but most historians agree he had one. At the age of 15 Black Hawk wounded his first enemy and soon after joined his first war party, killing his first man. For the following 20 years he waged war and spent most of his time on the warpath against tribes that were trying to repossess the land the Sac and Fox had taken from them. Some historians described Black Hawk as a savage, blood thirsty renegade whose delight it was to wage war. Others write of him as a patriot, for he fought the wars for his people to keep inviolate the tribal lands. Regardless of the discrepancies in describing Black Hawk, most historians will agree he was a great leader of men and all who followed him did so loyally and eagerly. Therefore when the treaty of 1804 was handed down, though saddened, Black Hawk accepted the terms for the sake of his people.

The Trading Post

One of the stipulations in the treaty of 1804 was that the United States would build trading posts in the Indian territories, and two years after the signing of the treaty the then President of the United States, William Henry Harrison, the negotiator of the treaty, instructed his Military Commander of the Southwest, General James Wilkinson, to enforce the treaty. (This was only after the

10¢.

United States found out that the British traders were gaining a stronghold with the Indians because of fair trade and the trading of goods at honest prices.) General Wilkinson dispatched a Lieutenant, Zebulon M. Pike, to map and explore the Mississippi and to get acquainted by holding conferences with the Indians living on the river's shores. History points out that Pike was an honest man and rendered a service to the Indians that places him in the ranks of Lewis and Clark, who were exploring the Missouri and Columbia rivers at the time Pike was attempting to win the faith of the Sac and Fox along the Mississippi.

As Pike conferred and gained favorable status with the Indians, the British traders were agitating the Indians by telling them that the United States only wanted their land. But Black Hawk believed in Pike and told him that the Indians would be friends with both the United States and British, and Lt. Pike in turn sent his report to Washington recommending two sites that would be good places for trading posts, but stipulated that the site near Burlington would be the best.

McKusick

On September 1, 1808 a company of the United States Infantry headed up the river to erect a trading post—and a Fort. The Lieutenant in charge of the company, Alpha Kingsley, disregarded Lt. Pike's recommendations and selected the site of Fort Madison, Iowa, as the best place for a post. September 26, the soldiers pitched camp and started to build temporary barracks; cabins were built and surrounded with a low stockade to protect against any Indian attacks; the Indians had agreed to a trading post and knew nothing of any Fort on Indian lands. Lieutenant Kingsley made an attempt to ease the tension with the Indians by opening the trading post just as soon as the troops arrived, but the Indians laughed at and ridiculed the goods that were offered them because they were of such poor quality. The trading post was named Le Moine Factory and Col. John W. Johnson was the post's Factor. The first shipment of merchandise received at the post on August 23, 1808 and invoiced at $14,715.99; this merchandise was to be used to barter with the Indians for furs, skins, etc. Johnson's first inventory back to Washington reads as follows:

By 710 lbs. beaver, @ $2 a lb.	$1,420.00
By 1,353 muskrat skins, @ 25¢	338.25
By 3,585 raccoon skins, @ 25¢	896.25
By 25,021 lbs. shaved deerskins	6,255.25
By 3,000 lbs. do in the hair	601.20
By 20 bearskins 1st qlty	30.00
By 44 do 2nd do	44.00
By 176 otterskins, @ $2	352.00
By 100 lbs. beeswax, @ 20¢	20.00
By 968 lbs. tallow, @ 12¢	121.00

And, shortly after the Fort was finished, Black Hawk said, "The soldiers are going about their work, weapons in hand, as if they were in the enemies' territory." Lieutenant Kingsley reported, "The Fort is so far advanced as to bid defiance to the evil minded savage, and at the same time insure the friendship and respect of the better disposed." As Kingsley was planning on running the British out of the Indian Nations, Black Hawk was already laying plans to destroy the Fort and the trading post if need be. The trading post did suffer, as one of Col. Johnson's later reports showed, over a $5,000 loss caused by fire.

In the autumn of 1808 the Sac came down the Mississippi to their winter hunting grounds and stopped at the post to take goods on credit to be paid for the following spring by the proceeds from their winter's hunt. Meanwhile, Indian hostility toward the Fort grew more intense, and all winter long spies kept the chiefs informed of the progress made by the soldiers at the Fort. To make matters worse, there was a scarcity of game that winter and this only increased the Indians' discontent. Therefore, plot after plot was made to rob the government store, to capture the Fort, and to kill the soldiers. The plot accepted was that of Black Hawk's, and he was placed in command with Pashipaho second in authority.

While Black Hawk and his warriors were planning the raid, a young Ioway Indian headed for the Fort to inform the post sutler, George Hunt, who had once befriended this Indian at Detroit, of the war plans of the Sac.

McKusick and volunteer workers unearthed the remains of old Fort Madison.

Old Fort Madison

Word had reached Lieutenant Kingsley early in the spring that the Indians and British agents had visited the Chiefs at Rock River, Illinois, and they were planning to gather all the Indian nations together and wage war on the American frontier, while some of the British urged the nations to

(Continued on page 33)

city with a past - 2
THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

(City With A Past . . . from page 15)

take the fort of "Belle Vue". Fort Belle Vue was the name of the original fort and was called that until April 19, 1809, when Lt. Kingsley made a report to the Secretary of War and his letter was headed "Fort Madison, near the river Le Moin", and this is the first official evidence of the application of the name of the newly elected president of the United States!

In May the young Ioway Indian brought a second warning to his friend, the sutler at the Fort, that the Indians were on the move and would soon be there to destroy the post and the Fort in a most devious way. NOTE: Some early historians wanted to add a touch of romance to history and conjured up a "beautiful Sac maiden", who had supposedly fallen in love with one of the soldiers, as the betrayer of the Indians' plot. There is no real evidence on the records to prove this romantic story, but there is proof in Hunt's records of the Ioway Indian who did not forget a benefit; not of an Indian maiden who could not forget the man she loved.

Black Hawk's plan to lay siege to the fort was to be as follows: the Sac would arrive the following day on their way to their summer villages and would stop to pay their debts. After that they would ask permission to give a dance within the stockade for the entertainment of the garrison, and then at a given signal, they would grab their previously concealed weapons and murder every white man in the fort.

As the sun rose the following morning, the man at the post saw a large band of Sac paddling up the river in their canoes and soon after pull up to the shore and headed for the trading post. Records show, "Band after band of Indians paid up their credits and traded, with little haggling. The chief of each band sat on the counter hurrying his people on. By three o'clock the trading was over."

Shortly after, Pashipaho, with an interpreter, went within the Fort to ask permission of Lt. Kingsley for the braves to give a dance as the ground outside, he said, was too rough. The lieutenant refused the request. Black Hawk, was waiting outside with the braves who were growing impatient, and they started beating the drums and began to crowd up to the main gate of the Fort. Much to Black Hawk's surprise, and dismay, the soldiers were ready for this sneak attack and rather than facing unsuspecting troops, Black Hawk and his braves faced a cannon (Six-Pounder) with a soldier standing by it with a port fire; bayonets appeared in the windows and doorways of the barracks. The Indians retreated and so great was Black Hawk's ire over the failure to secure the Fort that he left his camp that night with a war party in fifty canoes to take revenge on the Osage Indians who were some three hundred miles distant.

The first plan to destroy the Fort was thwarted, but it was not the last of such plans and varied attacks. In response to appeals for help at the Fort, a Captain Horatio Stark arrived on the scene and a general reinforcement program was inaugurated. It wasn't until almost two years later, all buildings completed, 42 men to defend the garrison, 10 employees at the factory, that word was received at the Fort that the Sac, Fox, Ioways and Winnebago had been beaten in a general uprising at the Battle of Tippecanoe. Sullen and revengeful, the Indians withdrew to Rock River, Illinois, and war parties were organized to raid and wreak vengeance on the Americans along the Mississippi, at the lead mines, Prairie Du Chien, and Fort Madison.

Meanwhile, the soldiers at the Fort prepared, and urgent requests were sent to Benjamin Howard, Governor of The Louisiana Territory, for more men because the Indians were employing sniper tactics, killing a man here and there, and were building their forces for an all out attack. A Colonel sent word back to Captain Stark that if the Captain made good use of his forces, and used

Elbow grease and mud was the combination which played a most important role during the recent diggings.

the proper vigilance, his troops could defend the place against any number brought against it. (Later 12 men were sent to reinforce the post.)

That summer Captain Stark was reassigned to a new post and Lieutenant Thomas Hamilton assumed command at the Fort. On June 12, 1812, war was declared on England by the United States Congress. To the Indians, this war was a chance to avenge past wrongs, while the American settler looked at it as a way to remove the Indian menace and appease his growing hunger for land. As soon as the war was declared, the British summoned the Indians and asked for their help, and Black Hawk laid aside his war bonnet and donned a British uniform. The opening months of the war were filled with disaster and gloom for the Americans, as many forts fell to the hands of the Indians and British.

Early in September 1812, after the surrender of Detroit, there was one sole remnant of American power left in the Mississippi Valley region, Fort Madison. And in just a matter of days a party of

some 200 Winnebago and many Sac attacked the post. In their first assault they killed one soldier who was caught outside the garrison, and a constant firing was continued until dark. On the following morning the Indians started their attack, again burning boats, killing livestock, and burning houses outside the stockade, and hurling firebrands on the block houses. (From the bluffs at the rear of the Fort the Indians had a clear view of the garrison's interior and the ravines afforded them full protection from the guns of the soldiers.) Again the Indians were turned back and again the commanding officer at the Fort appealed for help. But rather than send help, the War Department sent word back that the Fort would be evacuated the following spring, being that the Indians had ceased fire until they would return again from their winter hunting grounds and the river would be free of ice. When spring came the Fort was not evacuated because, as a General pointed out, Fort Madison was the only place in the Upper Mississippi Valley where information could be collected about the views and plans of the British and their Indian allies.

Twice during the month of July, 1813, small numbers of roving Indians attacked the Fort, but now the Fort had about one hundred soldiers and they were easily beaten. The second attack on the Fort embittered Lt. Hamilton, and he denounced the location of the Fort, saying in his report, "Constant duty and watchfulness on the part of the garrison caused much sickness among the soldiers, and supplies—fire-wood, powder and shells were running low."

And, that was the last official report from the Fort Madison that was recently discovered. Shortly after the report was made, Indians in overwhelming numbers attacked the post and kept up the attacks until the garrison was reduced to the verge of starvation and the commanding officer had to choose between surrender or escape. He chose the latter course.

One night, under the cover of darkness, the people in the Fort set to digging a trench from the southeast corner of the blockhouse to the river. Others carried supplies and whatever else could be carried to the boats the Indians had missed burning. When the trench was completed the soldiers evacuated the Fort. The last man out, Lt. Hamilton, set fire to the buildings, and before the enemy could gather their wits the soldiers were well on their way down the Mississippi. When the sun rose the next morning there was nothing left of old Fort Madison save two tall charred chimneys, which stood for many years as a land mark on a site called by the Indians, "Potowonock" the place of the fire.

As the sun rose on June 17, 1965, Dr. McKusick said, "This is definitely the old Fort". One hundred and fifty-two years after "Potowonok", bits and pieces of the past are being studied, while no one should forget the bloody and turbulent sagas that fill our history of America.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as 2d class matter

, OCTOBER 31, 1910

LONE CHIMNEY IN MONUMENT

Friday Memorial Shaft at Ft. Madison Was Unveiled by Jean Epsy Chapter, D. A. R.

The Lone Chimney monument, erected by Jean Espy chapter of the D. A. R. on the site of old Fort Madison, was officially unveiled at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon. Deputy District Attorney George B. Stewart delivered the unveiling address. Robert S. Cosey and Albert Philis, sons of officers of the chapter managed the uncovering. The local post of the G. A. R. attended in a body, the public and parochial schools closed for the afternoon and a chorus of scholars sang patriotic hymns at the monmument. Governor Carroll had been invited to attend and his absence was deeply regretted.

Old Fort Madison was established in 1805 by Zebulon M. Pike, then on an exploring expedition north from St. Louis. A lieutenant and platoon of soldiers were stationed here, quartered in block houses and surrounded by a stockade. Many stories of hazardous adventures with the Indians, romances and love stories of the Indian maidens and the soldiers are handed down by the settlers. One of them which has become history is of the devotion of a pretty indian maid to one of the officers of the fort, how she once saved the garrison from a terrible fate by revealing an Indian plot to massacre them. The Indians crept to the very gates of the stockade when a masked cannon was suddenly brought into view and the attack was stopped. Then the Indians began a siege which ended with the garrison tunneling to the river, a scarce ten rods away, and in the darkness of a night in 1812, slipped quietly out on the bosom of the Father of Waters, the last man applying a torch to the dry logs of the block house.

The party went on their way to headquarters at St. Louis. All that remained of the structures was a large, bare stone chimney, which stood like a sentinel over the ashes of the fort. To the surrounding tribes of Indians, the explorers and the first settlers the place was nicknamed from that time on as Po-to-wonok, or the Lone Chimney. So Friday, as nearly as possible on the same spot, in the eastern part of the city, a few feet from the same well which was used by the garrison and the Indians, and is still in use, "the Lone Chimney" was appropriately unveiled.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
KEOKUK, IOWA

107.

157-year-old site

Old Fort Madison believed uncovered

FORT MADISON (AP) — What appears to be the site of old Ft. Madison has been uncovered under a parking lot being excavated for an addition to the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co. here.

Officials of a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a replica of the fort say they feel reasonably sure that the 157-year-old site has been found.

Ft. Madison, for which this city is named, was built by American soldiers in 1808 and burned by them in 1831 after attacks by the British and their ally Indian Chief Black Hawk.

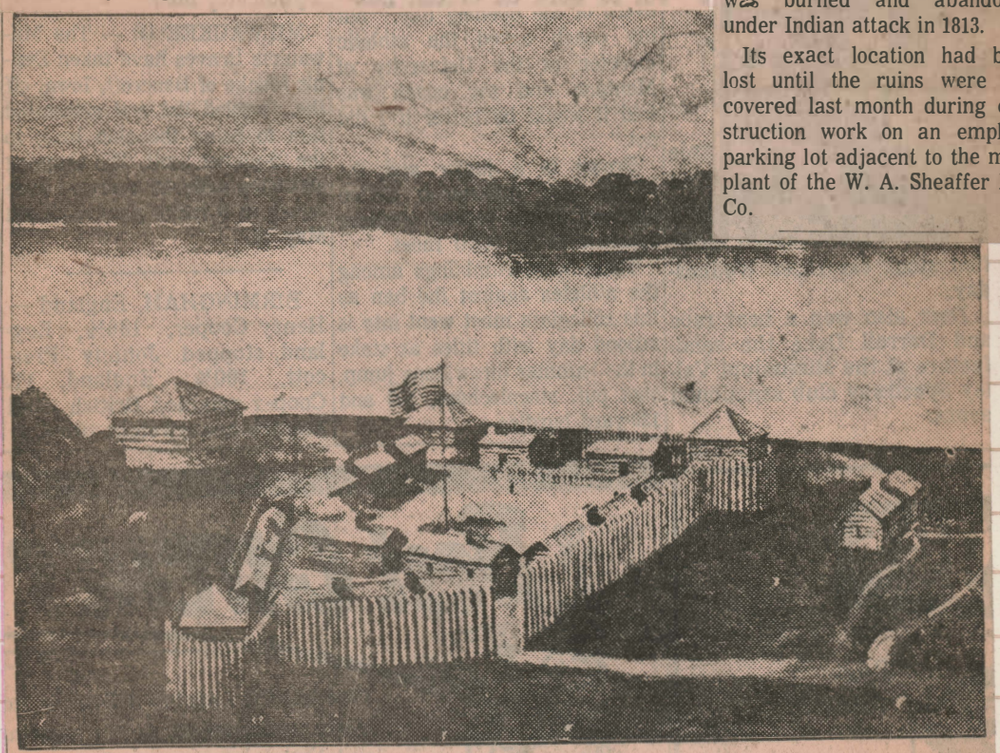
Bernard Hesse, president of Old Ft. Madison, Inc., and Robert Alex, an assistant in the office of the state archeologist in Iowa City, were enthused about the find.

Alex said the excavation has turned up what appears to be a building about 15 by 20 feet. Crockery, pieces of plates and a beer bottle of early 1800 vintage were among things found.

Hesse said the Sheaffer company has agreed to cooperate to save as much of the site as possible.

Chuckle

Parents concerned about where their teenager is might try following the telephone extension cord. (T-M, WRR. Gen. Fea. Corp.)



THIS OLD DRAWING represents Fort Madison, the foundations of which are believed to have been uncovered this week during excavation for an addition to the Sheaffer Pen Company. The Fort, built by American soldiers in 1808 was burned by them in escaping a seige by British and Indians led by Black Hawk in 1831.

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1965 — 3

Des Moines Register
Tues., July 13, 1965 Page 3

UNEARTH MORE OF IOWA FORT

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

FORT MADISON, IA. — More of old Fort Madison, the state's first military installation, came to light Monday under the probing of State Archeologist Dr. Marshall McKusick and his crew of 20 student diggers.

Discoveries Monday included a portion of the foundation of Blockhouse No. 1, which guarded the old fort's southwest corner, and a cobblestone walk, possibly the floor of a porch, in front of the officers' quarters.

The blockhouse foundation and much burned material were turned up in a 25-foot exploratory trench south of the old Fort Madison monument.

The fort was built in 1808 as part of the treaty obligations with the Sac and Fox Indians. It was burned and abandoned under Indian attack in 1813.

Its exact location had been lost until the ruins were discovered last month during construction work on an employe parking lot adjacent to the main plant of the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co.

The Daily Gate City
10 — KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1965

DIGGING INTO HISTORY—When workmen began excavation at the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co. parking lot in Fort Madison recently they came upon rock structures believed to be the foundation of the trading post at old Fort Madison, established from 1808 to 1813. The rock structures are outlined by the dotted lines. Circled is Robert Alex of Bettendorf, laboratory assistant for State Archeologist Dr. Marshal McKusick of the University of Iowa, who is exploring the excavation. The excavation is preliminary to the installation of a 122,000-gallon reservoir for manufacturing use. (AP Wirephoto)

Students continue digging in old Ft. Madison ruins

The Daily Gate City
10 — KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1965

FORT MADISON (AP) — A crew of University of Iowa students continued digging Saturday in the ruins of the Army's old Ft. Madison but did not come up with many artifacts on the first try.

Open steps

The excavators opened the steps leading down to the cellar of the officers' quarters Friday and hoped to get into the basement in the next two days.

Also found was what appear to be a fireplace in the enlisted men's quarters of the fort, which was built in 1808 but was burned and abandoned in 1813.

Dr. Marshall McKusick, archeologist at the university, is directing the excavation at the site that was uncovered last month by construction workers digging a water storage tank at the Sheaffer Pen Co.

First finds

The first finds at the officers' quarters included such things as pottery and window pieces, remnants of square nails and bits of hardware.

The excavating is being done at Blockhouse No. 3 at the north apex of the original fort. Historians say the old fort was abandoned in the Indian territory because it turned out to be poorly located for military operations.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Retell Story

The story of the construction of the fort and its brief moment in history is told best in the January, 1958, issue of the Palimpsest, publication of the State Historical Society, in Iowa City.

The author is Prof. Donald Jackson, a native of Glenwood, and now editor of the University of Illinois Press.

Kingsley looked over several possible sites before deciding on a location on the north bank of the river just above the Des Moines Rapids, Jackson writes.

"This situation is high," Kingsley wrote to the secretary of war, "commands an excellent view of the river and the adjacent country, also an excellent spring of water—and I believe there is no place on the river which will prove more healthy, and none more advantageous to the Indian trade."

He was right about that but wrong about the fort. As he built it, it was dominated by a high ridge to the rear from which Indians subsequently could fire directly into the fort. Furthermore, a nearby ravine provided them with cover from which they could mount surprise attacks.

Brief History

These two faults, combined with the persistent attacks of the Sac and Fox under stubborn Chief Blackhawk, finally imperiled the fort to such an extent that it had to be abandoned after only five years, in 1813. But its brief history was nevertheless important to the future state of Iowa.

It led the way to subsequent settlement of the upper Mississippi. It was the home of the first white women in Iowa and it probably was here that the first white child was born — Rozanna Stark, daughter of Horatio and Hannah Stark.

She was born Sept. 28, 1810. Her father was a captain and was in command of the fort at the time.

Kingsley's fort was an outgrowth of a treaty signed by the Sac and Fox in St. Louis in 1804. In it, they agreed to cede all lands east of the Mississippi.

In return, they were to get $1,000 a year plus the services of a trader, a blacksmith and a man to teach them farming. The fort was built to protect the trading establishment, or factory as it was called.

Pointed Logs

The fort proper consistedof a two-story officers' quarters, 20 by 80 feet, divided into eight rooms; and a similar, though less-elaborate enlisted men's barracks; a guardhouse, a powder house and three two-story blockhouses—two fronting on the river, the third at the apex to the rear.

The whole was enclosed by a high stockade of pointed logs set upright, linking the blockhouses.

The main gate faced on the river. A smaller "wicket" gate opened toward the factory, which was built outside the fort to west and away from the river.

When the fort's vulnerability to fire from the ridge in the rear became apparent, a fourth blockhouse was built there. It was linked to the fort by a stockaded path. This appendage subsequently became known as the "tail." several other buildings, including a house for the factor, John Johnson, were built ouside the fort to the west.

Signs of Change

It takes a lot of imagination to visualize the fort here now. The main Sheaffer plant rears up in the east, the company's research laboratory borders it on the west.

To the south, tourist-laden U. S. highway 61 runs across the south end of the enlisted barracks and the main lines of the Santa Fe and Burlington railroads run hard by the main gate.

A deep excavation for a 122,000-gallon water reservoir occupies the site of Blockhouse No. 3. A stone chimney monument erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution marks the location of Blockhouse No. 1. and the Mississippi is 10 feet higher than it was then, due to the dam at Keokuk.

The excavations here have provided a sight-seers paradise for Fort Madison. All day long and into the evening, they come to watch progress and use over times long gone.

Fort Madison children are getting an on-the-spot lesson into their town's history. The discovery also has spurred renewed interest in reconstructing the fort.

Jaycee Project

A group formed by the Fort Madison Junior Chamber of Commerce was incorporated as Old Fort Madison last March and suddenly finds itself with more than dreams to work on.

Bernard B. Hesseeiv, Fort Madison clothier, president of the organization, says it is hoped that state and federal funds will be avaiable for the project.

All rock taken out of the fort is being stored by the Sheaffer Company for possible later use. Dirt is being screened for any artifacts it may contain. Professor Jackson, an expert on trans-Mississippi U. S. military history, was an interested visitor at the site Saturday.

Other visitors included Jack Musgrove, curator of the State Historical Museum, Des Moines, and John R. Vincent, director of the Sanford Museum, Cherokee.

Dr. McKusick said he hopes to keep his crew of diggers here into next week. Present excavations are limited by the construction work underway in the Shaeffer parking lot. It is hoped the dig may be completed next summer when Sheaffer company has completed its work.

Members of the U. of I. crew are:

Gobert Alex, 23, of Bettendorf, assistant to McKusick; Adrian Anderson, 34, of Jewell, also an assistant; Clayton Lacore, 39, of Bettendorf, an instructor at Blackhawk Junior College; Thomas Johnson, 22, Fort Dodge; Tony Preston, 21, Marshalltown; James Jensen, 20, Waterloo; James Walters, 21, Charles City; Janet Hampton, 21, Burlington; Jon Swanson, 22, Montezuma; Robert Vis, Orange City; Ronald Ruen, 19, Decorah; Michael Kobrin, 21, Chicago, Ill.; Michael Malina, 20, Northbook, Ill.; William Vinall, 26, Bettendorf; Drexel Peterson, 19, Fort Dodge; Charles Reed, 19, Iowa City; William Knowler, Iowa City and George Judy, West Point.

110-

Archeologists completing excavation at Ft. Madison

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1965 — 9

Archeologists are winding up their excavations of the "first American military post north of St. Louis and west of the Mississippi river" this week at Fort Madison. Remains of the old fort were uncovered June 15 when the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company began digging an underground reservoir.

State Archeologist, Dr. Marshal McKusick, and a team of 20 students from the University of Iowa arrived in Fort Ft. Madison June 9 to excavate the site. The ruins thus far unearthed have corresponded "fairly accurately" with early sketches of the fort, McKusick reported. Several military buttons and the outlines of many of the old buildings such as the kitchen, officers' quarters and blockhouses have been unearthed at the 156 year old fort.

Forts history

An account of the fort's history was given in "Iowa History News Flashes" of the Iowa Historical Society.

"In its attempt to 'civilize' the Sauk and Fox, the government decided to establish a factory (trading post) and a blacksmith at the mouth of the Des Moines river. A fort would be built to guard the factory, and in August, 1808, First Lieutenant Alpha Kingsley led an expedition by keelboat from St. Louis to the upper Mississippi. Kingsley, however, went past the Des Moines and beyond the Lower Rapids before he chose a fort site, not realizing that a nearby ravine would one day give cover to Indians as they fired down on the fort.

Completed in 1809

The troops worked through the winter of 1808-1809 and by April 14 the stockade was completed and named in honor President James Madison. The first woman to live at the fort was Hannah Stark, wife of Captain Horatio Stark, who became the fort's commander in August, 1809. Their daughter, Rozanna, may have been the first white child born in what is now Iowa.

Most of the Indians were content to trade fur or lead at the factory, but some Indians banded with the British during the War of 1812. Early in September of that year, Chief Black Hawk led a siege against Fort Madison and succeeded in forcing the garrison to burn it as a defensive measure.

Soldiers flee

In the summer of 1813 the Indians killed four soldiers and laid siege to the fort. Lieutenant Thomas Hamilton, who then commanded the fort, sent to St. Louis for reinforcements, but when none were forthcoming he decided to abandon the post. Sometime between August and mid-November, 1813, and under the cover of night, the garrison stole to their boats and were on their way down river before the Indians realized that the fort was in flames, destroyed by its commander rather than surrendered intact.

"The charred chimneys of the fort stood for years as testimony to one of America's early attempts to penetrate the wilderness that was then the West."

Site of old Fort Madison may become U.S. landmark

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 1965 — 5

Site of Old Fort Madison on the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co. parking lot may be designated as a national historic landmark.

Congressman John R. Schmidhauser has announced in Washington that the National Parks Service has accepted his recommendation to study and evaluate the site. He said the study should be completed in 1966.

Other sites in southeast Iowa also will be studied for this purpose.

Uncover blockhouse

Site of the old fort, first U.S. military outpost west of the Mississippi and north of St. Louis was uncovered last June during excavation work for an underground reservoir at the Sheaffer plant.

Dr. Marshall McKusick of Iowa City, state archeologist directed a crew in unearthing parts of the foundations of two blockhouses and the officers quarters. The fort was built in 1808 and abandoned and destroyed by fire in 1813 when its garrison fled from the Indians under Black Hawk.

Old Fort Madison, Inc., an organization headed by Bernard Hesse IV, is raising funds for the construction of a replica of the old fort and immediately recommended to government officials that the site be designated as a national landmark.

Attract tourists

If, after the study by the National Parks Service the site is given such recognition, the city will receive a plaque to mount at the site.

The designation will also be carried on tourist guides, travel folders, etc.

Schmidhauser said national recognition of southwest Iowa's many historic and geological points of interest will attract hundreds of tourists to the region.

"The development of a tourist industry will be a significant boost to Southeast Iowa's economy," he added, "and I am hopeful the parks service will give our region the national recognition it has so long justly deserved."

Schmidhauser said he believes the chances for national recognition of the recently discovered Old Fort Madison were greatly improved as a result of Secretary Stewart Udall's August visit to Fort Madison. Udall visited many of southeast Iowa's historic sites as a part of Congressman Schmidhauser's program to stimulate a tourist industry in the area.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3.

Another Old Pioneer of Lee County Gone

Joseph Webster, Esq., formerly of Fort Madison, but lately of Texas, died on the 20th of last month at Dallas Texas, of congestion of the lungs, aged 76 year.

Mr. Webster was a distant relative of the renowned orator and statesman of Massachusetts, Daniel Webster.

He settled in Fort Madison about 1836, and soon thereafter engaged in large landed operations. Up to 1847 he owned half of all the lots in Fort Madison, and had several large farms in the vicinity of Fort Madison under his personal care and cultivation. From the first settlement of Lee county until 1847, he was the wealthiest man in it; but in that year (or perhaps the spring of 1848) he unwittingly was led to form a partnership with a *then* merchant of Keokuk, who got Webster embarrassed on his notes and then shipped the goods on a steamboat and with them fled the country. In those days there were no telegraphs in Iowa, and a start of a day on a steamboat was about equal to successful escape. This adventure crippled Webster's financial ability severely. Ambitious to retrieve his losses, Mr. Webster went in 1848 to California, and soon accumulated enough money to have supported him comfortably all his days, but he put his means into houses in San Francisco, and a fire burnt all his property, on which he had no insurance.

Plucky to the last, he started business again, and soon again accumulated a nice property which also shared the fate of the demon fire and no insurance.

He came back to Fort Madison about 1858, owning but little financial means, and after staying there about a year, went to Texas, and there (old in years) again started in business, though with what success we do not know.

Mr. Webster possessed naturally a fine flow of language, and was regarded in the early days of Iowa as one of its best public speakers.

He was a genial, pleasant gentleman, in social intercourse; and his old pioneer acquaintances (of whom there are not many left to survive him) will shed a kindly tear over his memory.

NOVEMBER 25, 1904.

STRANGE STORY.

LETTER FOUND IN A BOTTLE NEAR FORT MADISON.

DATED 1841 AND TELLS OF ARRIVAL OF INDIANS.

Part of a Pioneer Woman's Diary Which Was Written Sixty-Four Years Ago.

Fort Madison Gem City:

John Schriner, foreman of the Santa Fe blacksmith shops, found a small bottle lying along the sands on Doerr island the other day, and upon looking at it more closely, saw that it was a sealed message. He opened the scrap of paper which was contained in the bottle, and read the following tale of bloodshed and horror:

April 2. 1841.
Spottsville, Pa.

Diary of Percilla Van Heemskort:

I look upon this beautiful scene with mingled sadness and pleasure, for we leave my home tomorrow never to return. James and my two sons and I will start for California to find gold. We attended church yesterday, and Brother Cooke dwelt so touchingly upon the subject of home that it made us all very sad.

April 3.

We have driven all day and are nearing the unsettled regions. We have seen several groups of Indians who appeared friendly, but I fear that as we go farther west they will become more hostile.

April 31.

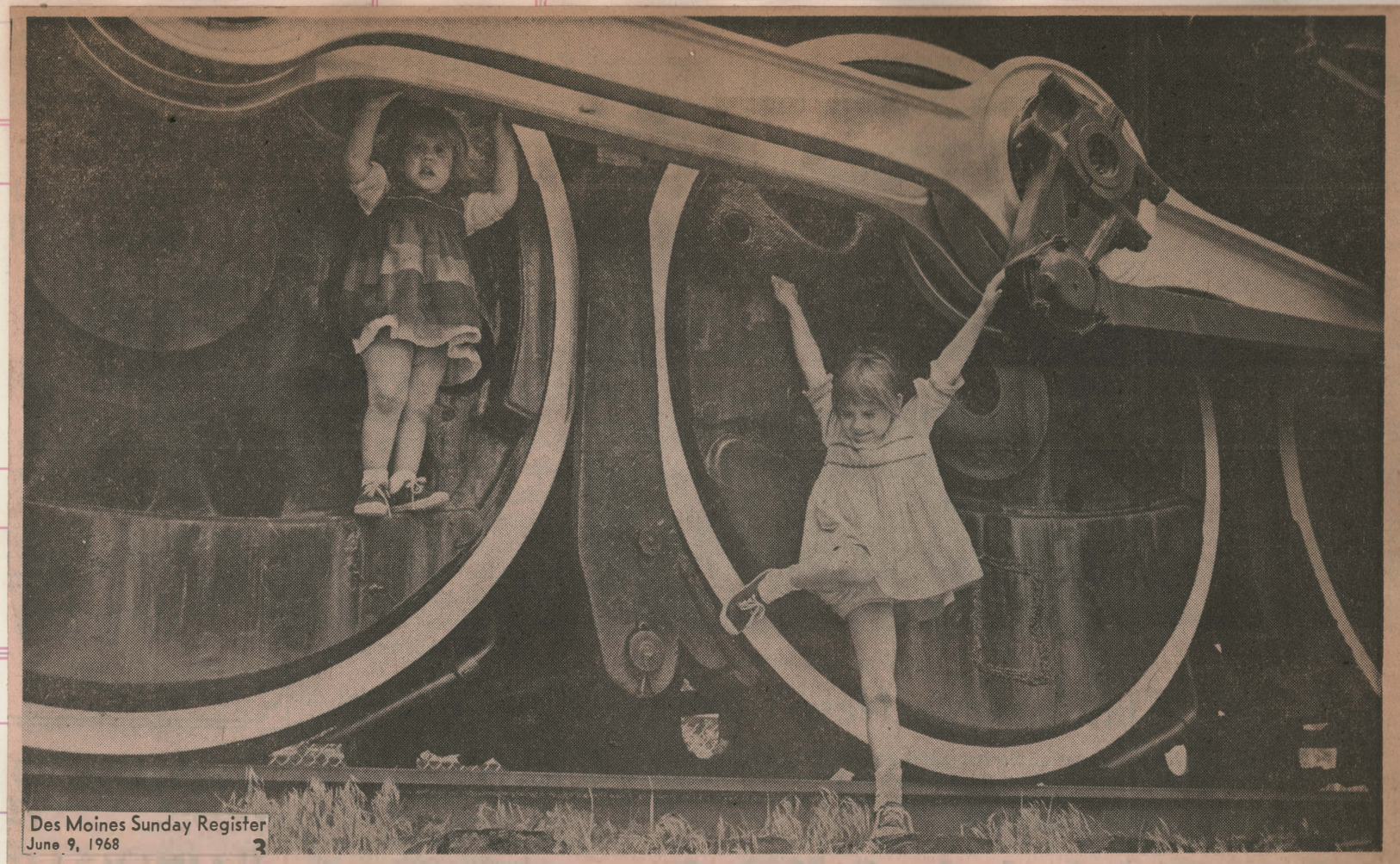
We have stopped by a big river. A great cloud of dust is coming. Oh, it is Indians. They are rushing upon us! Oh! my husband; Oh, my children! * * * I am here by the side of the dead bodies of my husband and children and the driver. Alas, why did the Indians not scalp me too. There has been a blank since I saw the Indians coming. I must have fainted. I will seal this up in a bottle and throw it into the river in hopes that some one will find it and read my doleful history. I will seal it with a candle; it is the only thing I can find.

The fatal message, which probably are the last words from an exterminated family, was bound with a piece of seaweed and the bottle hermetically sealed with a tallow candle. The writing is eligible, and although the paper bears the look of age, it is well preserved.

No one will ever know how this message of impending disaster reached its resting place just across the river from Fort Madison. It was probably thrown into the Ohio river by the distracted woman and floated to the Mississippi, being caught in some manner by a passing steamer and carried up the river.

How long it has lain on Doerr's island can only be guessed, as there is nothing except the date, "April 2, 1841," which shows its age.

The message is on exhibition at the Gem City office, where any one may see the words of one who was facing death from the hands of the Indians, whose cruelty to captives causes one to shudder at the thought.



Des Moines Sunday Register
June 9, 1968
3

SUNDAY REGISTER PHOTO BY GEORGE CEOLLA

At Fort Madison, Giant Wheels of Another Era

Sonja Wyatt (left), 2, and Shawna Wyatt, 5, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wyatt of Fort Madison, played near the 80-inch wheels of Engine 2913 in Fort Madison. Engine 2913 was built in 1943 by Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia, Pa., for the Santa Fe Railroad at a cost of approximately $100,000. This type of engine was first used in passenger train service between Los Angeles and La Junta, Colo. After World War II, Santa Fe replaced the steam passenger engines with diesels and by 1952 the passenger trains were completely dieselized. Engines of this type were placed in fast freight service between Los Angeles, Calif., and Clovis, N.M. Eventually, steam locomotives in freight service were replaced with diesels. The steam locomotives were donated to cities on the Santa Fe route, where they now rest, a fitting tribute to the memories of another era.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

112-

DAILY GATE CITY.

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 10, 1874.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT FT. MADISON

A Quarter of a Block Burned Over.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE LOSSES.

THE FIRE THE WORK OF INCENDIARIES.

Whose Ultimate Purpose it is Thought was to Rob the Bank.

FT MADISON, Iowa, Nov. 9th, 1874.

EDITOR GATE CITY: A destructive fire broke out here on Sunday night at 11 o'clock and over a quarter of a block of buildings were destroyed. There are many theories in regard to the origin of the fire, but there is no doubt but it was the work of incendiaries, as the flames seem to have burst out in three places simultaneously. The first noticed was in Cameron's stable, and then in the stable of T. A. Slack, and and last in the livery stable of Edwards & McCabe. The buildings in this immediate vicinity were regular fire traps, all being frame and dry as tinder. In fifteen minutes the fire had spread east to Cedar street and west to Anwater's dwelling house. Now all was confusion; the citizens just commencing to arrive on the grounds, instead of rushing to the engine house to help the Fire Company. Owing to this the engine was not ready to throw water until half past eleven, but was put under way in an incredible short time after arriving on the ground.

The Fire Company's work was well done, as the fire was met at the places where other buildings were threatened, thus keeping it from spreading further, and by 1 o'clock it was under control. At one time the fire crossed Second street and caught in Einspanger's building and the Metropolitan Hotel, but by the strenuous efforts of the Company, helped by the citizens, these were put out and a valuable part of the business center saved. This was also the case with Sawyer's building, on the south, which had commenced burning, but only the rear end was destroyed. Ropes were procured and Anwater's wagon shop was pulled down, which prevented the fire from spreading further west, and saved Burchel's large brick and other buildings on Pine street. It was fortunate that it was a calm night, as the fire had such a start that it could not possibly have been stopped until the best part of the city was destroyed.

It is difficult to form an estimate of the losses yet, as all are so excited and have formed no definite opinion of the extent of the damage. Nearly all the furniture and stock were saved. The losses will be nearly as follows:

Kammerer's dwelling house, meat market, stables, live stock, &c. Loss about $7,000; no insurance. We also understand that he had about $3,000 in bonds which were burned.

Rockwood & Co's. wagon shop. Loss $1,000; no insurance.

T. A. Slack's blacksmith shop and stable. Loss $1,100; no insurance.

Edwards' livery stable building, grain, hay and sleighs. Loss $2,500. Their carriages, horses, &c., were all saved. No insurance.

Robers' dwelling house and harness shop. Loss $3,500; insured for $500 in the Iowa State Insurance Co.

Kochler's tenement house. Loss $1,500; no insurance.

Anwater's dwelling house and wagon shop. Loss $2,000; not insured.

Einspanger's dwelling and grocery house damage about $200; fully insured.

Metropolitan Hotel damage about $400; fully insured.

Jno. Sawyer's brick building damage $1,100; no insurance.

Rockwood & Co., $600; no insurance.

The Mayor, A. C. Roberts, telegraphed to Burlington for assistance, but the order was countermanded when it was found that the fire was under control. We understand that the train was ready to leave Burlington when this reached them.

It seems that a plan had been laid to start this fire and then rob the bank, as it was started immediately in the rear of that building. Mr. McConn, the cashier, states that he was uneasy before the alarm of fire was given, and got out of bed several times to look around. He thinks some persons were trying to raise the grating in front so as to get into the cellar and come up into the main room. He also thinks it was their purpose to attract his attention so as to get the front door open, secure the keys or force him to open the vault. Hapyily his advice was followed when the alarm was given and nothing was done with the funds although the President was in favor of taking them out of the building.

Jo. Pease, our excellent Sheriff, had his watch and chain stolen during the excitement. It seems that he can look after other people's property better than his own.

The Mayor appointed about twenty citizens to act as police during the remainder of the night.

Our Fire Department is in fine trim, have capable officers who need no instructions from outsiders, and we protest against the manner in which the citizens interfere while they are busily engaged in fighting the fiery element. This was the case last night, and we especially mention that of a Judge, who should know better. Many heroic acts were done that are worthy of mention, but space will not permit. Our worthy Mayor was here and there in the thickest of the work. We noticed that J. S. Stewart, Assistant Engineer, was out on duty, although he has been sick for the last week. The excitement and work was too much for him and caused a relapse. ALLEN.

LATER.

FORT MADISON, Iowa, Nov. 9th, 1874

The excitement of last evening, caused by the most destructive fire ever known in the history of our city, has somewhat abated, although this morning large crowds visited the scenes of last night's conflagration. The fire was under such headway before the engine arrived at the river that it seemed impossible to check its further progress and it was only accomplished by the good management of the Chief, Ed. Stewart, and other officers under him. The Fire Department labored under difficulties at first, several sections of hose bursting. It is thought that they were cut by parties interested in keeping the fire burning. It is the general opinion that the block was fired in three places, as stated in my first letter, and that kerosene was used in starting it. The heat was so intense that all the glass in the Metropolitan Hotel next to the fire were cracked or broken and the wood work blackened and charred.

Geo. H. Schafer & Co. have an oil cave, filled with oil, across the alley opposite the burning mass, but by constantly pouring water over the roof and sides it was saved. Had this caught fire it would have been simply impossible to save the buildings on Front street.

The loss falls heavy on all who had their property destroyed, as it was generally uninsured and all that they possessed. Robers did not save any of his furniture and only $300 worth of his stock of harness. He did not even have a coat to wear.

After the fire was extinguished, Charley Kastens gave all those desiring it a lunch free gratis. This was very acceptable to the tired and hungry men, and Uncle Charley will lose nothing by this generous act.

More or less damage was done to goods moved from adjoining buildings that were not destroyed.

Many amusing incidents occur at fires, but last night some ludicrous acts and expressions were said and done, so that we cannot forbear mentioning a few of them. What is more ridiculous than advice given the firemen by a grocer when his house was burning; "Boys, put on plenty of water, 'tis the best thing you can do." The wife of one of our prominent physicians was very

anxious to move the office apparatus to a place of safety, but totally ignoring his numerous surgical instruments and other valuable property, she tore from the wall two small photographs and carried them home, a distance of two blocks Our banker carried a large lamp out on the sidewalk and set it down. He moved nothing else. Another grocer says: "My God! my gum drops; why didn't they steal my stick candy, which is cheaper." Our Sheriff's watch was not stolen after all, his wife having taken it and put it away at home. He was not aware of this fact and concluded it was stolen.

The prisoners in the jail are in open rebellion, and have to all be locked up in their cells. One of them says he proposes to regulate treatment, diet, &c., and the balance were of the same opinion.

A grindstone used to polish hoes at the prison bursted to-day, the pieces flying in every direction. One of them struck a colored convict named Jack Allen and broke his thigh in two places. ALLEN.

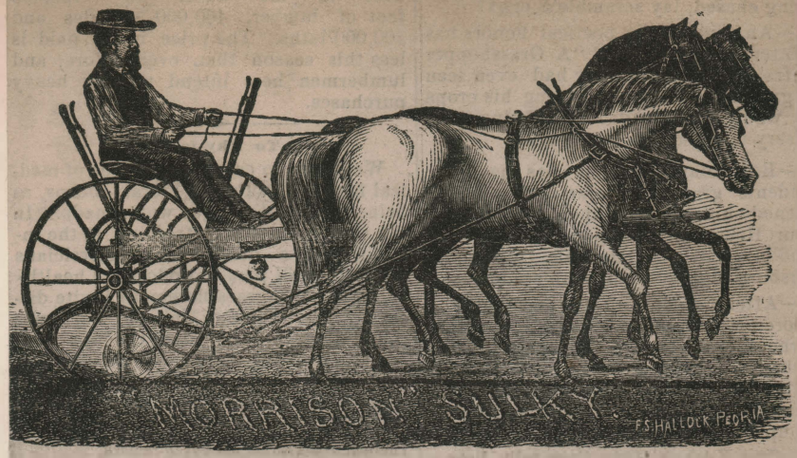
THE DAILY GATE CITY

APRIL 7, 1887.

CITY NEWS.

—According to the Gem City Ft. Madison will celebrate the crossing of the first engine over the bridge at that place in a queer manner. The Germans there have ordered the construction of an immense vat and beer will be free. The Gem City says: "It is 24 feet high by 36 feet in diameter, each stave is 8 inches wide, 3 inches thick and 24 feet long. The ends are made of 12-inch square timbers consisting of four thicknesses. Each hoop, eight in number around this vat, are eight inches wide and one-half inch thick, and if straightened out would be one hundred and eight feet long. This immense vat when filled with beer will hold 167,514 gallons. This 'well spring' of Gambrinus filled with the amber fluid will be placed near the entrance of the bridge on the Iowa side in a convenient and approachable position with innumerable faucets and brass pipes attached. The pipes will extend to all parts of the city especially to the parks, public buildings and hotels and the beer will be free to all. Persons can see this monster vat now in process of construction near the foot of Elm street, and it is a wonder of its kind. Lookout for the gala day about the 20th of September, 1887." Prohibition enforcement may knock this celebration in the head, if such a thing is really contemplated as represented.

MORRISON SULKY PLOW.



The MORRISON SULKY PLOW, with its high wheels, tapering axles, long mould board, and ... acting lever, is easier on both man and team than any other. By actual test the draft is 125 ... lighter than any other sulky in the market. Township agents wanted. Address, [mc13

MORRISON BROS., - - FORT MADISON, IOWA.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Ft. Madison figures in real story of famous Betsy Ross

By Gene Ayres

ELDON, Mo. (AP) — A silver-haired matron sits in her parlor and calmly relates how her great - great - grandmother straightened out Gen. George Washington in the matter of a flag — where to put the stars and where to put the stripes.

It's all part of the family lore for 72-year-old Mrs. Carl Buehler, long-time resident of this central Missouri town.

She heard the story from her grandmother who was born and reared in the Philadelphia home of her own grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypoole — better known as Betsy Ross.

So, Betsy is no lengendary Revolutionary figure for Mrs. Rachel Buehler. Instead, the family grapevine passed her down as a bit of a black sheep, a strong-willed woman who left her family of Quaker Tories to marry John Ross, proprietor of an upholstery and flagmaking shop.

Ross was not only an Episcopalian but was involved in that Revolution business as well, and when he died of wounds received in a skirmish, he left his 24-year-old widow to run the business.

Betsy advises

As Mrs. Buehler heard it from Betsy's granddaughter, one day Gen. Washington, a man named Morris and a Col. Ross (John's uncle) came into the shop.

"Washington wanted a flag," says Mrs. Buehler," and he had a six-point star in mind. But Betsy said a five-pointed star would be more symmetrical. She showed them how she could fold a piece of paper and with one snip of the scissors make a perfect five-pointed star.

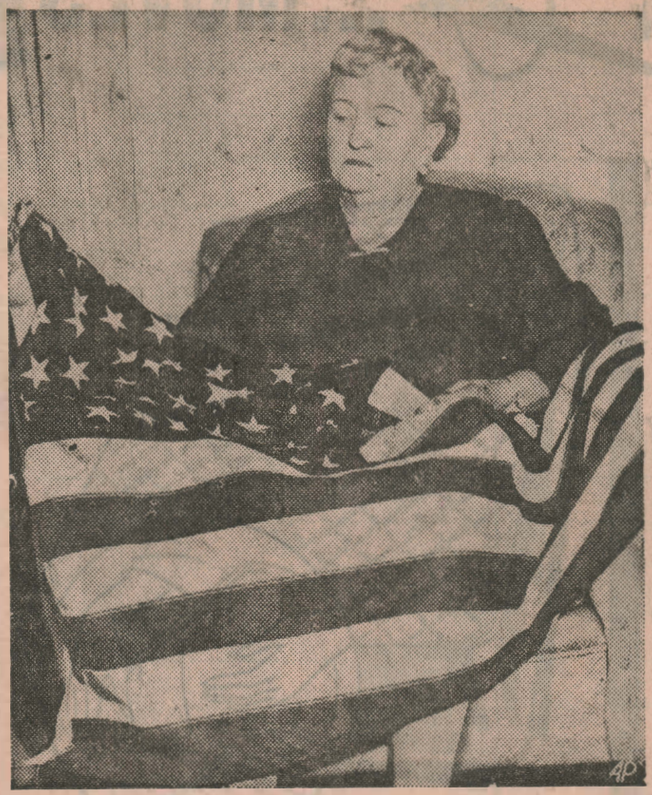
"Betsy suggested they put the stars in a circle so no state would be ahead. Then the men suggested adding a new stripe for each new state. But she proposed instead to add a new star and keep the stripes for the original 13 states."

Thus, this nation does not now have a 50-stripe flag, which would look, as Betsy may have sensed, like a seersucker suit flying from a flagpole.

She made more flags

It's not known whether Betsy was ever paid for her work on the first Old Glory. But she did make more flags, Mrs. Buehler says, and a receipt for payment to her exists, dated 1777.

Betsy stayed on at the upholstery shop, marrying Joseph Ashburn who was captured and died in a British prison. Another Philadelphian in the prison, John Claypoole, was released and later married Betsy.



IT'S DIFFERENT NOW . . . Rachel Buehler examines 50-star flag that her great-great-grandmother Betsy Ross probably wouldn't recognize as descendant of her original design of 13 stars in a circle.

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1963 —

"I expect they all knew each other before," Mrs. Buehler says. "Philadelphia was a small town then."

Had five daughters

She has received letters, Mrs. Buehler says, usually from persons named Ross, trying to establish their own lines of descent from their heroine of Revolutionary times.

"They always seem a little disappointed when I tell them that there were no children from either of Betsy's first two marriages, Mrs. Buehler says with a chuckle.

But Betsy's marriage to Claypoole produced five daughters, the eldest Clarissa, going back to Betsy's home to bear a child after her husband died in an accident.

The new baby was Mrs. Buehler's grandmother.

"My grandmother grew up in Betsy's home and remembered her," Mrs. Buehler says.

Later the child, who became Rachel Wilson Albright, lived for many years with other family members in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Her youngest son, Daniel, moved to St. Louis where Mrs. Buehler was born.

Inherits teapot

"Every summer from the time I was 16 or 17, I used to go up to Fort Madison and stay all summer long," Mrs. Buehler reminisces. "My father would put me on the train.

"My grandmother would tell the story over and over again. I'd help her polish the silver and she'd tell me it was to be mine."

But, of the full silver servie which had belonged to Betsy, Mrs. Buehler only has a stag-handled teapot.

She occasionally excites the ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution when the local chapter meets at her modest two-story home, by pouring from Betsy Ross' teapot.

Mrs. Buehler tells the narrative in an easy going way without a hint of superpatriotism.

She is neither Quaker nor Episcopalian, but Baptist. She and her husband are quietly part of this town of 3,100 where he operated a drug store 45 years until retiring last year.

The Buehlers have a son, an Eldon physician, and two grandchildren, including Elaine, 15. That's where Betsy Ross' teapot is going.

"But she doesn't seem very interested in it right now," Mrs. Buehler observes.

The Daily Gate City.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1871.

INTERESTING RELICS OF THE REVOLUTION.

FT. MADISON, Iowa, Jan. 16, 1871.

FRIEND BENTLEY:—While in conversation with some friends a few evenings since I was greatly surprised to learn that Ft. Madison can boast of some hallowed relics, the sight of which cannot fail to send a thrill of pride through every American who beholds them. They are the two chairs upon which Gen. George Washington and Col. George Ross sat while consulting with the lady who designed the form of the American Flag. The chair belonged to Jacob Albright, Esq., whose wife has the inestimable privilege of knowing that her grandmother was the one who was honored with the arrangement and plan of our first starry banner! On one of these reception chairs, in the city of brotherly love, sat our country's defender, with his serene countenance animated by the interest he felt as he listened to her description of what that ensign should be that was to lead his advancing hosts to victory. What a compliment to our sex that this emblem of the Free, now recognized and revered by every nation under the heavens, should have been entrusted by our patriot fathers to woman! Fashioned by her hand, followed by her prayers when her loved ones marched beneath it, embalmed by her tears when they returned to her in silence, wrapped in the colors they had died to defend, who shall say that our interest in our flag is less than man's? It was this lady (Mrs. Elizabeth Ross by name) who suggested to the distinguished General the propriety of retaining the thirteen original stripes and adding a star whenever a new State was received into the Union, and it was her glorious privilege to be spared to see the blue of her country's banner studded with many stars.

Well might that grand-daughter feel proud as she laid a hand on each of those treasured chairs and said: "In one of these General Washington sat while our grandmother unfolded to him the design she had decided upon." On which I turned reverently from one to the other, and felt as a mother might who had lost a child in battle and on searching for the burial spot could not tell which of two graves was his, and so strewed flowers on both and wept over both, because she could not learn which held her child. It might have been "womanish weakness," or it might have been idolatry, but I did long to bow down before those silent mementoes in grateful acknowledgement to Heaven for the bestowal of such a man as Washington in the hour of our greatest need. How hope and fear must have held alternate sway as he came daily to watch the progress of the first flag! How perfectly his sublime faith seems emblemed in its pictured sky of blue and in those unwaning stars! How harmonious seems its snowy stripe with the spotless purity of his character! How like the dauntless warrior, ready to spill his life-blood in the struggle, seems its crimson band! Ah! grandmother Ross, yours was an artistic eye—there was deeper meaning in what you wrought than your descendants comprehend! I felt this as I stood there and fancied Washington in one chair and you in the other, gazing reverently at him, and weaving in silken meshes this symbol of the life that has made us free.

If there be one among us whose ignorance of his birth place makes his nationality doubtful, let him lay his hands upon these antique chairs and stand the test. If a patriotic thrill electrifies him until he seems to stand face to face with our illustrious dead, then is he thoroughly and unquestionably an American; but if he listlessly gazes on their quaint workmanship, manifesting no emotion, then is he an alien and a stranger.

KATE HARRINGTON.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

NOVEMBER 13, 1887.

Old Fort Madison.

In excavating at the upper end of Front street, near the McConn mill, for the purpose of moving the Q. track north some feet, the foundation of old Ft. Madison was discovered, a number of human bones and other relics were unearthed. The fort was built in the year 1805 and was burned and evacuated in 1812, so that these bones and relics must have laid buried for from 75 to 82 years. It would be a good idea for those who are working up the Old Setters' Monument to secure some of these stones from the foundation of old Fort Madison to be placed in the foundation of the monument.—Plaindealer.

The Gate City.

MARCH 3, 1904.

GRANDDAUGTHER OF BETSY ROSS

IS AN OLD WOMAN NOW LIVING AT FORT MADISON.

Her Name Is Mrs. Rachel Albright and She Is 91 Years Old.

IS A MAKER OF FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES

Granddaughter of the Maker of the First "Old Glory" Is Keeping Up the Tradition of the Family, Though Very Aged.

Carrying out the traditions of her family, Mrs. Rachel Albright, a granddaughter of Betsy Ross, the maker of the first "Star Spangled Banner," is making flags at her home in Fort Madison.

Mrs. Albright, though more than four score years and ten, takes great pleasure in this work, a work that she has grown to consider her duty to her country and to the memory of that colonial grandmother who sewed the first bits of red, white and blue together and gave to the United States of America the standard that has become known over the world, a standard representing the world's greatest nation in peace and war. Mrs. Albright is justly proud of her ancestry and is always glad to tell of her grandmother, her work on the first flag of the country and to the flags that she herself is making.

Mrs. Albright is ninety-one years of age, but her hand is firm and sure as she stitches the colors together. Her memory remains good and she delights to meet those interested in the work. She has told the story of Betsy Ross and the first American flag many times to the children of Fort Madison, instilling in them true patriotism and love for the Stars and Stripes.

Has Two Old Chairs.

The most precious possession of Mrs. Albright are two old colonial chairs that she says are the same that appear in the old paintinng of "Betsy Ross in Her Interview with General Washington and Aides."

These chairs have never been allowed to pass from the possession of the family, and it is hoped that the family will ever keep them.

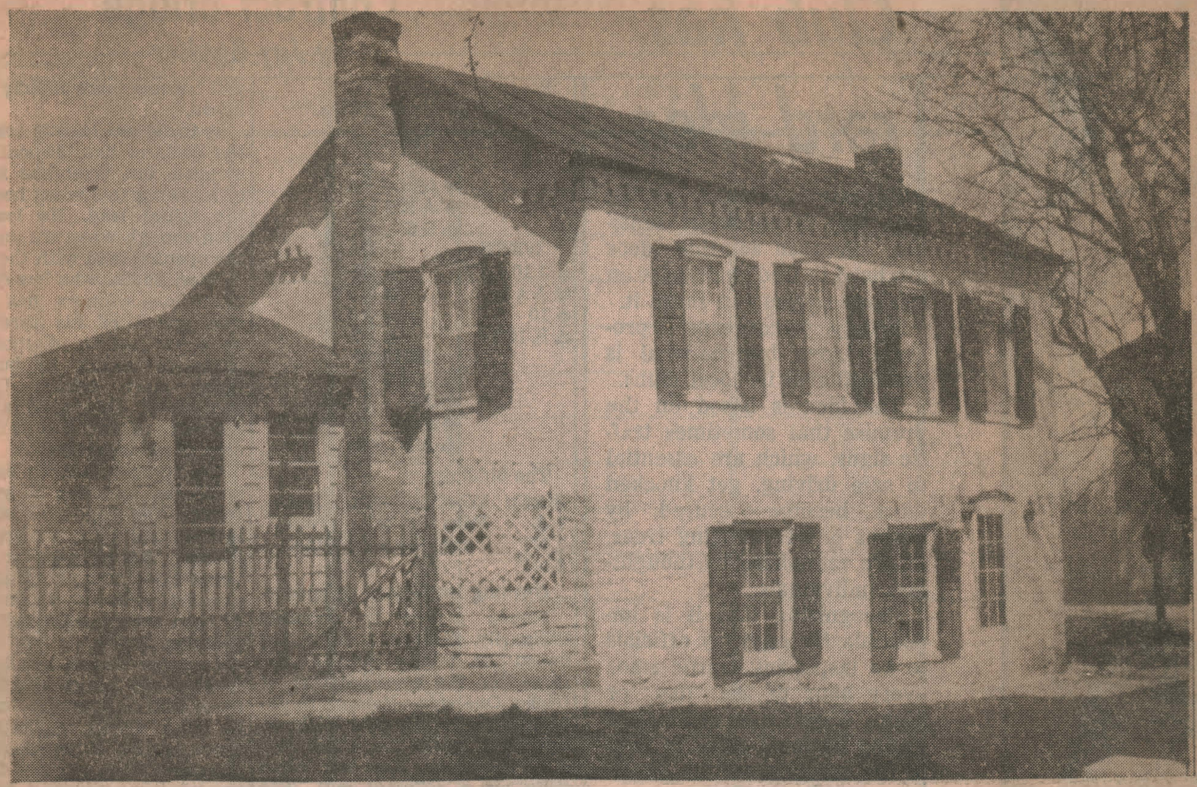
Niece to Take Up the Work.

Though Mrs. Albright has almost reached the century mark, she hopes to continue making flags for many years to come. However, when that time does come that she feels she can no longer stitch the bunting and the silk, her niece, Caroline Hatch, who lives with her, is prepared to take up the work of love and keep up the tradition of the family of Betsy Ross.

VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

CREDITS

"THE GREAT DUST REAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



RED-SHUTTERED HOUSE flush with the street is typical of Franklin's early architecture. It has a step-down living room. The lower story is of stone, upper part tan brick and a bright red roof. At various times it housed a mortuary, bank and barber shop, but now is used as a residence. —Gate City

Some smaller Lee towns boast a big share of historic lore

(By Dorothy Pickett)

There is much of interest in Lee county that isn't in the travel guides ... for instance, the many delightful small towns with more than their share of historic lore, sometimes more than is found in cities much greater in size.

Franklin is just such a town with a distinct charm all its own where shades of a by-gone era are predominant. This village is another of the many sites that fought for the county seat in the 1840's.

In early days it was known as Franklin Centre and owes its origin to commissioner James L. Scott and S. C. Reed, who selected the site as the 'proper' place for Lee county's seat of government. This was in 1840.

On May 19 of that year the board ordered that a public sale of lots be held at Franklin Centre, but records are scanty as to the outcome of the sale. At the time there were other sections that showed dissatisfaction over the location and buyers were discouraged about investing their money here.

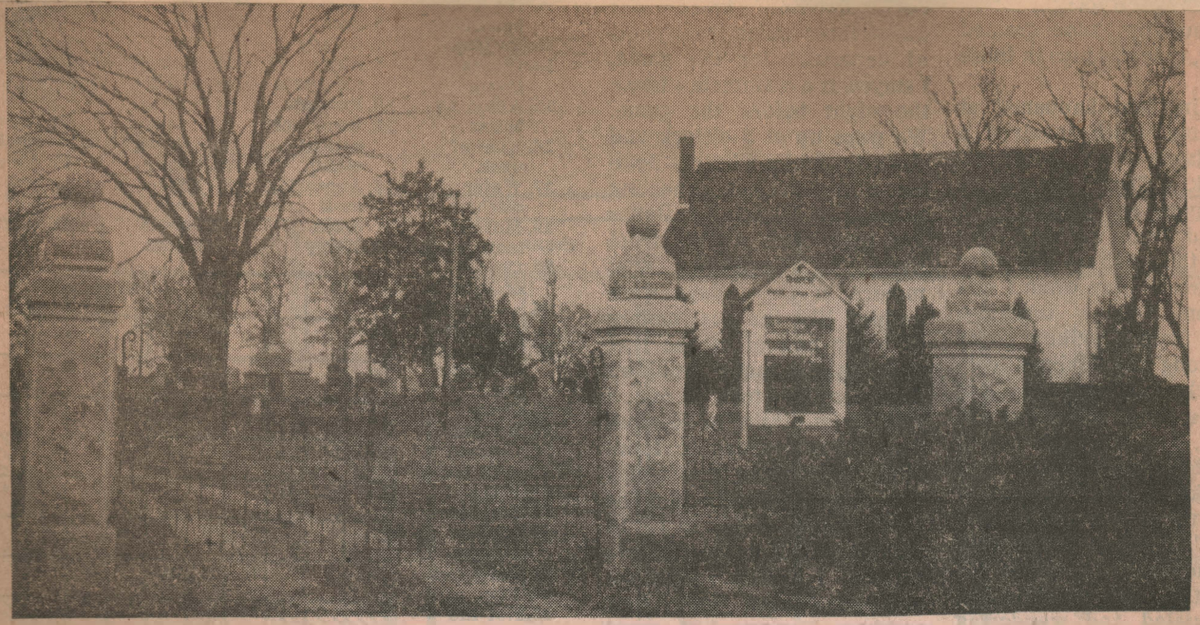
At a meeting of the commissioners in Franklin on March 20, 1843 the report favored West Point and Franklin's short-lived fame ended.

Events of interest, listed chronologically, include the beginnings, when in 1836 Henry and Jacob Abel located claims in the vicinity. Three years later the first schoolhouse was built on the Cruickshank farm. The town was laid out in 1840.

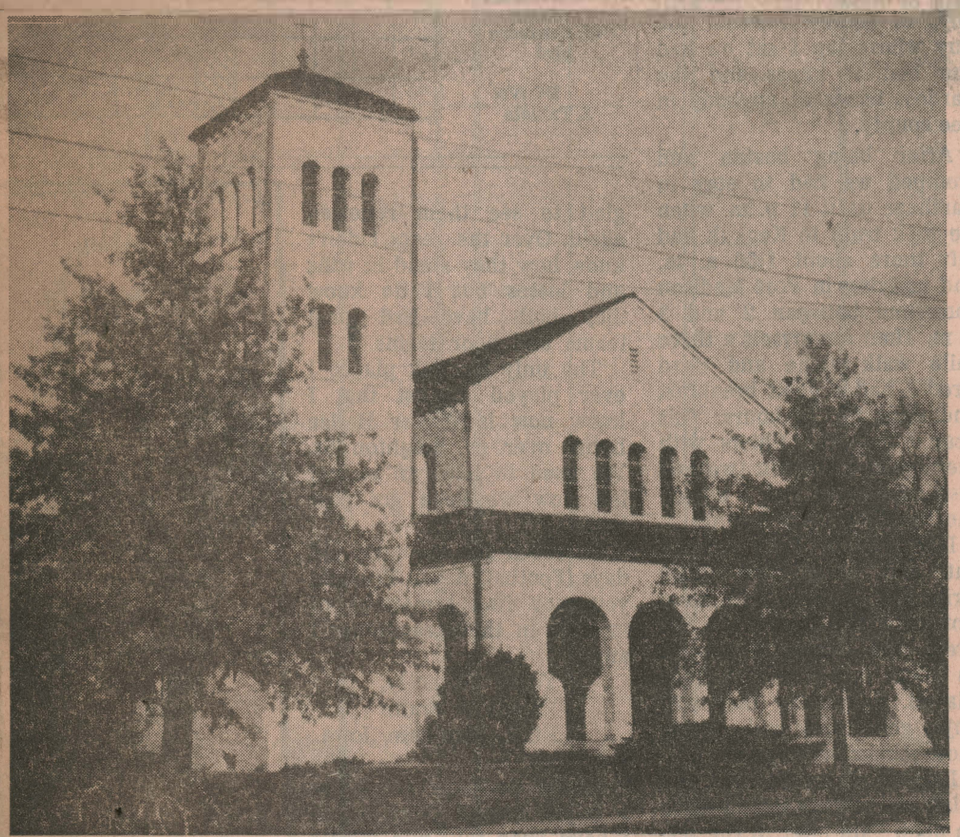
Churches important

Churches played a prominent part in pioneer Franklin, with the first Baptist church in the county begun here in 1842 on the north side of the square. It was later sold to the Methodists who also had organized the same year in Franklin. Still later, the church building was converted into a store which was run by William Tillman.

The Evangelical Congregation started building in 1856 and later sold it to the German Presbyterians. In 1868 the Mennonites erected a church, which for many years served, not only as a place of worship, but housed the school and was the pastor's residence.



SHARON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH built in 1885 and adjoining Sharon cemetery. The entrance gates were built in 1900. —Gate City



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC church in Houghton is reminiscent of the old Spanish mission. —Gate City

One of the harrowing stories told of Franklin in its early days has to do with an old tavern located about two miles north of town which was in operation in the 1850's.

"Murder pit"

Due to its proximity to Sugar Creek many travelers stayed overnight at the tavern so that they might make the crossing in daylight. It is said that not a few of the guests disappeared quite suddenly and it was supposed they were slain and the bodies buried in a stable, then covered with rock. It was dubbed the "Murder Pit."

The only evidence of such a ghastly affair came to light in 1894 when Charles Jaeske struck a rock while plowing corn. The impact broke his plow and he started digging the rocks out. He found a large flat stone and under that several human skeletons were uncovered.

St. James Steeple

Another town of especial interest is St. Paul whose landscape is dominated by the town's magnificent St. James Catholic church with its towering steeple that may be seen from miles around. The parish is well over a hundred years old and supports a fine parochial school.

It was George Berry who laid out the town and its neighbor, Pilot Grove, in 1866, but it was many years earlier that the first school in the township was built (1839), a round, log structure.

At present a development program is underway with A. C. Merschman at the helm. This is a building project encompassing 18 lots with modern homes. Grading for the streets is progressing and the sewers are already completed.

St. Paul is famous for its phenomenal God's Acre Sales, being one of the earliest and most successful in the entire neighborhood. It is one of the highlights of the early fall season, drawing thousands of people for the all-day affair.

Houghton

Almost within hailing distance of St. Paul is Houghton, a town whose location on a high windswept plain and built along a broad main street, gives the impression of being a typical western village rather than of the hawkeye variety.

The first settlers to arrive at this Cedar township site came in 1836 and they erected a school the very next year. A church was built in 1843.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY
C. F. SKIRVIN.....Manager
Keokuk, Iowa .....Sept. 11, 1910

SOME OLD-TIME PRICES.

Mr. Oliver Phillips recently bought and took possession of town property in Keosauqua which had once been owned by one M. M. Myers, a pioneer citizen of the place. Among the relics stored in the barn was an account book kept by Mr. Myers from 1843 to 1851 which contains a pretty complete list of the prices of commodities current at that time. Copious extracts from the record are given by the Republican in its issue for last week. Those were the much-vaunted "good old days," and it is interesting and instructive to compare the rewards of industry then with what they are now. For instance:

Sarah Wescoat is credited with 1 hog at $1.00, and 1 cow at $11.00.

James Howell is credited with 29 lbs. of beef at 2½ cents .65; 1 lb. butter, .08; 16¾ lbs. pork at 2½ cts. .41; 1 bu. potatoes .37½; 4½ bu. oats, 1.12½; 6 bu. corn 1.50.

The "James Howel" (Howell) named above was at that time editor of the Des Moines Valley Whig, published at Keosauqua. He later came to Keokuk, established The Gate City, and served a term as United States senator from Iowa.

The record all the way through shows only one price of corn—twenty-five cents a bushel. Further extracts follow:

Wm. Steel is credited with 2½ lbs shuger, 2½ lbs butter, 1 bolt candle weeking, total 68¾ cents.

George Bennet, credit by upsetting ax .37½; 6 lbs nails .37½.

Anderson, by 1½ bu wheat .93¾; 2 bu bran .12½; 1 bu meel .25; 42 lbs flour 1.05.

F. G. Betterton by 86 feet seasoned oak flooring at 1.25—1.10.

Louisa Wescoatt by 4 bu buckwheat 1.50.

F Purdom by 17 lbs pork .50.

Joseph Purdom by 40¾ lbs baycon at 5 cents a pound 2.04; 32¾ lbs baycon at 5 cents 1.68¾.

Andrew Meredith by schoping cord wood 1 day .75; by son's work 1½ days .25 (The book shows many credits for "schoping" wood.)

Green by ½ galon molasses and 1 pound of shuger .43¾.

Joseph Wescoatt by 1 bead sted 4.00.

George Wright 6 bu corn 1.50; 1 peck potatoes .12½.

John Arrowsmith by 4 lbs coffee .44.

Silas Tolman by ½ cord of wood .63; by use of horse 1 day .38.

T. Brewington by schoping wood 1 day .62.

Robert Patterson by 1 day gathering corn .50.

G. G. Wright by 46 ft pine lumber at 3 cents per ft. 1.38.

Elias Simmons by use of team 1 day to go to packets mill 1.50.

Savage dr. to 7¼ lbs pickeled pork at 5 cents .37.

Henry Shepley dr to powder and powder horn .31¼; 1 box caps .10; 1 bar of lead .10—total .51. Also to ¼ lb tea .25, and to bottle of rock oil or petroleum .50.

William Dutch by making 1 pare of boots 1.50; by making 1 pare womens shoes 1.25; by making 1 pare small shoes .75.

T. Bremington by ¼ day hauling joists .12½.

Fickey by turning 2 table legs at 12½ cents each .25.

"Dec. 20, 1849, Mull set in to work at the raits of ten dollars a month half cash and half trade."

B. F. Parson dr. to hauling to the Barbecue at Bermingham 6 persons 1.00; to tending plasterers one night .37½; to hauling 1 sack of salt from Keokuk .75; to hauling 1 load of brick to Funk's mill .50. Among many other credits he has the following: By paying at bentonsport on cloth 1.20; by ½ days work at crock kiln .75; by plastering G. G. Wrights house at 10 cents per yard $15.30.

G. Wright by 89 pounds of beef at 2½ cents a pound of Jackson 2.23. Debtor to cor of wood 1.00.

What a young man's chances were in those days may be gleaned from a contract entered into between Mr. Myers and a young man named Henry Shepley. The contract was dated August 15, 1850, and reads as follows:

"Henry Shepley set in to work at the raits of nine dollars per month for six months and if we like each other at the end of said time he is to continue on for twelve months from the time of beginning at the same raits. He lost 3 days at campmeeting."

To earn this, to us, magnificent monthly stipend Henry had to put in full time. There were no holidays or Saturday afternoons off for Henry, for the account against him shows that every half day of lost time was charged up against him. Here are some of the lost time items: "Henry was sick on Aug. 29, 30 and 31; lost half day at store and getting pants cut; six days with his feet being sore; had pony the same No. of days away. I wanted the horse Thursday." The account ends with this entry: "Feb. 4, 1851, he quit work the amount of time is 5 months and 16 days and he lost 53 days take 53 from the above would leave 3 months and 15 days at 9 dollars a month would be 32 dollars and no cents." Evidently Henry enjoyed no "velvet" as far as employment was concerned.

KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1937

Boulder Marks Military Road Near Keosauqua

(Gate City Tri-State News)
KEOSAUQUA, Ia., July 6—A boulder marking the old Territorial or Military road that led from Dubuque to the Missouri state line, has been placed at the "Y" at the junction of highways one and three, south of here.

This marker will be dedicated later in the summer by the Van Buren county D. A. R., with proper ceremony.

Des Moines Sunday Register
Oct. 25, 1970
Local Section
2-L

120.

'American Gothic' House Now Deserted, Decaying

By Charles Bullard
(Register Staff Writer)

ELDON, IA. — "American Gothic" catapulted Grant Wood to fame, but the small, white house with pretentious Gothic window in the background of the painting is slowly decaying.

Panes in the Gothic window which gave "American Gothic" its title have been broken by vandals and replaced with pieces of tin.

A woodpecker has pecked a hole in a hollow, carved porch column. The curling shake shingles have been covered with black roll roofing. Kneehigh weeds are choking out the bluegrass. The white paint is weathered gray.

Dust Inscription

Along with the inevitable initials and declarations of puppy love, someone has written, "American Gothic by Grand Wood." in the dust coating on a first-floor window.

The interior of the modest house is littered with crumbling plaster and pieces of faded wallpaper. Wasps patrol the empty, echoing rooms.

No one seems to know exactly who built the house or when. The lot the cottage sits on was plotted by W. H. Jaques in 1881 and old-timers think he probably built the house soon after.

Gideon Jones owned the 1½-story house when Grant Wood happened to drive by it one day in 1930 with John Sharp of Eldon, then studying with Wood.

The Gothic window caught Wood's eye and he asked Sharp to photograph the house. From those snapshots Wood did the background for "American Gothic," one of the most reproduced and satirized American paintings.

Friends Modeled

Wood persuaded his sister, Nan, then 28, and his dentist, Dr. B. H. McKeeby of Cedar Rapids, to pose for the picture. He ordered the prim print apron and the overalls they wore from a catalogue.

The painting skyrocketed Wood to fame and helped launch the regional art movement. It also released a flood of letters to the editor from Iowans who felt the picture was an insult to the Iowa farmer.

Darrell Garwood, who wrote "Artist in Iowa," a biography of Wood, said the artist chose the Eldon house for the background because he felt it was ostentatious — a flimsy, struc-

The Original 'American Gothic'

'American Gothic'—1970

Does this take you back—to the 1930s, maybe? It's a 1970 photograph of Iowa artist Grant Wood's 1930 painting, "American Gothic," with new models. The pretentious Gothic window, which caught Wood's eye 40 years ago as he drove past the house in Eldon, is still an out-of-character feature of the unoccupied, slowly decaying structure. Mrs. Mildred Manning and her husband, Warren, of rural Libertyville, have replaced Wood's sister, Mrs. Nan Wood Graham, and his dentist, Dr. B. H. McKeeby, who posed for the painting. Mrs. Manning's mother, Mrs. Myra Smith, 84, who lives with the Mannings, now owns the house. The painting skyrocketed Wood to fame and aroused the ire of Iowans who considered it an insult to the Iowa farmer.

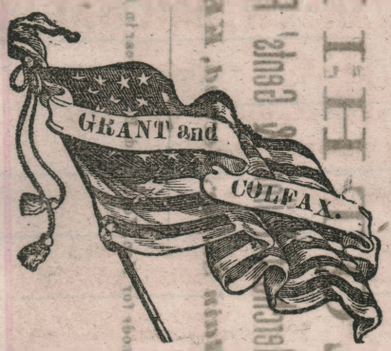
THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

The Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA:

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 13.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS,



FOR PRESIDENT

GEN. U. S. GRANT,

OF ILLINOIS.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,

SCHUYLER COLFAX.

OF INDIANA.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

For the State at Large.

S. L. GLASGOW, of Wayne County.
J. B. YOUNG, of Linn County.

For Congressional Districts.

I—HIRAM SCHOFIELD, of Washington County.
II—J. T. LANE, of Scott County.
III—J. W. ROGERS, of Fayette County.
IV—JOHN MEYER, of Jasper County.
V—WM. HALE, of Mills County.
VI—S. H. TAFT, of Humboldt County.

STATE TICKET.

For Secretary of State,
ED. WRIGHT, of Cedar County.
For Auditor of State,
JOHN A. ELLIOTT, of Mitchell County.
For Treasurer of State,
SAM'L E. RANKIN, of Washington County.
For Register of State Land Office,
C. C. CARPENTER, of Webster County.
For Attorney General,
HENRY O'CONNOR, of Muscatine County.

FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

First District—GEORGE W. McCRARY.
Second District—Col. WILLIAM SMYTH.
Third District—
Fourth District—WILLIAM LOUGHRIDGE.
Fifth District—FRANK W. PALMER.
Sixth District——

For Judge of Circuit Court
JOHN B. DRAYER, of Henry County.

ORATION

Of Rev. I. P. Teter, at the Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument at Keosauqua, Iowa, July 4th, 1868.

Ninety-two years ago on this historic day, Liberty received its birth. For centuries it struggled against tyranny and despotism, occasionally modifying governments, upheaving nations, and amid the throes of Revolution, loosening the grasp of monarchs, and lifting humanity to the plain of a higher civilization. Yet during all these ages the child was imperfect. But on that memorable day, July the 4th, 1776, the star of freedom rose in the heavens and rested over the infant. Around it stood the fathers. Its name was Liberty. And with uplifted hands they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to protect and defend it.

There are sentences which embody great principles, and gather strength with the sweep of time. Take some of the wonderful utterances of Christ, and the ages only can unfold their grandeur. So with this—all men are created equal and free, possessing certain inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Little did the fathers conceive that the ages were to be politically revolutionized by these few words. It was the leaven that was to work out the grand consummation of human freedom, and culminate in the overthrow of thrones and dynasties in all lands. Never were these principles so deeply fixed in human purposes as to-day.

This is a glorious, an immortal day! Why do we meet upon this day with banners, and songs, and thanksgiving, and exultation? It is because upon this day Liberty broke away from the grasp of monarchy—because a star appeared amid the galaxy of nations. It is true, the star was dim, and political philosophers conceived it to be but a secondary planet; but to-day it stands forth as a central orb, around which the nations of the earth are taking their positions, as the moon, earth and stars, connected with our solar system, arrange themselves around the sun.

But I am reminded from the scene around, and from that Monument before me, that the services of this day differ widely from the usual performances of this annual anniversary. We meet in memory of the dead—the brave, the heroic, the patriot dead!! We erect that Monument—we carve upon it names immortal—not so much to perpetuate their names, but to hand down to posterity their devotion to liberty.

The war through which we passed was not a war for conquest. No ambitious spirit fixed his eye upon a throne or stretched forth his hand to seize a scepter. He who led the nation through the conflict walked the capital of the rebellious States with the meekness of a lamb—"with charity for all and malice toward none."

It was a war for liberty. Principles sit enthroned above the conflict. And while we remember the fallen, and meet to-day to hallow their memory, we say the achievement was worthy the sacrifice, and the sacrifice worthy of the grandest results. And let me here ask what we have gained by the war? Let any man look at the degraded condition of this country before the war—the scorn of the universe—the contempt of ourselves—and tell me if we have gained nothing by the war. A nation claiming the highest form of civilization, yet holding over four millions of human beings in chains of the most appalling degradation. And this in the face of the declaration of universal freedom! Was it not a stain upon our glory—a spot upon our sun—a dimming of national effulgence? But now let the political astronomer bring the sun within the range of his telescope, he finds no spot there. It is gone—washed away by the blood of those we commemorate to-day.

What is our present position to-day? Respectability and character abroad—security and confidence at home. Is there a man that would obliterate from the proud pages of our history the brilliant achievements of the past? Is there a man who could not desire a participation in the national glory acquired by the war? Yes, national glory! which however the expression may be condemned by some must be cherished by every true patriot. For the war carried the nation forward along the line of a pure civilization in four years, farther than the tardy movements of political reformers had reached in three quarters of a century.

I have said that this was a war involving great principles. The principles of liberty met upon the field the principles of despotism. The struggle was a struggle between a Christian civilization and oppression. Upon the side of freedom your fathers, husbands and brothers, took their position, and for its maintenance laid their lives a willing offering upon their country's altar. A noble patriotism. A patriotism before which the patriotism of Greece and Rome fade into insignificance. A love of country sublimely rising above all considerations, impelled them forward to the conflict.

It is not now necessary to go back to Marathon and Thermopylæ for examples of valor. We are writing to pay our tribute of applause to Leonidas. Indeed the Spartan age of chivalry. Every country and every age have had their heroes. But no age equals the present. A Grant, a Sherman, a Sheridan, stand forth incomparably surpassing all other military leaders of all preceding ages. The armies they led enter not into comparison for valor with those of other wars. The battles they fought and victories won place the armies of the Republic far above all that has been achieved in the past. A nation's wealth and a nation's glory is her history. And it is true that nations are prouder of their military achievements than of their triumphs of genius and learning. If then we are to be respected for our military success we may well be proud of the past. Lexington and Yorktown begin and close the struggle of the revolution. The war of 1812 shed glory upon our nation's escutcheon. The war with Mexico extended our possessions to the Pacific. But the war of 1861-2-3 4 and 5, lifted the Republic to a plain of civilization higher and more glorious than is enjoyed by any of the nations of the earth. Amid the throes of revolution is bound a perfect liberty.

We cannot be insensible to the events of the past. Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Yorktown have had their inspiration upon the nation. But to-day we catch the inspiration from Donalson, Antictam, Pearidge, Wilson's Creek, Champion Hills, Gettysburg, the Wilderness.

Did the battle of Thermopylæ preserve Greece but once? No. Victories have an animating effect upon after ages. Their value cannot be estimated in the hour of national danger. While the Mississippi continues to flow to the Gulf, the 4th of July, 1863, will be remembered, and the glory of that day will stimulate future patriots, and nerve the arms of unborn freemen. Every act of noble sacrifice to the country, every instance of patriotic devotion to her cause, tells upon her future. A nation's character is the sum of its splendid deeds. They constitute one common patrimony—the nation's inheritance. No nation under heaven presents such a sublime history as our own. Born in weakness—born amid the throes of revolution—the child of poverty, but guided by a propitious star, she has marched on to glory and to power. From ocean to ocean may be heard the ceaseless tread of her free population—and from the Atlantic to the Gulf our grand old flag waves over a free people.

Fellow-Citizens—As I contemplate this country in the extent of her domain, the increase of her population—as I look at her proud march along and up the plain of civilization, I feel that upon us, the citizens of the Republic, devolve exigencies full of sublimity and urgency—it is difficult to conceive what will be our destiny. What an idea would it be that of all Europe consolidated into one mighty untrameled commonwealth, in the highest liberty, religious enlightenment and industrial development—and this mighty revolution to be effected in less than the lifetime of many present. Who would credit the conception? Yet we will have reached that grand result, if our political and moral integrity be not sacrificed, in less than three quarters of a century.

What a theatre does this land present for the achievements of human advancement. Can we be indifferent to the vast responsibilities of the times? If circumstances make men, are we not to hope that the consciousness of this unparalleled destiny will enlarge and enoble the intellect, the philanthropy and moral energy of the country to a scale of corresponding magnificence. With the history of the past glowing with illustrious examples of patriotism, of unselfish devotion to liberty—with the glorious, the opening future—how grand it is to-day to stand beneath the folds of our country's flag—how our hearts beat high when we say this is our country, East, West, North and South, *one and inseparable!* The golden beams of the rising sun kiss first the Atlantic, and sheds his departing rays upon the distant shores of the Pacific.

But, fellow-citizens, it would be interesting to me to continue this theme—my country's past, present and future—but I see standing within yon enclosure a column of marble; inscribed upon its soldid base are names immortal. I see before me a vast concourse of human beings—among these are mothers who read upon that monument the names of their sons—wives read there the names of their husbands—sisters, the names of brothers—children, the names of their fathers—soldiers, the names of their comrades.

To you, we say, as well as the dead, we erect this monument, and while you may never be permitted to stand by the nameless grave where sleeps the noble dead, and with the hand of love plant the rose and the evergreen above their patriot dust, you have gathered around this monument and strewn this grave—forever consecrated to their memory—with flowers and bedewed it with tears. We cannot, it we would, shut out of our minds the memories of the past. We remember that upon the 4th of March, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President of these United States. Already the clouds of war were darkening the Southern heavens. But as the nation gave audience to the pacific utterances of the nation's chief, we hoped that these clouds would have drifted away. I must be permitted to reproduce them here, for they reveal the wonderful philanthropy of that great heart which beats not to-day, but sleeps with *the patriot dead we come here to commemorate.* "You can have no conflict without yourselves being the aggressors. You can have no oath registered in heaven to destroy this Government, while I have the most positive one to preserve, protect and defend it."

"I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over this broad land will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be by the better angeld of our nation." But alas, treason was organized and in the field, and the response with which these words were met was the tocsin of war!

On the morning of the 12th of April, 1861, the roar of a cannon and the rushing shriek of a shell gave notice to the world that the era of compromise and diplomacy was ended, and that slavery had entered the arena of war, where aristocrats and kings most generally pursue their oppressed victims. And now begins the most stupendous war the world ever saw. The fall of Sumter rocked the nation like an earthquake. Sumter was lost, but freedom was saved. The first call was met, and every subsequent call roused the nation's freemen until the grandest army upon which the sun ever shone went forth in the cause of human liberty.

The same spirit which inspired our fathers inspired them, and may I not say that the same spirit of patiotism is evinced in the erection of this memorial in memory of our country's dead. A patriotism inspired by the genius of liberty led our armies to the field—a love of country, challenging the admiration of all lands, led them where the battle raged with the wildest fury. They went as freemen to fight for freedom—to lift aloft the banner of liberty. They went not for fame, for glory or gain. We know what happy firesides they left for the cheerless camp. We know how heroically they dared the perils of the field. There is no romance, no madness under the name of chivalry about them. It was all resolute, manly resistance, for conscience and liberty's sake—a native love of country. It was to defend the rights of mankind against the encroachments of tyrants—to save a republic—to transmit it to posterity unimpaired—full orbed in its glory. How nobly they did their work may be seen in the rising gloriesof the nation, and constitutes the most splendid achievements upon the pages of history.

No State in the Union responded more cheerfully than Iowa. No soldiers shed more glory upon our national army than Iowa's. Iowa soldiers to-day sleep upon almost every battle-field of the Republic. Their blood has crimsoned the soil of every Southern State—the blood of freemen consecrating the nation to freedom. Where true patriots were needed—where valor and heroism was in demand—there Iowa's brave sons stood undismayed, undaunted. Where the surges of battle rolled in the wildest fury they stood like the everlasting rocks, sending back the waves or breaking them into spray. If vast fortifications were to be stormed—if Wildernesses were to be penetrated—if the flag must rise against the sun from the summit of Lookout Mountain, Iowa's sons faltered not, but with a daring before which the veterans of Napoleon paled, moved on to the conflict. Iowa soldiers, after they had participated in every battle from Missouri to the Gulf, participating in opening the Father of Waters to the commerce of the earth, turned about with their great leader, the Wellington of America, and from Atlanta to the sea they carried in triumph these grand old flags, shouting as they went the battle cry of freedom. And to complete the chaplet of their glory, they must not return until they march with the glory of conquerers and the tread of freemen through the capital of the rebellion. And at last resting beneath the shadow of the nation's capitol, with their eyes gazing upon the Goddess of Liberty.

The nation's deliverers! I have been permitted to share with you some of your toils and sacrifices. To-day words fail—eulogies are but unmeaning words. Your glory should be written upon the heart of every loyal American. To-day 4,000,000 of people, long oppressed, call you blessed. To-day from things they have risen to be men, who will share with us the future benefits and destinies of this land. Were there not a moral grandeur in the victories of our arms? All along the line of our valiant host the chains of oppression were loosened, and I think I see a fulfillment of prophetic utterances—loose the bands, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, break every yoke. Now, as a nation of freemen, no slave presses our American soil.

In this mighty conflict for human liberty many perished. We meet to-day in memory of these. We remember the scenes of our last and final parting. The kiss, the tear, comes up fresh before our memories at this hour. And while you call back those hours of anxiety and prayer, and still sadder, when upon the death roll you read the names of those you loved, we remember how bravely, how gloriously they died—the words of cheer which fell from their quivering lips as they urged us on to victory. We remember when we laid them coffinless to sleep, until God shall bid them rise.

Let me instance some of the last words of our patriot dead. At the battle of Port Hudson, as our forces were charging the enemies works, when they had reached the embankments a soldier fell mortally wounded. As he lay dying he said to his comrades: "Step on my body and scale the works." In one of the most terrific battles of the war, a father and son stood side by side. The father fell. The son, all lost in the conflict, pressed on until he fell, mortally wounded. His Colonel had witnessed the noble daring of this lad, and when he saw him fall he rushed immediately to him. He was dying, and with his last breath he asked: "Is the field ours?" and when informed that it was, said: "Go after them; I'll catch up. Don't mind me. I'm a little cold now!" and then died. We could write a book filled with scenes the most affecting.

But, fellow-citizens, we are here to-day to consecrate these grounds and that Monument to their memory. It is but a small tribute of itself—it is insignificant—but it is an outward expression of our veneration for the dead. Their epitaphs are written upon the tablets of our hearts, and all festooned with our tears. Could these whose names are carved upon that marble look out from the sky upon this vast assembly—and may they not—who have assembled here to take a part in giving immortality to their memory, would they not say the glory of this hour is sufficient for the sacrifice?

Patriot dead, your blood is the nation's cement. To you we owe our highest hopes of the future, and to keep alive in our memories and perpetuate your names, we have raised this Monument, Three hundred and eight heroes of Van Buren fell. To them we dedicate these grounds. Citizens of Van Buren county, this is a noble work. It speaks well of your patriotism. These were your best and noblest citizens. Your liberties, your happy homes, you owe to the living and dead soldiery of the country.

Let us now, here, again catch the spirit of '76 and '61, and pledge our all to the maintenance of this glorious Union. Let us remember that we have vast responsibilities resting upon us—that we have duties to perform—that to us is entrusted the preservation of civil and religious liberty. Let us remember that no Government is respectable that is not just—justice to all must hereafter be secure—without this a democratic government is a failure. May I say, in the language of the Father of his Country—you are prosperous, you are happy, you are grateful; the fire of liberty burns steadily in your hearts; cherish liberty as you love it; cherish its securities as you wish to preserve it; cherish the union of the States, cemented as they are by blood. Be true to God, to your country, and to your duty. Animated by the past, let us go forward to the work of lifting our nation up still to a higher plain, politically, socially, intellectually and religiously, until we shall become the praise of all lands, and until all nations shall by us be led to bathe in the light of a pure christian civilization. God has given to us grand opportunities. The part we are to play in the future of the world's history may now be plainly seen. To us the lovers of freedom look. Let us show ourselves capable to meet the exigencies of the times.

We have passed through the fiery ordeal of war. To-day, thank heaven, we have peace. Let us see if we cannot do something worthy to be remembered by promoting those great interests that make a nation great and good. Let us extend our ideas over the whole of the vast field in which we are called to act. Let our object be the Union, the whole Union, and nothing but the Union, until by the blessing of God our country shall become one grand monument of wisdom, peace and liberty, on which the world may gaze in wonder and admiration.

Fellow-citizens, the age is big with destiny. Having fought the battle of human rights and established the nation upon the foundation of liberty and justice, we enter upon a new era—a new life. Having been born again, how grand it is to live amid the activities of the present and to contemplate the glories of the future. We are the guardians and custodians as Americans to-day of liberty. Great powers and capabilities are required to guide aright these momentous interests.

It is difficult to estimate the responsibilities of the age, and how much of that rests upon the young men of the country. To you, let me say a word. To meet the demands that will engage you for the future you must cultivate your intellect. "Knowledge is power." Without it the opportunities of the times will be valueless and life a mortification. Cultivate constantly a love of country; be stimulated by a patriotic devotion to the principles of philanthropy; lose sight of those debasing considerations of self, and substitute a bolder, loftier and nobler spirit, one that will dispose you to consider yourselves as born not so much for yourselves as for your country and the interest of humanity, and which will lead you to act on all occasions justly, generously, magnanimously. Independence of character, constant activity for and in the right, will crown you with glory. And I would have you, like the waters of the ocean, to become purer by your own action.

A word to the women, to the mothers, wives and sisters of my country. Rome had her matrons. Sparta her patriot mothers, who taught their sons to conquer or return upon their shield! But America has the highest type of womanly greatness. While our civilization has raised them to their proper orbit, they have given tone, morality and loyalty to our nation.

Finally, my friends, I would to God I could kindle a flame here to-day of loyalty, of patriotism that would find an altar in every heart—that would burn to ashes the prejudices of the past and party interests of the present, and throw upon our pathway of duty a strong and steady light, guiding us forward to the permanent welfare, safety and honor of the nation.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

123.

REMINISCENCES ON FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING THE KEOSAUQUA DEMOCRAT

[By Geo. F. Smith.]

MONDAY, FEB. 2, 1920.

Time rolls his ceaseless course.—Scott.

Monday of last week, January 19, marked the fiftieth year since the first appearance of the Democrat. Fifty years is only a speck in the eternity of time, but it is quite a space in human experience. Few publications attain the distinction of having a record of half a century behind them, and especially under the same ownership and management.

The Democrat first saw the light at Bonaparte, Van Buren county, Iowa, January 19, 1870. Geo. F. Smith and R. I. Holcombe were the editors and proprietors. The latter remained with the paper about three months only, but the former has continued in the ownership and practically in the management ever since. The Democrat is the only democratic paper ever published in the county, and there have been six or eight of them from time to time, that lived to become one of the county's fixed and established institutions.

Boasted of Progress.

It does not seem so very long since we put out the first Democrat in 1870, yet fifty years is quite a span in human life and history. Iowa at that time as a state was only twenty-four years old and had a population of 1,194,020, which is less than half its population today.

We boasted then as we do now of our great progress in everything and fondly believed we had arrived at the very acme of development and improvement in every direction, but unknown in that day were electric lights, the trolley car, the telephone, the wireless, the linotype, the phonograph, the auto, the tractor and the truck, and a hundred other important inventions.

At that time Des Moines was a city of about 15,000 inhabitants and Ottumwa 5,000. There was not a wagon bridge across the Mississippi and none across the Des Moines between its mouth and the Raccoon Forks. There was but one railroad line through the county, the Rock Island. There was no town of Stockport or of Cantril. The population of the county was 17,672. Bentonsport was the largest town in the county. There was a woolen factory, a paper mill, where wrapping and print paper were made, and a flouring mill at Bentonsport, and a woolen factory and a flouring mill at Vernon.

Public Life 50 Years Ago.

At that time General Grant was president of the United States, Samuel Merrill was governor of Iowa; James Harlan and J. B. Howell were U. S. senators; George W. McCrary was member of congress for this district. Jacob G. Vale was state senator and Joel Brown and G. No. Rosser were members of the general assembly for the county. Robert Sloan was judge of the circuit court and Alex Brown was county auditor, Joshua Sloan treasurer, James W. Latham clerk of the courts, G. W. Sommerville sheriff, and Russell Johnston recorder.

The leading editors of the state were Frank Palmer of the Des Moines Register, Perkins Bros. of the Sioux City Journal, C. E. Potter of the Davenport Gazette and Richardson Bros. of the Democrat, Judge Thayer of the Clinton Age, John Mahin of the Muscatine Journal, C. A. Berker of the Burlington Gazette, Judge Claggett of the Keokuk Constitution and Sam M. Clark of The Gate City, Frank Hatton, afterwards postmaster general, of the Mt. Pleasant Journal, Junkin of the Fairfield Ledger and M. M. Bleakmore of the Democrat, and Hedrick & Warden of the Ottumwa Courier and McCullough & Evans of the Copperhead, and T. O. Walker of the Bloomfield Democrat.

Early Van Buren County Newspapers.

Prior to the establishment of the Democrat, there had been a number of democratic papers published in the county from time to time, and some of them very excellent ones—better and abler in some respects than any county papers we know of at preesnt. The first paper published in the county was the Des Moines Valley News, founded by Col. James Shepherd in 1843. Col. Shepherd was from Springfield, Ill., and was colonel of a militia regiment, the regiment we believe in which Lincoln was a captain in the Blackhawk war. This paper was edited for some time by Delazon Smith, Col. Shepherd's son-in-law, who was afterward's U. S. senator from Oregon, who is said to have been one of the most eloquent speakers in the state. This paper was succeeded by the Democratic Mirror by J. M. Estes, who moved the plant here from Vernon, and that by the Jeffersonian Democrat by Orlando E. Jones, which was a very able paper, and that by the Democratic Union, published by R. Summerlin. Then came the Valley News by Oliver I. Taylor, who was a brilliant writer, and later J. Sherman Shepherd published an excellent paper here, the News we believe it was, in the early sixties. After that A. C. Bailey published a democratic paper at Bentonsport, the Bentonsport Signal, which was a very wide awake journal, and in 1868 was moved to Albia.

Papers of opposition politics were the Des Moines Valley Whig, established in 1846, and edited by Howell & Cowles. This paper was moved to Keokuk in 1851 and name changed to Gate City. It was succeeded by the Western American, which was edited by L. D. & H. Morris, and was a really great paper. It was succeeded by the Republican, which was founded by W. C. Stidger, who was far above the average newspaper man as a writer, afterwards publishing the Red Oak Democrat. He transferred the paper to his brother, John S. Stidger, and he to Joel Mayne, and he to Capt. Geo. A. Henry, who was the editor and publisher when the Democrat was started in 1870. The Birmingham Enterprise had been established in 1869 by W. S. Moore, who previous to that time had been treasurer of Jefferson county.

Democrat Moved to Keosauqua.

As stated above, the Democrat was started at Bonaparte, and was published there until Dec. 1, 1876, when it was moved to Keosauqua. We have a copy of the first paper before us. It brings up a flood of incidents that were pleasant then, but which are almost inexpressibly sad now. Of all our advertisers and of all those engaged in business of any kind in Bonaparte at that time, two persons only are among the living, and they are Charles H. Coolidge and J. M. Cox, the latter than station agent at Bonaparte, but now living at Pella. And of all the persons mentioned in that first number of the paper only four are now living. They are besides Messrs. Coolidge and Cox, Dr. Boyer of Bonaparte, and J. S. Shepherd of Mt. Ayr, the latter now a type setter in the Mt. Ayr Journal office at the age of 87.

Of all the business men in Keosauqua when the Democrat was moved here in December, 1876, all but six have passed on to the other world—J. B. Bleakmore, Francis Johnston, J. F. Daughrity, L. C. Fosnot, Wm. Hartson and Capt. Geo. A. Henry. Of all the county officers and of all the profes sional men here—attorneys, physicians, ministers, all except Judge Robert Sloan have passed away.

A Book of the Dead.

We also have before us the subscription book of the first year of the publication of the Democrat. It is literally a book of the dead. The paper was started with 1,000 subscribers, and of that number all have passed to their rest except twenty-one. These are Dr. Boyer and Jacob Eich (who have taken the paper ever since), C. P. Young, Jonathan Cresap, Jas. A. Fowler, Ernest Lydolph and J. W. Fitzgerald, then all of Bonaparte; J. B. Bleakmore and W. M. Hartson of Keosauqua; Captain James Elerick, T. C. Jackson, Mary A. Doud, Jas. Mathias, W. H. Harryman, and Jonathan Denning of Douds and Portland; N. Stump of Selma; John Harness of Mt. Sterling; John Brown of Kilbourne; Benj. McLelland of Utica, and J. C. Holland of Milton.

Democrat's Office Force.

We cannot close this article without mention of the office force when the Democrat first came into being a half century ago. Three are deceased, among them Mr. Holcombe, our partner, who was a talented man and one of the most entertaining conversationists we ever knew, and Dr. W. A. George, who was afterwards editor of the Keokuk Constitution. John Sterling published the Corydon Democrat for many years and is a retired and well-to-do resident of that place. S. M. Leach is a banker at Adel, and was last year president of the State Bankers' association. J. W. Sherman was afterwards publisher of the Osceola Democrat and treasurer of Clarke county two terms. John Jenner, the foreman, later went to Keokuk, and was one of the best and most widely known printers in this section of the country.

Other Democratic Papers.

We do not claim and it would not be true that the Democrat is the only successful democratic paper ever published in the county. A number of its predecessors were excellent as long as they were published. We have simply remained on the job longer than the others. Since the Democrat was founded twenty papers have been started in the county, of which only four remain—the Milton Herald, Farmington News-Republican, Bonaparte Record, and Stockport News.

That we have made many mistakes no one is more fully aware than are we, and many policies of the paper would be different if we were to live the fifty years over. But the editor who is also publisher and manager, and also giving a considerable part of his thought to the very practical work of making both ends meet, has not much time left in which to indulge in lofty idealism, although we would not under-value idealism which is one of the noblest faculties of the human mind.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30.

THE LEGEND OF KEOSAUQUA

THE LONE INDIAN FOUND BY FRENCH EXPLORERS ON THE BANKS OF THE DES MOINES.

Why it was Called the "River of Monks"—Memories of Muddy Lane—A Mill Raising at Bentonsport in 1843—Forty Miles to Get a Grist—Giant Strides of the Great State of Iowa, Etc., Etc

Paper read before the Van Buren county Old Settlers' Meeting, by Elder Adams.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—Assuming that there is a general interest felt in pioneer history, the present object is to direct your attention to some of the sources of that interest. They are many and various. Our history here in some respects differs from that of the early settlers of the country. That was more homogeneous. The great body of them came from England. The early Dutch settled in New York, and those who came from the north of Europe planted themselves along the Susquehanna. Each nationality was mainly by itself. Each had its own form of civilization up to the time of the revolution. So they lived for one hundred and fifty-six years. A common danger and a common cause nationalized them. The previous Indian wars contributed something towards the result; but the revolution was the great solvent for a community of interests. Almost everywhere in Iowa, the first settlers were of different nationalities. In every community of any size this was the case. Often a refined family from Boston or Philadelphia would have for a neighbor, one whose luxuries were sour kraut and tobacco; one who domiciled his horses and cattle under the same roof with his family,—but one who, for all that, was an honest and thrifty citizen.

The variety of manners and customs was ever, and anon the source of some inconvenience. Under the apprehension of supposed liberty, the real rights of others were frequently violated. In towns those who desired to put forth efforts for public improvements found it difficult to secure the required unity of action. You wished to erect a school building. In many instances you were voted down. You wished to fence the public square and make of it a beautiful and well shaded park. You proposed to the municipality that if they would furnish the material, the fence should be made, the square should be smoothed, made a beautiful green and be ornamented with a variety of trees. You argued with them that this would enhance the value of property and modify the temperature summer and winter. You received this response: The public square belongs to the public. Let the public have it." Pardon me for drawing upon personal experience. Under this municipal authority also, every inch of grass along the street sides is allowed to be overturned by plows driven by hogs. These animals, so abhorred the of the Jews, have a pre-emption claim upon all things green in the streets, and they enter it. Pat claims liberty for his hogs as well as for himself. But you are kept in countenance, without being angry. He may answer you as he once made reply in the home-land. He was asked why he let that grunting beast occupy such a conspicuous corner in the room with his family. He replied laconically, "And indade why shouldn't he, for he pays the rent?" Here he might as well say, "He helps pay for the home." But be it that there are some things undesirable in this mixture of population, the conflict of different manners, habits and customs quickens thoughts. We have to witness just this kind of commotion. It is pleasant to see the social caldron boil. The scum will ere long disappear, and the residuum may be fitted for a civilization equal, if not superior, to any one of the nationalities which compose it. When Corinth was burned by Memmius, B. C 146, the melting of brass and other metals together made a compound of the best metal known. It was called Corinthian brass. It was valued more highly than gold. Such may be the outcome of our mixture of population, provided the civilization is molded by the needful intellectual and Christian influences.

An eminent Scotch writer says, "We learn to love that for which we brave peril." This is so in many cases. In some it is not. Much depends upon having success crown the peril. A re-union of the "boys in blue" has an interest unknown to the Confederate soldiers. The latter love their country as well; but such re-unions do not spring from love of country; they come, rather, of perils ending in victory. Pioneers of this county have not forgotten the days when, with plenty of sloughs, ugly streams and no bridges, they had to go to Quincy, Ill., to mill; when Lee county had no plank roads, and all goods, groceries and liquors had to be hauled in wagons. Old teamsters had no dim recollection of the mishaps of "Muddy Lane." There were hardships, the memory of which never comes floating back without the revival of sacred tenderness. The death rate was not small. Once, twice, even thrice have I attended a funeral in the same family where, when the malaria occasioned by the subduing of the wild sod summoned away the members. Nor was it the least of the hardship, that there were not at command the needful means of ministering to the sick. Sometimes disease was so prevalent there were not enough well ones to care for the sick. To many of the older citizens the dearest spots on earth are those hillocks, where rest the remains of your early dead. You there had few, if any friends around you. Comparatively you were strangers among strangers. On this account your trials were the more keen. Destitute of shade around your dwellings, your personal sickness had the greater severity. That special type of experience has passed away. It exists only in memory. The memory of it amid present surroundings has a sort of fragrance which becomes a source of great satisfaction. There is an outcome that survives and becomes a bond of sympathy among those who have passed through such trials. They can be recounted not only without pain but they afford real pleasure; that is the reason they are of so much interest. But are there not other pioneer experiences and matters which are sources of interest besides those connected with hardship and peril? It would be an easy matter to refer to some that were really ludicrous and laughable. I shall not this year forget preaching at a given time and place, and on reading a hymn in short metre, having it sung in a common metre tune. On another occasion when the hymn was read and the singers, commenced, one sharp voice struck into the air just a note higher than the rest and so sung to the end. Of course that put one's nerves in a lively state for speaking.

Time is all the time giving a pecuniary interest to articles of small essential value.

The earliest printed copy of the Old Testament, of 1452, folio in size, of thick coarse paper bound in pig skin and oak boards, lately sold in London for £660, or $3,800. The manuscript copy of Guy Mannering, by Walter Scott, sold for £355, or $1,775. Lapse of time gave these articles their value and interest.

Time gives small incidents much larger proportions in our own thought and feeling. I would give something for a large photograph, suitably colored, of the first considerable group of pioneers I saw in this county. It was in the latter part of October, 1843. The place was Bentonsport, and the occasion the raising of a mill. Three of us ministers had called on one of the citizens and taken our dinner. While we were engaged in social converse with the family, our host came up and informed us that they were about to raise a mill there and were short of help. He courteously asked us if we would not give them a lift. When we reached the river brink it was evident that the statement made to us was correct. The timbers were heavy, and the men, if all had been robust, were relatively few. The majority of these were as sallow as if they had been colored with yellow ocre. Blended with this was that peculiar bleaching which nothing but the ague gives. This was the first specimen of the kind I had seen. Some of them were wrapped in a wammus, a garment then common in the west, but never known to

THE GREAT DUST HEAP-CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Aug 30, 1892 (Legend of Keosauqua)

Aug 30, 1881 - Page #2 (Legend of Keosauqua)
KEOSAUQUA DE KEOSAUQUA-2

the great unabridged. By the patches on the apparel of the others, it was evident they had industrious wives at home. To you who were there it is nothing new. To me the picture became historic. I really felt that I could lift as much as a half dozen of those men.

Or for a small matter that time is clothing with interest, take the name of your own town—Keosauqua. The legend runs thus: When the French in their explorations came upon this stream they found an Indian living alone at this point like a Monk. His name was Keo-shaw-qua. In allusion to his mode of life, they named the stream "La river Des Moines"—"The river of Monks." Before this it was called "Keo-shaw-qua," and such is the legend. It has an air of truth. The river still has the old French name, and somehow, this place came to have a name not greatly removed from that of the legendary monk. Now whether or not the first settlers have had an impediment in their speech like the Ephrainites of old, and could say Sibbaleth, but not Shibbaleth; it appears quite certain the Keo-shaw-qua has been softened into Keosauqua. But at any rate, could we know just where the lone Indian pitched his wigwam, we would at once locate the spot, and place a monument there. He has left a name to a town that has reared up more lawyers than any other of its size in the country. We never have heard that any of them found their way into prison. How many persons they have justly sent there, may be a question.

One of the most interesting and profitable features of pioneer history, is its relation to all other history. We cannot read that of any other time or place, without having our attention often and delightfully arrested by the occurrence of parallels and contrasts. There has been no period in this or any other country just like it. Limiting it to forty years, or thereabouts, but little more than a generation, it may well be styled the period of invention and progress. Knight the historian says: "The spirit of an age, however hidden or imperfectly seen, has always exercise a great control upon all individual action for good or for evil." Since resident here, we have all been permeated and actuated by this general inventive, progressive spirit. It has been the main spring of our advancement. Viewed as a whole, it seems but yesterday that we came. Looked at from the changes wrought, the time seems centuries. Taking the time from the conquest of England by Julius Cæsar, B. C. 55, down to the present century, more than 1,800 years, and it will be difficult to find in that country so many useful inventions as during the last forty years in this country. Less than 40 years ago every spoke, felloe, thill and pole of a carriage was wrought by the slow hand process. Ask your blacksmith how many horse-shoe nails he now makes in a year. Suppose some of your large farmers were put back to the old-fashioned tools how would it seem? Your shovels, plows, cultivators, planters, seeders, mowers, hay forks, self-binding reapers, horse and steam threshers, where were they? All these are in the agriculture line. One of the latest is a machine to load hay. With one of these a neighbor of mine put a large load upon the wagon, from the meadow, a few days ago, in just three minutes by the watch. This was done with a boy to drive and a man to load.

How many girls with thimble and needle would it take to do the work of one with a sewing machine? Here, too, has been a revolution. Up to January 1, 1876, the total number sold was 5,800,000. In 1875 the Singer Company alone had sold 249,852. Generally inventions have come into use without any other heraldry than the knowledge of their use. When, however, the sewing-machine was announced, the gentlemen—knights of the goose and shears, "supposing their craft was in danger," for a time made it hot for the inventor; but the ladies endorsed him, and, of course, he came off victorious.

Another family companion that is of recent origin, is the reed organ. As early as 1836, Carhart, of Buffalo, so improved the German accordeon that the melodeon was regarded as his instrument. It soon attained general favor. Nor was it long before Carhart's patent was so greatly improved by other inventors that the reed organ has become a respectable substitute for the pipe organ in ordinary congregations. More than 30,000 of them are made in this country annually.

So also that once modern marvel, but now commonplace invention, the telegraph, comes into our pioneer period. The first line, of any length, was established between Baltimore and Washington in 1844 The distance was forty miles. The first Atlantic telegraph was completed August 5, 1858. As far as the figures were collected in 1879, there were in the United States 238,448 miles of telegraph. Within a short time, for new uses, and modes of operating the telegraph Mr. Edison has taken out nearly 200 patents. Among these there is an invention by which four messages may be sent in opposite directions at the same time over a single wire, and perfectly delivered. Intimately connected with the telegraph is the whole science of meteorology as developed and used by the signal service. The knowledge diffused by "old probabilities" saves hundreds of millions of property and thousands of lives annually. Since the telegraph came into use, it has through the press furnished the staple of the current news. As far as this kind of information has been of use to us in our progress, the telegraph has been helpful. It is to become far more so. The signal service is maturing a method of informing farming communities what the weather will be for the day. This is to be done by sending up rockets at convenient points at 3 o'clock a. m. daily. The information founded upon existing causes will be fully as reliable as Mother Shipton's prognostics or those of Prof. Vennor.

And what progress has been made in the art of printing, and book-making. We now have presses that will print, cut and fold 35,000 newspapers in an hour. The N. Y. Sun has a press that will throw off 60,000 of that paper per hour. The American Bible Society can print, bind, and finish from 5,000 to 10,000 revised Testaments in a day; or the same thing in other kinds of books. All these things denote great quickening of public thought, great increase of general intelligence.

It is now common-place, and yet notice in this connection of the change in travel and transportation should not be omitted. Less than forty years ago Buffalo, N. Y., was the western terminus of the railroad. Nearly all the way through that State the rail was the "snake-head rail." It was tire iron spiked upon square timber. In the whole country in 1840 there were 2,818 miles of railroad. Now there are 90,000. A journey from Boston to Iowa usually occupied about three weeks. In a week, or thereabouts, one can at present go from Boston to San Francisco. If you wish to secure freight from the east, it must come marked to the "care of Landon & Co., New Orleans;" "care of Mr. Montandon, Fort Madison." Then you must patiently wait the weeks and months of its passage. At present not unfrequently an order is sent from the interior of Iowa to Boston or New York and a week from the date of the order the goods come. And all this change in a generation! That has been the style of our pioneering. Do we see these things as they are? When we are moving with the current we cannot so well judge of the rate of motion. We need to look shore-ward. Let us reflect them in an English mirror; for England thinks she always leads the rest of the world. Only about three generations since, with all her progress for 1,800 years, subsequent to the first conquest over her by Cæsar, she invented her first clumsy stage coach. This was ahead of the roads, but it is said to have made such speed that many travellers dared not mount. For some time yet, the mail went its rounds by another mode. But let the historian tell how "the letter bags were carried by boys on horse-back. If a bag reached its destination in safety it was more by a happy chance than by any care of the postoffice authorities for the prevention of robbery. The post that left London on Monday night reached Worcester, Birmingham, Norwich, Bath on Wednesday afternoon. A letter from London to Glascow was only five days on the road. What more could be done?" But a Mr. Palmer undertook to see it carried from Bath to London in sixteen hours. Great was the merriment at so wild a scheme among the wise officials. But in 1784, about three generations ago, the first mail coach left London, "the letters went safely, and they went at twice or thrice their former speed."—Knight, viii, p. 394. All these centuries England was pioneering. In some important respects she is doing so still. She is doing so in the matter of education. Her system has in it a rotten plank. She educates the aristocracy but lets the masses shirk for themselves. Knight says: "In 1838, upon a comparison of statistical returns in some agricultural and manufacturing districts, the conclusion was come to that, speaking roughly, it might be safely asserted that less than one-half of the adult population of England could write and less than three-fourths could read."—Vol. VIII, p. 227.

England has excellent schools, colleges, universities, and a great many eminent scholars. Still, progress will be slow and inventions few where general education is so neglected. Take an illustration at home. Go to the patent office and you will find the number of patents issued to our northern and southern states to be apportioned very nearly according to the difference in general intelligence between the two sections. Of 1,824 patents in a single year, all the southern states together received 170. Of these 170, South Carolina obtained three. Of the whole Massachusetts obtained 344. Massachusetts now has in her schools 104 per cent. of her scholars. In other words, so many go who are above school age, and so many who are under it, that it makes 104 per cent.

126.

Arkansas is sending to school only four per cent. of her scholars. So that, as to *general* intelligence, England has not been so far ahead of our southern states Nor did our slave-holders treat their slaves so much worse than England her colliers. And how was that? On the authority of Dr. Dexter in the "Congregationalist" of May 27, last, we have it that women and children, the latter often not more than six or seven years of age, ill fed, ill clad and ill used, were made to crawl on their hands and knees, dragging loads of coal by a chain attached to a girdle strapped round their waists, in an atmosphere as morally foul with vulgarity and profanity as it was physically foul with accumulated gasses. This is Dr. Dexter's description. The number employed under ground was 194,000. More than half were colliers, making over 97,000 of them. A law of relief came in 1844. Knight gives the deeper and darker shades, but I forbear. This state of things continued down fourteen years in the reign of Queen Victoria. The design of these citations is to hold before you an English mirror, that you may see the progress you have made in a generation Certainly it has been greater than of England in 1800 years, or in a period of forty-five times as long. Why, it is but little more than three generations since the Mother country invented earthenware of a quality that was to supercede the pewter dishes and remove them from their dingy rows in the tradesman's kitchen; to supercede also the wooden platter and the brown dish of the poor man's cottage.—Knight, vol. vi, p 356

In speaking of our progress and inventions, allusion has been, and can be made to only a few. Nothing has been said of the introduction of sorghum, the discovery of petroleum, their uses, the new machinery they require; nor of the discovery of our mines, nor of the inventions for driving drills in mines, and tunnels, by means of compressed air which is at the same time furnished for the operatives to breathe.

"Since 1848 the southwest has contributed $2,200,000,000 in gold and silver and that is $69,000,000 per year while the product of the entire world, since the discovery of Columbus to that time, 356 years, had been but $13,112,000,000, or $36,831,179 a year—little more than one-half." We are now furnishing over eighty per cent. of the gold and silver of the world; leaving less than twenty per cent. for the rest of the world to furnish. (Dr. Goodsell's hell sermon.)

These facts and figures are sufficient for our purpose. They show that our pioneer life here has, during a period remarkable for invention and progress. We have in a generation marched from the wilderness state without fruits other than native, without dwellings, without roads, without bridges, without mills, destitute of a long catalogue of labor-saving contrivances now possessed, without schools, or colleges or churches, we have marched on to a position of no mean rank as compared with the oldest and best States. Others than ourselves style us "the Massachusetts of the West." No community, in the circumstances, ever progressed faster. The spirit of the age, so wakeful with inventive thought, has lent stimulous; a kind Providence has stretched over us the wing of His protection, aand constantly vouchsafed his blessing. The pioneers were largely those possessed of energy, practical intelligence and religious principle. As far as they were concerned, they aimed to do their best to develop a state that should be noted for industry, energy, good order and literary and religious interest in itself. Yet this interest is greatly increased when the history is viewed in the light of other times, people and places. The men and women composing the Pioneer association of Van Buren county are to be congratulated that they have such a history to recount. With every anniversary instead of diminishing in interest, it will only increase as time rolls on.

Oct. 20, 1968 DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER

SUNDAY REGISTER PHOTO

110-Year-Old Cabin

This 110-year-old log cabin on the Paul Reneker farm is part of the Van Buren County Historical Society tour scheduled for today. Many old hand tools and other items will be on display in the cabin. Pictured outside in what they call their "agricultural tuxedos" are Reneker (left) and Lester Lindsay, tour chairman.

KEOSAUQUA TOUR TODAY

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

KEOSAUQUA, IA. — The largest underground limestone quarry in the United States is one of several stops on the fourth annual tour sponsored by the Van Buren County Historical Society to be held today.

Douds Stone, Inc., on the Des Moines River road east of Douds has an 80-acre cavern through which those making the tour will be given a 15-minute truck ride.

The huge quarry, largest operating in Iowa, has a constant temperature of about 50 degrees, so tourists are encouraged to take along a jacket.

Other stops on the 1 to 5 p.m. tour are the Iowaville Cemetery, the Ross Cramlet round barn, the Mount Moriah Church and the homes of Paul Reneker, Dale Morrow and Earl Stinson.

The Iowaville Cemetery is on Highway 16 a mile north of Selma, and the high location of the ground made it a favorite spot of Chief Blackhawk. The cemetery contains many unusual gravesites, the oldest dated 1840.

Here as elsewhere on the tour, guides will be present to conduct tourists to points of special interest and to sell ticket-brochures for $1 for the entire tour.

The Paul Reneker farm three miles southeast of Douds Stone has been in the family 97 years, with the present house constructed in 1897. An authentic log cabin at least 110 years old is located on the farm and will be open to tourists.

Reneker's father, Joshua, lived in the cabin as a bachelor for 20 years, then set up housekeeping with his bride there when he was 40. Reneker's sister, Mrs. Clarence Strait of Keosauqua was born there.

The cabin has pole rafters and is held together with wooden pegs rather than nails. Many old items are in the log cabin, including an ox yoke, hand corn planter, handmade crutch, all-wood rake, apple peeler and the like.

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

127.

Keosauqua Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1939

TOWN NAMED BY INDIANS

KEOSAUQUA MEANS RIVER OF THE MONKS

BY O. R. PERKINS
(Gate City Tri-State News)

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, July 31.—Keosauqua received its name in a rather odd way more than a century ago.

Long before the town was established some Frenchmen inhabited the "horseshoe" bend in the Des Moines river. Around the bend there dwelt several monks. Upon discovering the place of habitation, the Indians named the section "Keosauqua" which meant, in their language, "the river of the monks."

Keosauqua was laid out in 1839 by John Carnes, James Hall, James and Edwin Manning, John J. Fairman and Robert Taylor, who comprised the Van Buren Co. Two triangular pieces of ground first composed the town, the south triangle being known as Van Buren and the north as Des Moines. Later a tract of land lying between these triangles and with the Van Buren tract took the name of Keosauqua.

The Des Moines tract refused to affiliate itself with the other two and then both began contending for the county seat. One Sunday evening the settlers assembled to talk over the matter of a name for both. The name Part Oro was suggested which meant "land of gold." This was refused on the grounds that it was too high sounding for the place. The name Keosauqua was finally agreed upon.

William Duncan commenced erecting a mill below the town in the fall of 1837. It has been stated that in 1838 there were but three or four women here and in 1842 the number of bachelors had increased to 35. A Mr. Kinersly was the only man who had a stove those days. Quail were worth $1 each and although an expensive luxury, the rush to get a meal of quail cooked on Kinersly's stove was great..

Dunken, Weatherly and King built a sawmill in 1837. Prior to 1839 the inhabitants had been compelled to go 35 miles to get their milling done. In 1839, however, the company added a small run of buhrs to their mill and began grinding corn.

The early settlers foresaw the necessity for education and soon turned their attention to schools. The first ones were crude affairs, only log cabins. The seats were benches made by splitting small logs, mostly basswood, with very little polish and that done with an axe. The desks were made by boring holes into the wall with a large auger and inserting pins inclining to the front on which was fastened planks if any were to be had. If not, a "puncheon," hewed on one side, was used. The windows were horizontal instead of perpendicular.

The first schools were private subscription institutions and these continued from 15 to 20 years. The system of private schools continued as late as 1866 during which time a small brick schoolhouse was put up. A school term generally consisted of eleven weeks and the charge for the primary branches was $3.50. Such studies as Mental and Moral Science, Astronomy, Rhetoric and the like cost $4.50. The independent school system was introduced about 1866.

Compared with the fine school building in Keosauqua today the early schools were crude affairs indeed, yet such men as H. C. McCrary, later Secretary of War in the cabinet of President Hayes; the Honorable H. C. Caldwell and many other men of prominence received their primary education from them.

About 1842 a flour mill was erected by Madden, Beesucker and McGuire. The mill finally came into the hands of J. J. Kinersly and Elisha Cutler in 1849. Kinersly later was sole proprietor. He improved the mill in 1850 and in 1853 put up an additional building at the cost of $5,000, which included a sawmill, carding machine, turning lathes and circular saw. The state began making improvements along the river in 1854 and a lock and part of a dam was erected. In February, 1857, an ice gorge knocked the mills from their foundations and they floated downstream.

Other industries which ran for a short time were a steam sawmill, pottery and plow factory.

The Van Buren county court house was built in 1842 and is the oldest public building still in use for such duties in Iowa. Since September 10, 1843, it has given continuous service for judicial purposes, a record unequaled in Iowa. The structure is a two story affair. Walls of the first story are 22 inches thick and the second story 18. Both are of brick. The timbers of the building are of oak a foot square. The structure is framed with heavy oak timbers while the inside finish is of walnut. The lumber used was obtained from trees which grew nearby.

The first bridge at Keosauqua was started in 1850, but was never finished. It fell down when partly completed in 1851. A second bridge was started in February 1873 and finished the same year at a cost of $45,000. A third bridge was recently built and will be dedicated August 2.

The first flatboat from Keosauqua direct to New Orleans was built by Samuel Morton in the spring of 1841. It was loaded with pork and, with A. W. Harlan as pilot, reached New Orleans in May.

According to the record there were only three or four families out of the 700 persons here in 1845 and 1846 who were not ill. Bilious and intermittent fevers raged and the mortality rate was high.

The first newspaper published in Van Buren county was printed at Keosauqua about 1843. It was named "The Iowa Democrat and Des Moines River Intelligencer." In July of that year James Shepherd started from Springfield, Illinois on his way to Iowa and met Cyrus Walker who told him about Keosauqua saying it would be a good place to start a paper. Upon his arrival here a meeting was held and the matter of securing subscriptions was left to William Steele, a merchant, Shepherd returning to Springfield. It was his intention to run the paper advocating democratic principles. He sent material and a press by ox-team in charge of his son Jesse and J. L. Mitchell who was to have half of the profits in return for his labor.

Mitchell, Steel and young Shepherd decided, however, to run the paper as a neutral sheet. When the senior Shepherd received his copy he had other ideas and immediately came to Keosauqua and purchased the share of Mitchell who was to "step out" at the end of the year. The sum involved was twenty-five dollars and a horse.

128-

Various other papers have also been published here. The first issue of the Keosauqua Republican appeared about the year 1855 and has been issued under that name ever since, making it the oldest paper in Van Buren county.

The early settlers knew something of high prices too, for in the early forties it was necessary to get supplies from Warsaw and Quincy. Flour was selling at from $12 to $18 per barrel, pork was from $18 to $20 a hogshead and corn cost from $1 to $2 a bushel.

The flood of 1903 did considerable damage at Keosauqua. Water was six feet deep in many business houses and damage was estimated to be $25,000.

To some perhaps, Keosauqua is just another small town, but to the former residents who are returning for the centennial celebration it means revisiting childhood memories—to them it is still the "Old Home Town."

Services Held Under Old "Church Tree" Yesterday

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, July 31.—Under the old "Church Tree" near here, where settlers gathered 102 years ago for what is believed to have been the first church services held in Iowa west of the Des Moines river, services were again conducted yesterday as the opening event of Keosauqua's centennial celebration which will be continued tomorrow and ended Wednesday.

The old "Church Tree," a large and distinctive spreading elm at the "comin' out" of the Clayton ford has stood on the bank of the river two miles from here and a half mile above Pittsburg for well over a century.

Services yesterday were reverently reminiscent of the 1837 "meetin' " in costume as well as thought. Keosauqua men, with beards and long hair, and Keosauqua women, with their early-settler dresses and old slat bonnets, formed a picturesque setting for the commemoration. A costumed choir of bearded men sang.

Bottom-land Cleared.

The bottom-land where the old tree stands between the present county road and the river was cleared of its growing corn for the service yesterday afternoon, conducted under the direction of the Rev. C. H. Orf, pastor of the Keosauqua Methodist Episcopal church.

The Clayton ford was named for Samuel Clayton, believed to have been the first white settler west of the Des Moines river within the present limits of Iowa. Clayton took up land at the mouth of the Chequest creek near the "Church Tree" in the winter of 1836.

In the spring of 1837, the Duffields and the Swearingens arrived to locate nearby and by fall there was a large settlement near the present town of Pittsburg, then called "Rising Sun."

Duffield Recalls First Service.

Memories of George C. Duffield recall that the settlers were devout people, and that, when a Baptist minister arrived at the Clayton cabin for a visit, arrangements were immediately made for "meetin' Sunday next under the great tree at the comin' out of the ford."

The great tree was a meeting place for both the white men and the Indians, for Chief Keokuk and Chief Black Hawk, with their tribes, camped in the area for a few years after the first settlers arrived. Duffield recalls seeing Black Hawk, "either resting or sleeping off a drunk" beneath the "church tree."

The religious service, held in August, 1837, was attended by both white settlers and Indians. Describing how the bonneted ladies and the men and boys, in buckskin and homespun, gathered about the tree, Duffield wrote:

Tells of Sermon.

"Presently the preacher, a Baptist, to which denomination the Claytons belonged, strode down toward the water's edge, and, turning toward the rising bank, took off his hat and laid it at his feet. In loud, clear monotone, with slow movement and quaint inflection, he lined out."

"The first service was, like all such events in sparsely settled country, widely heralded and largely attended. There were perhaps a hundred people, including many Indians. . . .

"I do not remember the text from which Mr. Hill preached, nor whether it had any relation whatever to his discourse. But I do remember his face and figure, and a part of what he said. I was filled with awe at the time. I had been somewhat frightened at different times, both from Indian and hunting stories, and from vague hints about perdition.

On Brink of Hell.

"I seldom pass that elm tree to this day (1902), but that I unconsciously look at its roots as I did that day at Mr. Hills direction when he screamed: 'Oh, sinner, look! LOOK! (bending with hands nearly to the ground) while I take off the hatch of HELL!', and with his long bony fingers and writhing body he pictured the tortures of the damned. He did this after arranging matters so I was sure young people in general, and I in particular, were but a few inches above the rotten ridge pole of the burning pit.

"What a relief when he quit. After lining another well known common meter hymn, those who had sat through two hours of agony joined him in song, and I caught my first idea what gentle soothing music brings."

DAILY GATE CITY

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, July 31—Van Buren county, one of the earliest settled in the state, together with Lee and Des Moines counties, has much historical background.

The county, which embraces the "Great Horseshoe Bend" of the Des Moines river near Keosauqua, its county seat, has the oldest courthouse still in use for that purpose in the state of Iowa. The old building here was erected in 1842. The town of Keosauqua was selected as the county seat on January 25, 1839, more than century ago.

It was in Van Buren county that the first church sevices in the state west of the Des Moines river were held. These services were conducted beneath the wide-spreading elm, now known as the "Old Church Tree," that worshippers gathered 102 years ago to kneel in prayer for the progress and prosperity of a new land.

Mormons Crossed County.

Back more than 90 years ago the Mormons crossed this county, enroute from Nauvoo, Ill., to Salt Lake City, Utah, and their trail is now well marked for tourists.

Located in the county are six towns dating back 100 years or more. Keosauqua and Bentonsport are both celebrating their centennials this summer.

Van Buren county also boasts two state parks within its boundaries. The Lacey-Keosauqua park, located across the Des Moines river from the county seat, is the largest in the state and sets aside 2,227.85 acres for recreational use and nature lore.

Within the county are also several large coal fields and Douds has one of the largest stone quarries in the state of Iowa.

There are now two Civil war veterans still living in Van Buren, home of the famous Civil war period glee clubs.

U. S. Owns Much Land.

The federal government has purchased several thousand acres of land in this county for reforestation projects and soil conservation. The federal government also conducts a nursery for reforestation trees on 100 acres near here, and a CCC camp is located just outside the town.

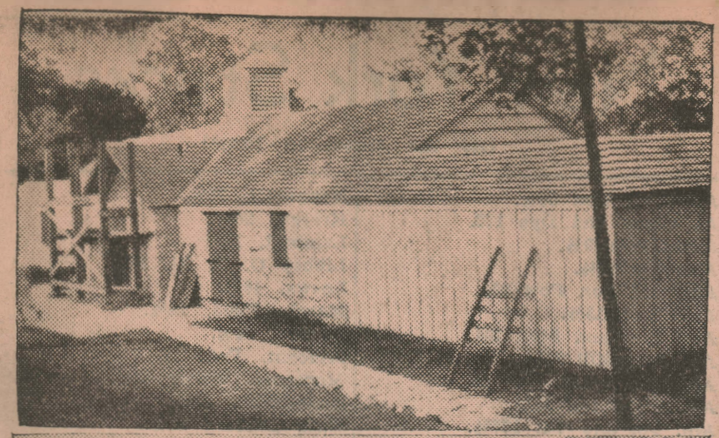
Van Buren county has seven highway bridges, including the new one here, crossing the Des Moines river. The county has seven high schools located in larger towns and 72 rural schools. There are about 30 miles of concrete highway in the county.

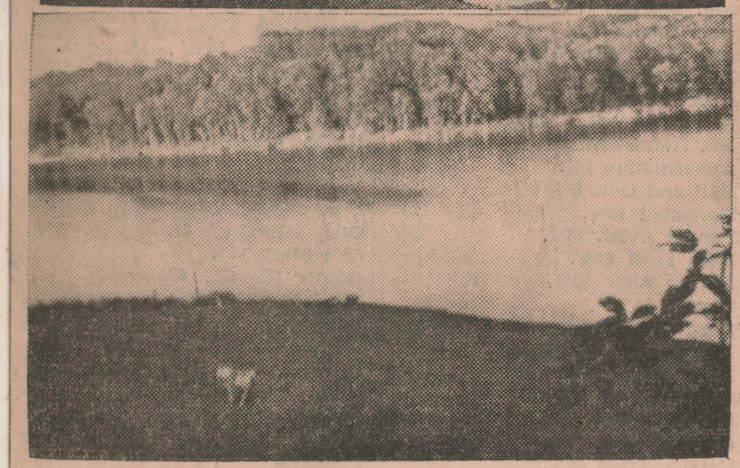
Dedicated largely to agricultural and dairy products, the county included two large and successful co-operative creameries, one located here and one at Farmington END

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL - KEOKUK, IOWA

* * * * * *

NEW BATH HOUSE AND BEACH

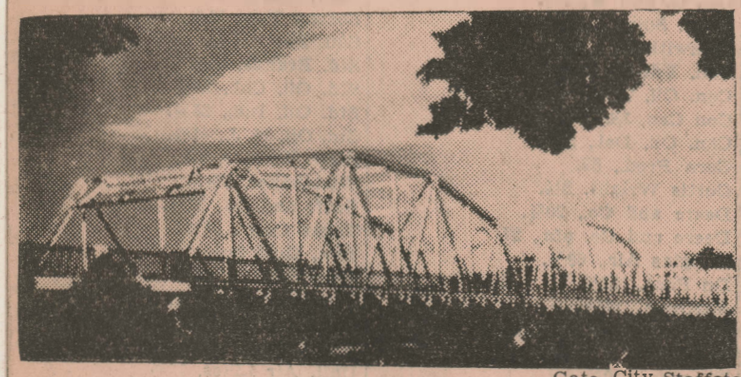




—Gate City Staffoto

Above is shown the new bath house built this summer in the Lacey-Keosauqua state park and below is a view of the park lake with the bathing beach in the foreground. Both will be dedicated at ceremonies Wednesday, in connection with the Keosauqua centennial.

NEW BRIDGE OVER DES MOINES



—Gate City Staffoto

Replacing an old wagon bridge is this new steel and concrete structure over the Des Moines river at Keosauqua. It will be dedicated Wednesday, in connection with the Keosauqua centennial celebration.

Bridge, Beach, Bath House And Marker to Be Dedicated

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, July 31.—One hundred years old, this county seat of Van Buren county is celebrating the event with wholesale dedication ceremonies at which Gov. George A. Wilson of Iowa, will be an active spectator.

The celebration opened yesterday with commemorative services held under the old "Church Tree" two miles north of here, site of the first public Christian religious serxices held west of the Des Moines river and within the present boundaries of the state.

Tomorrow, the centennial observation will be continued with various entertaining and interesting programs scheduled for the day.

Dedications Wednesday.

The celebration will be concluded Wednesday with dedications of the new highway bridge over the Des Moines river here, of the new bath house and lake beach in Lacey-Keosauqua state park and of the "Honey War" marker commemorating the 100th anniversary of the boundary line dispute between Iowa and Missouri which was settled by acts of the respective congresses this year.

In preparation for starting its second hundred years, the town of Keosauqua has made elaborate efforts to fittingly close its first century. Men have grown beards and women have busily stitched costumes appropriate to the early settlers, topped off with slat sunbonnets.

Court House Has Rail Fence.

Iowa's oldest courthouse, doing official county duty here since 1842, has not been forgotten in the preparations for the celebration. A rail fence—one which has been in actual use—has been erected around the front lawn of the courthouse square and has attracted much attention.

The rails were secured from the Anthony Woodrow farm, two and one-half miles west of Birmingham in the northwestern part of the Van Buren county—one of the few rail fences in this section of the country. It was transferred to the courthouse yard under the direction of the county board of supervisors.

Woodrow came to Lick Creek township in 1865 and purchased 560 acres of land. There was then some rail fence on the farm but the new owner cut rails and made more fences until in 1935 there were 400 rods of this type of fence on the place.

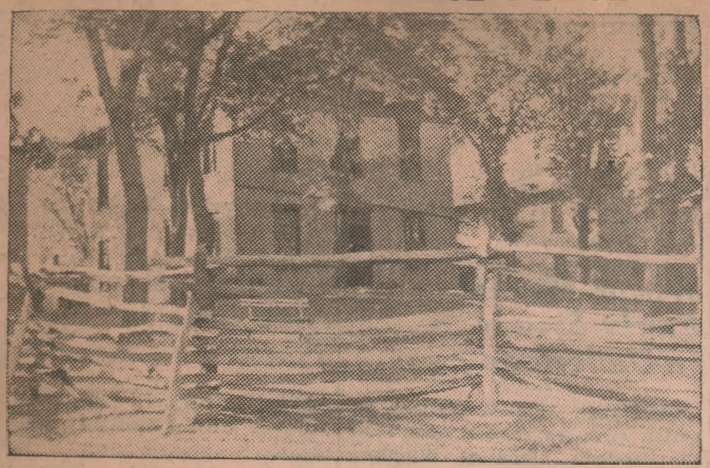
Caravan Visit Towns.

A caravan of bearded men and costumed women, led by a "little German band," toured southeastern Iowa last week inviting residents of the surrounding counties to attend the celebration.

With many former residents arriving here over the past week-end, crowds will assemble downtown here tomorrow morning to enjoy band concerts, tour the huge Lacey-Keosauqua state park and publicly inspect the new highway bridge, as well as hear an address delivered by the Hon. Mark Barker. Band concerts, free acts and carnival entertainment will fill the remainder of the day.

130-

SURROUNDED BY RAIL FENCE



—Gate City Staffoto

The Van Buren county courthouse, the oldest in the state still in use for that purpose, has been surrounded by an old rail fence for the centennial celebration. The rail fence is authentic, set up with rails brought from the old Anthony Woodrow farm west of Birmingham which has more than 400 rods of this type of fence.

Parade of Floats.

On Wednesday, the program will be opened with a parade of floats and band music in the morning, as well as free acts and another concert early in the afternoon. At three o'clock there will be a tour of the Lacey-Keosauqua state park. Iowa's largest, and dedication of the bath house and artificial lake.

Following the state park events, the crowd will assemble at the new highway bridge for the dedication of the span and also the dedication of the "Honey War" marker at which Governor Wilson will preside.

More band concerts, free acts and a barbecue will be enjoyed in the early evening and the celebration will be closed with a pavement dance at 8 p. m.

Governor Dedicates Plaque to Commemorate Honey War

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1939

CLIMAXES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

ADMITS THAT MISSOURIANS MAY BE RIGHT

(By a Gate City Staff Writer)

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, Aug. 3.—Another historical memento was added to southeastern Iowa's treasures here yesterday when Gov. George A. Wilson dedicated a marker to the famed Honey War of a century ago.

Ceremonies for the marker, which will be permanently located near the main lodge of Lacey-Keosauqua state park, Iowa's largest natural place of recreation, climaxed an afternoon of great importance to this section, including a three-day celebration of Keosauqua's 100th anniversary.

Earlier the new highway bridge, gleaming like silver when the sun penetrated overcast skies, had been dedicated with appropriate fanfare. Leaving the bridge, a long caravan wound its way into the state park for dedication ceremonies of the new bathhouse located on a bluff overlooking the immense artificial lake. From the bathhouse, the procession moved farther into the park to the main lodge.

Wilson "Lets Down Hair."

There Governor Wilson smilingly "let down his hair" and admitted that Missouri was probably right in its contentions for a strip of land which Iowa also claimed in 1839. He blamed the boundary misunderstanding on "jumbled wording of the documents relating thereto."

Iowa's chief executive went further and excused the early settlers for their anger during the inter-state flareup by pointing out the economic importance of honey in those times. To many persons, locating trees in which bees stored honey was a source of income.

"Bee-tree hunting was more profitable than coon hunting," the governor said.

Praises Amicable Settlements.

Wilson praised residents of the two states for their amicable settlement of the "war," however, and also for the agreeable solution to a more recent dispute which was straightened out by legislatures of the two states a few months ago.

"That is the American way," Wilson declared proudly.

On a table in front of the Iowa chief executive as he spoke was the large bronze plaque which will be mounted on a huge granite boulder soon and located on the scenic bluff overlooking the Des Moines river. Inscribed on the plaque are the words:

"To commemorate the amicable settlement of the Honey War and the Iowa-Missouri boundary dispute which involved the ownership of bee trees in this bend of the Des Moines river."

Boundary Surveyed.

Following the establishment of the Territory of Iowa in 1838, it was ordered that the southern boundary of the new territory should be the same as the northern boundary of Missouri. Dr. James Davis set the line on the old Sullivan or Indian boundary which followed the Des Moines river from its mouth to the Des Moines rapids and thence westward.

Missouri, however, had surveyed the land two years earlier, in 1836, when an act of congress had established the Territory of Wisconsin of which Iowa was then a part. This survey placed the boundary nearly opposite where now stands the Van

Aug 3, 1939 - page 1 (Honey War)

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Aug 3 1937-page 2
(Honey War)

ADMITS MISSOURI WAS RIGHT

—Gate City Staffoto

Governor Wilson looked up at the crowd and smiled slightly as he admitted Missouri was probably right in its contentions as to the Iowa-Missouri boundary during the Honey war of 1839. Wilson is shown as he made the statement yesterday afternoon behind the bronze marker which will be permanently placed in the Lacey-Keosauqua state park.

—Gate City Staffoto

After the dedication of the marker Governor Wilson shook hands with many Van Buren county people, including Joe Stong, brother of the noted novelist who wrote "State Fair" and several other books about Iowa and Van Buren. Note Stong's costume and beard.

Buren county town of Bentonsport, thus including territory near nine miles north of the present state limits.

Both Claim Strip.

Both Iowa and Missouri claimed the nine-mile strip and residents were continually in dispute. An Iowan claimed three bee trees on the debatable land and, during the heat of the dispute, found one day that they had been cut down. He alleged that a Missourian had committed the act and this incident added to the bloodless hostilities which were mostly fought out in mass meetings.

The greatest trouble caused by the disputed strip of land, however, was the question of which government had the right to exercise authority and collect taxes on it.

Sheriff Arrested.

Sheriff Uriah S. Gregory, of Clark county, on November 20, 1839, went into the debatable boundary land to collect taxes after he had once before been sent back "to his own state." This time he was arrested by the sheriff of Van Buren county, who awaited him with a large group of men. Gregory was first taken to Farmington, then to Burlington and finally to Muscatine where he was imprisoned for a short time.

With both Missouri and Iowa assembling troops the situation reached a climax as 600 Missouri soldiers encamped along the Fox river and 300 Iowans took up arms at Farmington. No blood was shed, however, and the dispute was peaceably settled by a commission on December 12, 1839.

Keosauqua's 125th anniversary to recall county's 1st hanging

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1964 — 9

KEOSAUQUA — The only legal hanging ever to take place in Van Buren county will be re-enacted on the actual site as part of Keosauqua's 125th anniversary celebration June 18-20.

Scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18, the historical presentation will serve as the lead-off event in the three-day celebration and will include parts of the actual trial as recorded in court records preceding the hanging of William McCauley at Hangman's Hollow April 4, 1846.

Portray principals

Local persons in authentic garb will portray principals in the case. Frank Flickinger will take the part of the condemned man, and John A. Manning, whose great-grandfather, Edwin Manning, was a founder of the town, will portray the judge. O. N. Jemison, who has been district court bailiff here for over 40 years, will serve as bailiff in the re-enactment.

James A. Dorothy will serve as prosecuting attorney, and Bert M. Leck will take the part of the attorney for the defense. Van Buren county Sheriff Orville Lee will portray his own counterpart in the case.

A scaffold will be erected at the original site, and following the presentation of the case in the courthouse yard near the bandstand, the condemned man will be marched to the gallows for the fake hanging.

Erected in 1842, the courthouse in Keosauqua is the oldest in Iowa in continuous use. An authentic split rail fence has been reconstructed on the front lawn.

McCauley was charged with the murder of Don Ferdinand Coffman on Aug. 13, 1844 in Washington county. Because of a change of venue, the case was later transferred to Van Buren county.

Shot from ambush

Coffman was shot from ambush while passing a cornfield. He was holding an infant daughter in his arms and both were fatally wounded. Coffman, before he expired, gave some damaging testimony which is preserved verbatim and includes the following excerpt:

Attorney: "Did you see any person when you was shot . . .?"

Coffman: "I just cast my eyes up in the field and instantly I felt a wound and heard the report of a gun. I fell, but raised myself and seen William McCauley running from the fence into the corn and look as though he was trying to draw a pistile, and I seen the smoke rise from the fence where he run from, I started to follow him and fell. I found I was shot too bad to follow him."

Apparently McCauley had been doing quite a bit of running into the cornfields before the actual shooting took place. In a "full confession," signed before the state took his life, McCauley admitted a long-standing affair with Mrs. Coffman.

Toward the end of his impassioned confession, McCauley begs, "Let me advise all young men to take warning from me . . . I see now when too late my fatal error and think it to be my duty to warn the young to beware of the rock upon which I have been wrecked."

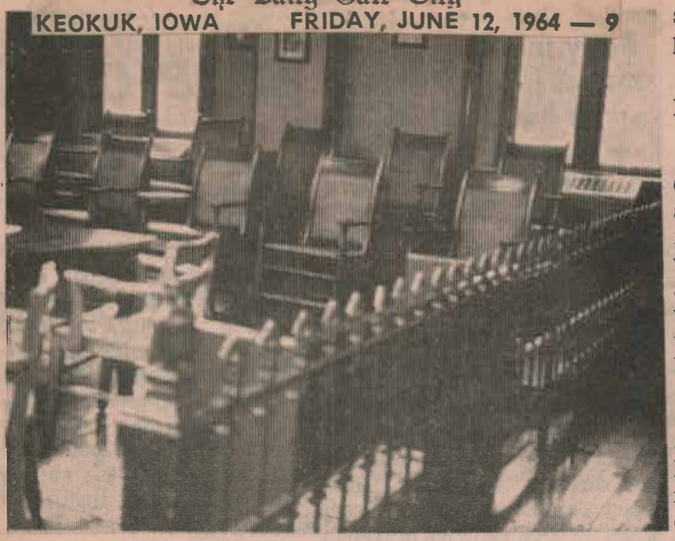
Early records list expenses connected with the hanging as $1.25 for removing irons from McCauley, $2.50 for rope, $12 for repairing gallows, making coffin and digging grave, $2.50 for hauling McCauley to the blacksmith shop, $3.19 for grave clothes.

Many watch

Scores of people gathered to watch as Josiah H. Bonney, Van Buren county sheriff, hanged McCauley at 1 p.m., and in his own words, "And I afterwards on the same day caused the body of said McCauley to be taken down and properly interred on the grounds belonging to said county about three hundred feet west of the grave yard in the north part of said city of Keosauqua."

The graveyard mentioned is Oak Lawn cemetery just north of town on Highway 1. The site of McCauley's grave will be prominently marked for the 125th celebration, although the body may not actually be there.

According to a history of Van Buren county published in 1940, there are those who say that several nights after the hanging McCauley's body was removed, the bones cleaned, and the skeleton wired together and kept in the office of Dr. Fitch at Pittsburg, a village just northwest of Keosauqua.



COURTROOM of Van Buren county courthouse shows original iron grills which separate the Judge's section from the spectators. —Gate City

VAN BUREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, completed in 1843, is Iowa's oldest courthouse to have seen continuous service. —Gate City

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

The Daily Gate City.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 3, 1871.

New Advertisements.

PROSPECTUS

—OF THE—

RIVERSIDE INSTITUTE!

Montrose, Iowa.

An English Classical and German Boarding and Day School for Both Sexes.

CALENDAR FOR 1871-72.

School opens second Wednesday in September. School closes last Wednesday in June. Two Sessions, five months each. Two holidays, Christmas and between Sessions.

Prof. M. THRASHER,

Principal and Proprietor.

DIRECTORY.

Frank Harshman, Esq, President; A. A. Beckley, Esq., Treasurer; Dr. J. M. Anderson, Secretary; R. S. Owens, Esq., and J. T. Crane, Esq., Committee.

FACULTY.

Prof. M. Thrasher, A. M., Principal, Professor of Latin and Greek.

Henri Guerdon, Ph. D., formerly of the University of Munich, Professor of German and the Sciences.

Mrs. S. M. Thrasher, Teacher of Mathematics and Book-keeping.

Miss Louise Eggert, recently of Guelph Convent Seminary, C. W., Teacher of French, Drawing, etc.

David H. Smith, teacher of Painting, Sketching, etc.

———, teacher of Music.

THE SCHOOL

Is a family boarding and day school for the moral and intellectual culture of the two sexes. While neither sectarian in religion nor partisan in politics, we do not ignore the teachings of the Bible, nor the importance of a critical knowledge of political ethics.

THE COURSE

Will embrace the Scientific, Commercial and Classical—in addition to these, German and French will be spoken in the building and taught by native masters.

MUSIC AND DRAWING

Will form a prominent feature in the ornamental course.

OUR AIM

Will be to teach boys and girls that which they will practice when grown men and women. In other words, "how to gain a living," be it with muscle or brain, should the necessity of the future compel it. Heartily sick are we of this theory unallied to practice—of seeing helpless men and women, often too, of liberal education, floating adrift on life's current, unable to earn a shilling or a dinner, the while subject to the caprice of every fortuitous circumstance.

BOARDING PUPILS

Will be taken by the year or month, and educated as the parent or guardian dictates. Manners will be correctedand reformed, while such vices as drinking intoxicating liquors, smoking and chewing tobacco, using vulgar or profane language will be absolutely forbidden.

THE LOCATION

Being a mile from villiage or even habitation, the building centrally situated in a beautiful 30 acre Campus, affords a home for the student unsurpassed in security. While here, free from the vices incident to cities and towns, he is charmed by the natural beauty that surrounds him. From this elevated position, a trio of States—Missouri, Iowa and Illinois—can be seen; three cities and several villiages are discerned in the distance; the mighty Father of Waters roll at his feet, bearing upon its bosom palatial steamers and swan-like sail boats; and ever and anon the locomotive, with its train of cars, goes thundering by under the brow of the hill; while directly opposite, like a beautiful painting, lies the old Mormon city of Nauvoo, environed by vineyards and groves. Here the student, seated in some shady nook, may read the lays of Virgil or solve the theorems of Euclid, while he has mapped out before him a landscape as weird and picturesque as may be found upon the Rhine or Hudson, and everywhere around him a moving civiliza ion, yet from which he is entirely isolated.

THE BUILDING.

Is of white limestone, four stories in height, with a sixty feet front to the river, and built expressly for a boarding and day school.

IT IS SITUATED

Upon the banks of the Mississippi river, one mile below Montrose, Lee county, Iowa—a village of 1000 inhabitants—and nine miles above Keokuk.

TEXT BOOKS.

Pupils will please not purchase text books until they arrive at the Institute.

TEACHERS.

Pupils who design becoming teachers, will be practically taught the best methods of instructing and governing schools. After completing their Normal course they will be assisted in securing situations.

THE PRINCIPAL'S FAMILY

With all assistant teachers, will reside in the college building

THE PARLORS

Of the Institute will occasionally be thrown open, at which time teachers and pupils will freely mingle together, observing, of course, the etiquette of polite society.

AMUSEMENTS,

In way of recreation, will break the monotony of study hours. "One who plays well will study well," is a practical truism. In the campus—foot ball, cricket, croquet, base ball, callesthenics, infantry tactics, etc. On the river—rowing, fishing and swimming in summer, and skating in the winter, under the direction of some of the teachers will tend to give health, physical strength and beauty to the pupil.

PUPILS ARE REQUESTED

To be present the first pay of the school year, in order that they may be classified. Any pupil who has a rudimentary knowledge of arithmetic, grammar and geography may enter this institution.

IT IS ACCESSIBLE

By river and railroad to Montrose, where a free carriage awaits the student at the Galt House, opposite depot and steamboat landing, ready to carry him to the college.

FEES.

Boarding pupils $100 for five months: $200 for ten months—this includes boarding, tuition, fuel, lights, etc. Day pupils $15 for five months; $25 for ten months. No pupil taken for less than one session—session to begin at date of entrance. Modern languages, music, painting, etc., extra. Fees invariably in advance, paid to

Sec., Dr J. M ANDERSON,

Office opposite Bowen House, Montrose, Iowa.

aug3

The Daily Gate City.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1871.

Riverside Institute!

MONTROSE IOWA.

AN ENGLISH, GERMAN AND CLASSICAL

Boarding and Day School

FOR BOTH SEXES,

Situate in a Grove upon the River one mile below Montrose. Pupils from Keokuk taken from Monday till Friday at reduced rates.

Free Carriage to and from College.

For Circulars, Fees, &c., address

DR. J. M. ANDERSON, Sec'y,

aug3-d&w7w Montrose, Iowa.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1871.

[From our Own Correspondent.]

MONTROSE.

The Riverside Institute.

Montrose is situated upon the Mississippi river, at the head of the Lower Rapids, and the northern terminus of the canal around the same. The population will exceed 900. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is the only railroad that enters her limits.

Montrose gains her name from a high hill situated one-half mile below the town. Years ago, before palace steamboats wended their way on the majestic Father of Waters, and when the Indian's lonely wigwam nestled among the richly leaved trees, and occasionally a canoe propelled by the powerful arm of some Indian brave skipped lightly o'er the water, this hill was covered with wild roses, rich in color and perfume. In this state the hill was discovered by a party of adventurers, who were so delighted with the hill of roses that they gave it the name of Mount Rose, and it would have remained so to this day if some unpoetical chap hadn't changed it to Montrose.

During the summer months, when the water is low on the Rapids and the big boats cannot navigate with safety upon these treacherous waters, the town becomes a good business point, and plenty of greenbacks change hands.

Mr. W. H. Morrison, a disciple of Blackstone, hangs out his shingle from one of the neatest of offices. Business is flush with him, and the Montroseites talk of running him for Judge and I hope he may be honored with the position.

W. J. Fisher, grocer, has a neat and well filled store where you can find the choicest groceries, etc.

H. Singer deals in confectionery and fancy goods. No better place can be found anywhere in town to feed the inner man. For No. 1 oysters, in their season, ice cream, and et ceteras, call and see the "Singer."

Wm. Dundee is a resident of Nauvoo, which is on the other side of the river. Mr. D. is one of the oldest residents of his town, and was well acquainted with Joe. Smith.

T. L. Sprott, an excellent Montrosian, has retired from the lumber trade, to the comforts of a cozy cottage under the hill.

No one of Montrose's citizens is better known than Capt. E. J. Aldrich. He has the merit of a good endowment of American pluck. He don't croak at fortune; he works.

We found Mr. Cooper, one of the GATE's constant readers, too much out of health to be in business.

W. B. Patton serves the Montrose public to excellent fruit and the Daily GATE; delectation to the physical and intellectual man.

THE RIVERSIDE INSTITUTE.

I called upon Prof. M. Thrasher, of the above-mentioned institute. Mr. Thrasher is a perfect gentleman, as well as an apt and well-educated teacher. The Professor, when a boy, delighted to live on the banks of the Mississippi river, and as years rolled on he conceived the idea of building a good classical school near Keokuk. His idea has been put into practice, and to-day no finer situated school-house can be found in Illinois or Iowa. For scenery nothing within a hundred miles of Keokuk can surpass it. The building will be finished and furnished on the 11th of September, when Dr. Wheeler, of Mt. Pleasant, will dedicate it.

The building is four stories high, and composed of concrete carefully put up. The ground floor is to be used as a dining room, with kitchen and recitation rooms. The next story will be devoted to school, sitting room and parlor. The third story will be used for sleeping rooms. There will be fourteen apartments, seven for the gentlemen and the same number for the ladies. The fourth story will be the museum, and above this room the observatory, which, when completed, will add much to the beauty of the building. The Professor proposes to keep a first-class Institute, and make his school a home for his pupils.

Mr. Thrasher will be ably assisted by Prof. Guerdon, who was educated in Munich, and has traveled very extensively. Mr. G. has gained many honors as Professor of German.

Mme. Louisa Eggert, Miss Dora H. Smith and Mrs. S. M. Thrasher, compose the corps of teachers.

Mr. Thrasher has received permission to erect a platform near the railroad at the foot of the hill for the accommodation of scholars and visitors. He, in connection with this, will build a stairway from the Institute to the bottom of the hill and platform near the railroad.

Scholars from Keokuk will be received at the school, and will be allowed to go home Friday night and return Monday morning. I have sifted the matter thoroughly, and therefore can inform the good citizens of Keokuk that they can board their children here for less than they keep them at home. Now, for instance, send your child, (be it boy or girl,) on the six o'clock train Monday morning. It is a good thing to get them up in the morning—it is healthy, and they arrive in time for breakfast at the school. They will board your child for $3 a week. Again, you buy a thousand mile ticket and the railroad fare will only be sixty cents—thirty up and thirty down.

The location of the Riverside Institute is admirable—no better could be had for a College—being situated upon a hill some hundred feet from the river, and a mile below the town of Montrose. There are trees all about. Across the river is Nauvoo, "beautiful for situation:" the finest site for a city to be found on the Mississippi. No artist could paint a handsomer scene. On very clear days Ft. Madison, Keokuk and Sonora can be seen with the naked eye.

I advise our Keokuk friends to visit this place upon the 11th of September, the day of dedication. —NATH.

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 12, 1871.

Dedication of the Riverside Institute at Montrose.

Yesterday was the formal opening of this institution. It was a day long to be remembered by all who were present, especially to all who listened to that excellent discourse of the Rev. Dr. Wheeler, President of the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant. Long before the time appointed for the opening of the exercises the building was crowded full of the best citizens of Keokuk, Ft. Madison and Montrose. Shortly after 10 o'clock order was called, and Mr. Sawyer, of Montrose, delivered an impressive prayer. This was followed by an excellent musical performance by Mrs. S. M. Thrasher, who executed the piece very well. Another choice selection of music was given by Mr. Ecker, of St. Louis, who has lately returned from a musical academy in Austria. Mr. E. is a very fine pianist, and performs beautifully.

Professor Thrasher made a few remarks in regard to the difficulties of erecting this building and starting a school for the edification of our children, and save the expense necessary in sending them away from home, and by my sounding the possibility of starting an institution of this kind, the citizens of Montrose came forward with a helping hand, and now the necessary part of this work is done and all ready for the ornamental. Allow me to express to you my heartfelt thanks, ect., and now allow me to introduce to you Dr. Wheeler, of Mt. Pleasant, one of the best educators in the West.

The address of Dr. Wheeler was a thoughtful, scholarly and able discussion of "The Relation of Higher Institutions of Learning to the Prosperity of a Free Country." We give this brief synopsis, which does but inadequate justice to the production itself.

Dr. Wheeler said:

"In the discussion of the subject, we propose to first define the terms employed. A Free Country is one in which the people freely elect their rulers, and when, under good laws, are sacred to each and every individual the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and of which the United States is the highest present example."

The Doctor deems the following particulars essential to the prosperity of a free country, viz:

1. Permanent liberty—civil and religious.
2. National character and power, so as to maintain the respect of other nations, and ward off invasion or interference.
3. Progress in population.
4. Development of national resources—wealth, natural and personal.
5. The advancement of intelligence and morality.
6. The maintenance of the Christian religion.
7. The happiness of all classes and persons of the population. President Quincy was one of the firm believers in "human happiness, freedom and Christian religion."

Universal education is not practicable, except through the power of the State.

Elementary education should embrace those branches necessary to the discharge of an intelligent and virituous citizenship, to-wit: At least reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, the outlines of government, and ethical relations and duties, or morals and manners as laid down in the Bible.

I. The influence of the general education furnished by the public schools upon the prosperity of the nation.

The public school renders a wide spread popular literature, in news, magazines and books both possible and efficient. The common school and the newspaper general intelligence go hand in hand.

In case of an invasion, this influence of general intelligence gives to the nation *a great power* of defence. Thus in the late Franco-Prussian war, Prussia gained her victories not by strength, but by superior education of her armies.

Cultivated mind rules the world. So regale as this. About the 15th centuary thousands of youth flocked to the Universities, and at one time it is said there were 30,000 scholars at Oxford, at Bologna 10,000, at Paris 25,000. As early as 1315, Louis X, of France, asserted that all men by birth should be free and equal."

Let Paris, the assumed center of high culture, speak and by means of her "reigns of terror," of 1793 and 1871, demonstrate and warn the nations, and our nation especially, against an unchristian civilization, high culture without religion, a government without a God. In the United States, previous to 1860, it is estimated there were in all, 6,000 college graduates. These 6,000 have done more than all the millions beside to mold in the church and state—to lead and control the nation.

In conclusion, we congratulate the Principal of the institution in the successful erection of this house, and we congratulate the community upon their good fortune in the location among them of the "Riverside Institute," one of that class of higher institutions essential to the vigor and prosperity of a harmonious system of higher education. May the founder realize his highest hopes, the community show a true appreciation and an abiding friendliness, and through education, intellectual, moral and religious, may the nation arise to her true power and dignity among the nations of the earth, and our beloved county perform the great work for which God has raised her up the dissemination among all nations of the privileges of civil and religious liberty—the blessing influences of a true christian civilization.

The school building is rapidly approaching completion, and on next Wednesday the Institute will be opened for the scholastic year. Everything in and around is well furnished.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, SATURDAY, MARCH 27.

GONE TO HIS REST!

Death of Capt. Ezra G. Clark, at Montrose.

Special to the Constitution.

MONTROSE, March 26.—Capt. Ezra G. Clark died at his residence at 10 o'clock a. m., the 24th inst., and yesterday his remains were deposited in their last resting place by a mulitude of surrounding friends. Capt. Clark was born in Indiana on the 17th of November 1833, came to Iowa, locating at Burlington, in 1849, and soon after went on the river as second clerk. His employers recognizing in him, executive abilities promoted him at the age of 22 to the captaincy of the steamer Jenny Lind, and was afterwards in command of several steamers plying the Mississippi, the names of which we cannot recall. He also was a skillful pilot, and commanded the highest wages. When the tocsin of war sounded he enlisted as private in company B. 30th Iowa infantry, and was gradually promoted to first lieutenant, being in command of his company in "Sherman's march to the sea," and served gallantly throughout the contest. When peace was declared he came home, suffering with paralysis that disabled him from following his former occupation. He engaged in the insurance and collecting agency business, which occupied his mind until about eight months ago, when he had to succumb to the inevitable and retire from active life.

Having fought the battles of his country, he also enlisted to fight in the "army of the Lord," being baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal church, and as the closing scene of life drew nigh, kind friends and a loving wife and daughter, did all that human hands and cheerful words could do to alleviate his earthly wants. Well do we remember the last time we conversed with him. He said he felt that his end was near, and that he should soon pass away; and we could not help but notice how calmly he contemplated death. He earnestly thanked us for repeating to him the following lines at the time of our last interview:

Come and welcome, kindly death,
Kindly stop this laboring breath;
Take this shell of crumbling clay,
Take this aching frame away;
Take the sins which still remain,
And inflict my heaviest pain:
Take these burdens from my heart—
Let me and my sorrows part.
These thy only spoils shall be,
All that thou can'st claim from me.

The funeral occurred yesterday a 2 o'clock p. m. The body incased in a beautiful casket, profusely adorned with floral emblems, was conducted from the parlor to the church and cemetery by the following pall bearers: Thos. Ward, J. B. Kiel, H. Gerboth, Adam Myers, J. Garret and C. H. Patten. The short but impressive services of the Episcopal church were performed by Rev. B. T. H. Maycock, rector of Grace church, assisted by Rev. W. Tearm, rector of Hope church, Ft. Madison. The sermon was a brief but glowing tribute to the memory of the deceased.

The choir, consisting of Misses Lena and Addie Reeves, May Ballou, Hannah Ward, Geo. Gilbert, Frank Reeves, acquitted themselves creditably and, by request, sang in the closing services at the grave "Nearer My Jesus to Thee" very impressively.

Thus has passed away a man of marked character and high order of intellect. The immortal spirit has flown, the bright tint of life has been chilled by the icy hand of death, yet grieve not kind friends and relatives, for the corruptible has put on incorruption, the mortal, immortality and death is swallowed up in victory.

PAT FORSHORT.

DAILY GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, 1874.

FROM MONTROSE.

Grady's Circus—A Balloon in Flames Starts Heavenward and Falls on a Side Show —A pet of Darwin's Falls a victim —Operations of Confidence Men —A Deacon Thought he had a Sure Thing

A side show traveling with Grady's circus was burned at Montrose Thursday afternoon. The balloon which was being inflated with heated air, took fire just as the balloonist was about to take his departure for aerial regions, and, falling upon the tent of the side show set it on fire. Before the blaze could be extinguished, a monkey, a trained dog, and a cage of chickens were burned so badly that they were killed in mercy.

During the afternoon quite a number of people were confidenced by a gang of swindlers who carry on their operations in another side tent, and so shrewdly did they manage that some of the oldest and most respected citizens were duped.

Mr. Adam Myers was shown by the oleaginous proprietor of the establishment how perfectly honorable the game was and how easily he could double him money. Myers saw and was captured. He borrowed $25 of a friend, whom he assured that he had a good thing and would return the money in a few minutes. In a few minutes he took his departure, much wiser, but with a heavier heart and a much lighter purse. As he came from the side show, bathed in perspiration that fairly shot out from every pour—watery witness of his inward grief—he met the gentleman from whom he had borrowed the $25 but a few moments before *only for ten minutes*, and related the sad mishap. Dr. S—— was grieved for his friend, of course, and both threatened the confidence men with the punishment the law decrees for all such rogues. In the mean time the industrious scoundrels, unmindful of the grief of the victim or his threats, plucked a number of others in the same way, and among them Mr. Hiram Alvis, to the tune of $20.

A man who has been known in this section for exemplary piety, who labors with the church constantly, and who never before dabbled in chance games, was induced to bet on this remarkably *sure thing* and left a handsome sum with the wily sharks, the memory of which may serve to deter him from future experiments of that kind.

I have heard of quite a number who were "taken in," but it is impossible to see any of them. They're not on the street, and to callers for a day or so are "out." The gang became a little frightened towards evening, and hearing of preparations to arrest them,

"Folded their tents like the Arabs
And silently stole away."

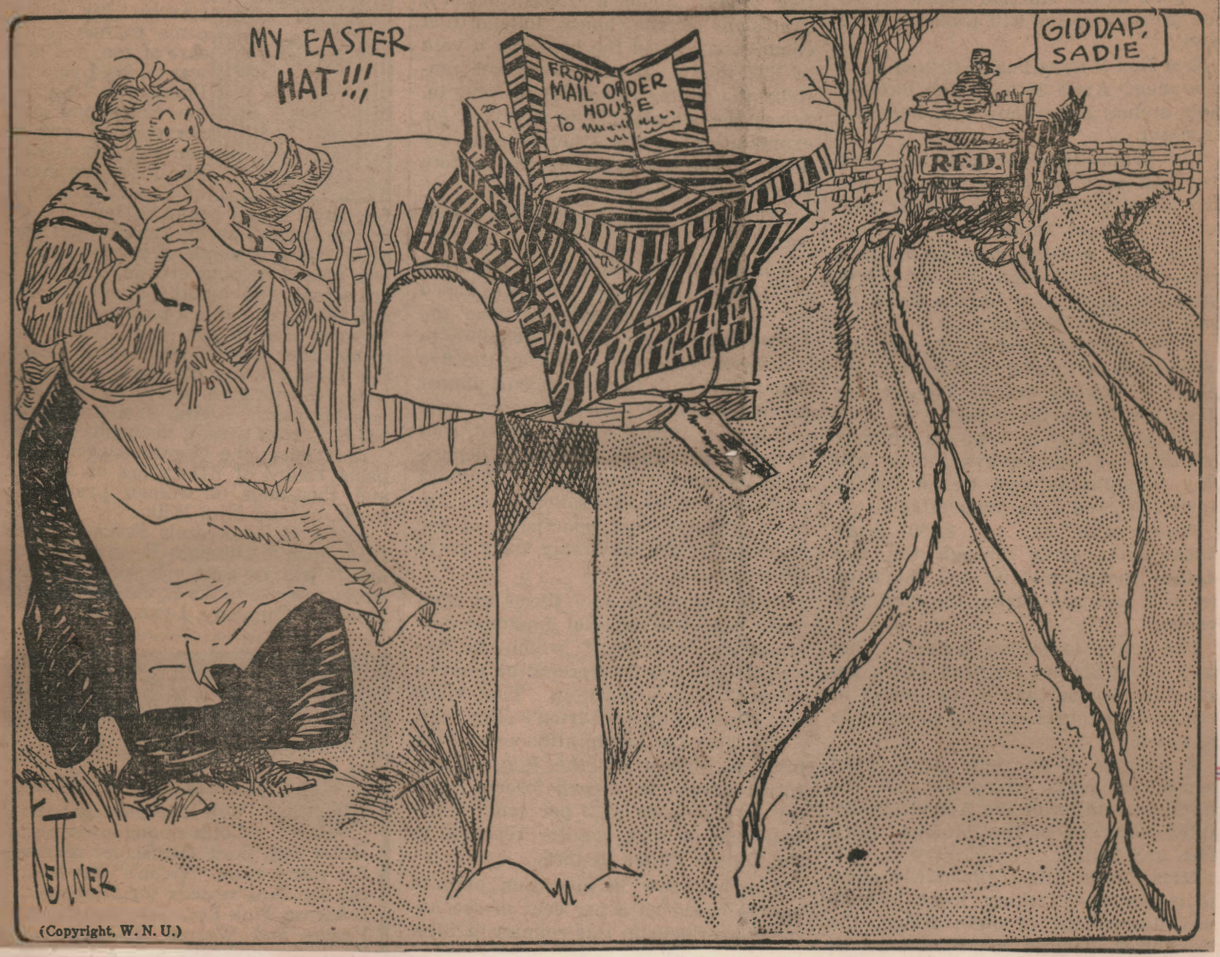
They went away happy, the boys in Montrose say, and waved a kind "adieu, my dears," from the ferry boat to the luckless victims on the levee, who "grieved much at parting" with their greenbacks.

The burned monkey was buried, and boards erected at the grave, inscribed with name, age, virtues, &c. The victims here are sorry that the balloon did not fall on the tent of the sharpers, and the monkey's grave, a little enlarged, receive their corpses instead

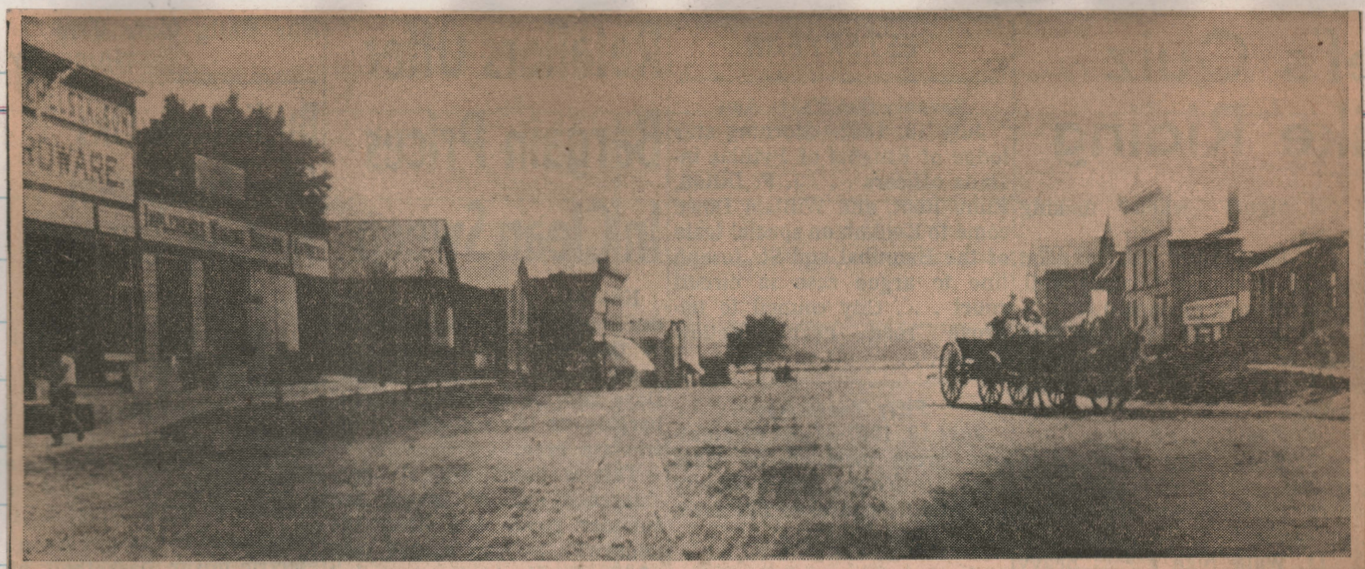
QUILL.

THE MONTROSE JOURNAL, MONTROSE, IA., THURSDAY 17, 1924
April

A Calamity



"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



MAIN STREET IN MONTROSE as seen by a camera in 1908 or 1910. The building at the end of the street and light pole was the old bank made of cement block. Dayton ran a boat float just below the depot. The picture is from the collection of Bill Sailor of Montrose.

12 The Daily Gate City Keokuk, Iowa
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1957

Montrose is Marking Its 100th Birthday

By Mrs. Russell Hancock

MONTROSE, Ia. — This is Centennial year for the beautiful little town of Montrose nestled along the "Father of Waters" the great Mississippi.

Its name implies beauty "Mount of Roses" which grew so profanely along Bluff Park. Montrose was originally named by David Kilbourne a prominent Keokuk man. He named it "Mount of Roses" later the named was shortened to Montrose.

Few towns in Iowa can boast of more historical significance than can Montrose.

It was on June 21, 1673 that Father Marquette and Louis Joliet famous explorers stepped ashore to trade with the Indians, and sought to bring a message of Christianity to the village.

Here also was set out the first orchard in Iowa, it is now beneath the waves of the Mississippi.

Fort Des Moines

The early Fort Des Moines was established on which is now the depot and Riverview park.

The original platt of the town was drawn by David Kilbourne of Keokuk, and although enlarged and changed as the years went by, it is today basically the same.

The town was formerly established in 1854 by platting and incorporated in 1857.

Dr. J. M. Anderson was the towns first mayor, elected June 1, 1857.

The first industry was the saw mills where 50,000 feet of lumber was cut every day.

Montrose had many other industries before the dam was built, a newspaper established in 1910, a opera house, button factories, coal and lumber yards and later a garden tool factory, and others.

River Port

Older residents will always recall the days when Montrose was the large community and industrial city in fact, where all river steamers stopped loaded or unloaded their cargo.

Montrose had ship yards for repair in those days. and it was not an uncommon sight to see 15 steamers lined up, most of them waiting to get over the rapids or for cargo to go north.

Montrose is famous for its religious convictions. It is reported to have more churches and thriving ones too, than any other town in Iowa in proportion to its size. The denominations which have good congregations are, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of the Nazerene, Reorganized Church of L. D. S. Episcopal and Catholic.

Montrose is a Planned Progress town, and many projects have been planned to beautify the town.

It has an active Chamber of Commerce, foremost among its projects are the water melon festival, which will be held August 23 and 24, they are comtemplating on some special event for the centennial at the festival.

138-

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

SEPTEMBER 6. 1889

MONTROSE HISTORY.

THE ORCHARD FARM NOW THE VILLAGE OF MONTROSE—FRANCIS S. KEY AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

Hon. Daniel F. Miller, sr., furnishes the following interesting historical sketch:

The Black Hawk war terminated in 1832. Upon its termination, the first white settlers who came to southern Iowa, found on the west bank of the Mississippi river, at the head of the lower rapids of the stream, where now stands in part the village of Montrose, an orchard of thirty or forty full grown and bearing fruit trees. There has been considerable dispute in regard to the time when those trees were planted or set out, but I was present in the court house in Fort Madison, at a term of the district court, in April, 1841, when an aged witness, a Frenchman of the name of John M. Courville, testified in a case on trial before the district court, that he had planted the trees in 1793, under the employment of an Indian trader of the name of Louis Honore Tesson. D. C. Riddick, Esq., of Montrose, who is well learned in the settlers' history of Montrose, says Courville was mistaken. Tesson, it appeared, had obtained a grant from the Spanish governor of Louisiana, about the year 1790, for a large parcel of land which included the ground where the orchard was planted. The Louisiana territory, then so called, passed subsequently into the hands of the French government, which in turn sold it and transferred it to the United States; and our government sanctioned the grant to Tesson so far as to issue a patent, to those claiming under him, for a square mile of land, which now includes the village of Montrose and where the orchard stood. Parties claiming title under Indian or half-breed reservation purchase, made counter and adverse claim to the title of the land included in the said mile square, which led to litigation. On the trial, which was the suit above referred to, the Tesson claim to the extent of a mile square was sustained by the Iowa court, and subsequently by the supreme court of the United States. Francis Scott Key, of Baltimore, Md., the author of that great American anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, was one of the attorneys for the claimants under the Spanish grant, and made a clear and forcible speech in behalf of his clients. Whilst I sat and listened to his remarks I felt a glow of professional pride in the thought that a lawyer was the author of that soul-stirring national anthem above referred to. The decree for the partition of the Half-Breed tract was made at the same term of the district court above referred to, and was drafted by Mr. Key, who was attorney for some of the parties thereto. That instrument included quite a number of pages of manuscript, but it is now lost from the office of the clerk of the court. I think some one must surreptitiously have taken it from the clerk's office, for the purpose of having in his possession a writing from the same hand which penned "The Star Spangled Banner" anthem. In the early days of the navigation of the Ohio and other western streams, before the advent of steamboats, when all navigation was done by keelboats or perougs, the most noted boatman of those days was a native of Pennsylvania named Mike Fink. Besides his skill as a river-man, he was noted for reckless deviltry generally, and for his wonderful skill as a marksman in the use of a rifle. One of his feats in the gun line was, at a distance of twenty paces, to shoot an apple from between the fingers of a comrade, or to shoot an apple from the head of a person who was willing to undergo the experiment. Tradition has it that Mike was killed by a comrade on the ground where that orchard stood, when the Indians yet owned all of what now constitutes the state of Iowa. The history is that he was on a keel boat pasing up the river, from St. Louis to Prairie du Chein, and that the boat had landed against the shore in front of the orchard farm, and lay there a day or two. While the boat lay there Mike and his comrades of the boat went ashore and enjoyed themselves in practicing with their guns. Mike induced a boy who was with them to stand with an apple on his head for Mike to shoot off. From some cause, Mike's hand was not as steady as usual, and the ball missed the apple and struck the boy in the head and killed him. One of Mike's comrades believed he killed the boy intentionally, and immediately pointed his gun upon Mike, and shot him down in his shoes. In 1837, whilst Iowa was as yet a part of the then territory Wisconsin, there was a weekly newspaper published at Montrose, entitled the 'Western Adventurer," the press and materials on which it was printed being owned by the late Dr. Isaac Galland, but edited and published by Thomas Gregg, Esq., now of Hamilton, Illinois.

The Gate City.

SATURDAY, JAN 24, 1920

THE GATE CITY COMPANY

KEOKUK, IOWA.

WERE THREE FT. DES MOINES

The First One Was Established on the Present Site of the Town of Montrose in Lee County.

The story of Fort De Moines in Iowa is a serial story with three installments. As far back as 1834—before even the Territory of Iowa came into existence—the first Fort Des Moines was built, on the site of Montrose in Lee county. It was established as a result of the Black Hawk war and was occupied for only three years, being abandoned on June 1, 1837, by a garrison of eighteen which on that day took up the march to Fort Leavenworth.

The second Fort Des Moines was established in 1843 at the juncture of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, and likewise had a career of only about three years. The founding of the present Fort Des Moines is of comparatively recent history. In a sketch of the forts, which is being prepared for publication by the State Historical society of Iowa, occurs the following interesting description of the dedication:

"By November 12, 1903, the undertaking had so far progressed that the post was formally dedicated. The chief exercises were held on Friday, November 13, 1903, but no one appeared to think that the occasion was unlucky. Governor Cummins raised the United States flag over the third Fort Des Moines in the presence of some twenty-five thousand spectators. Among the visitors were General John C. Bates, commander of the department of the Missouri, General S. H. Byers, General James Rush Lincoln, and Congressman John A. T. Hull, to whose efforts the location of the fort at Des Moines was so largely due.

"A huge barbecue was held at noon for which two oxen and twenty sheep were roasted. Two thousand loaves of bread, three hundred and fifty pounds of coffee and six hundred pounds of sugar were also consumed at the feast. In the evening exercises were held at the auditorium in Des Moines."

THE GATE CITY.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 31.

B. B. HEALEY. GEO. B. FELT. C. F. WHITE

HEALEY, FELT & WHITE,

Successors to

Wells, Felt & Spaulding,

—AND—

Spaulding, Felt & White,

Saw Mill and Planing Mill,

—OF—

Montrose, Lee Co., Iowa,

Call the attention of the trade to their large and well assorted stock of Lumber, Lath, Shingles and Pickets. We make a specialty of Railroad and Bridge Timbers, and all lumber cut to order. 31-2

MONTROSE MILL

In Successful Operation Under the Management of Healey, Felt & White.

The Montrose saw and planing mill, one of the best on the river, is now in successful operation under the management of Healey, Felt & White, successors to Wells, Felt & Spaulding and Spaulding, Felt & White. Mr. B. B. Healey, who has purchased the interest of Mr. Spaulding in the institution, is an extensive log dealer in LaCrosse. He has had large experience in that branch of the business, operates on a big scale, and having an interest in the mill the firm is enabled to buy logs upon much more favorable terms than they otherwise would, and are therefore that much

Aug 31, 1879-page 2
(Montrose Mill)

better prepared to compete for the trade. Geo. B. Felt was one of the original builders of the mill, has been identified with it ever since it has been in operation, and is known as one of the oldest and best lumber men in this section. His many friends throughout the territory in which the mill does business will be glad to learn that he retains his interest in the concern. C. F. White, the junior member of the firm, was formerly of the firm of Magoun & Co, of this city, has had several years experience in the trade, and is an energetic young business man.

The mill is now doing a larger business than ever before. It employs in all about one hundred hands, runs eleven hours per day, ships from one to one and a half million feet per month—all it can turn out—and is now behind with its orders. The trade of the firm extends over the states of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, and the territory is being enlarged as fast as the firm is able to supply the demands of its patrons.

They operate their own planing, lath and shingle mills and are prepared to supply the trade with everything in this line on the same favorable terms that they do with lumber. They make a specialty of railroad and bridge timbers and lumber cut to order. They have just put in a new trimmer, by means of which they are enabled to cut lumber all of a uniform length, an advantage which dealers will readily appreciate.

The mill has an abundant supply of both long and short logs, to keep it running during the entire Fall and Winter seasons. These were purchased previous to the recent advance and those dealing with this firm will receive the benefit thereof. We predict, that under the present management, the business of this mill will continue to increase.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6.

MONTROSE MILL BURNED.

Healey, Felt and White's Planing Mill Totally Destroyed.

A Close Call for the Saw Mill and Lumber Piles.

Ten Thousand Dollars Loss -- Mysterious Origin of the Fire.

Heroic Struggle of the Town People to Save the Proper ..

Special to the CONSTITUTION.

MONTROSE, May 5.—The planing mill of Messrs. Healy, Felt & White, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The fire was first discovered at ten minutes to 3 o'clock, by the watchman, who immediately gave the al m, and soon all the bells in the town were ringing, and all the people, men, women and children, turned out to render all the assistance they could to subdue the fire, and all worked with a will and determination to keep the fire confined to the planing mill, and it certainly was miraculous that they did, for the fire was only about sixty or seventy yards from the big mill, and they had no fire apparatus to work with—in fact, nothing but water buckets. We never saw a fire where there was so little excitement, and where everybody worked so manfully. Messrs. Healey, Felt & White return their kind thanks to the citizens for their able assistance. How the fire originated is a mystery and there is a diversity of opinion as to when it first broke out. The loss is estimated at ten thousand dollars; partially covered by insurance.

PAT FORSHORT.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 14.

—This morning Healy, Felt & White's mill, at Montrose, after running about an hour, was compelled to shut down. The bevel gear which drives the line shaft broke, and it will take several days for the necessary repairs to be made so that the mill can run again.

THE GATE CITY

Keokuk, Iowa .....Dec. 2, 1910

PIONEER TRAIL TO BE FOLLOWED

Curator Harlan of State Historical Department, Will Follow it in Address at High School.

LEE COUNTY INTERESTED

Speaker Comes Under Auspices of Daughters of American Revolution—Trail Starts at Montrose.

Edgar R. Harlan, of Des Moines, Iowa, state curator of the Iowa Historical society, will deliver an address on the subject, "The Pioneer Trail," under the auspices of Keokuk Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at the high school auditorium Saturday afternoon, December 10, at 3 o'clock. The affair will be free to the public.

People not only of Keokuk but all over Lee county, should be especially interested in this address for Curator Harlan will try to work up as much interest in the "Pioneer Trail" as in the well known "Santa Fe" trail. The "Pioneer Trail" starts at Montrose and crosses the state of Iowa through the southern counties. Automobile owners also will take an interest in the following of this trail, because it is expected to become a part of the good roads movement which has grown so extensively in the last few years. In connection with the visit of Curator Harlan, something of his work is of interest.

The work done in the historical department is primarily that of discovering, collecting and displaying within the reach of him who wishes it, the source materials for Iowa history. By this is meant the material objects, documents, books, pamphlets, prints, photographs, daguerreotypes, maps, weapons, utensils, apparel, tools, machines, vehicles, newspapers, trophies, fossils and specimens that illustrate the steps made in the development of the community, whether in natural history, home life, or in public matters. Thus there is in the course of development a collection of remarkable interest in library and manuscript, gallery and museum, publications and maps, such as are instructive alike to the youth and adult, to the amateur and the scientific investigator. Auxiliary to the collection of materials and information, both Mr. Aldrich and his successor, Mr. Harlan, have exercised their influence toward the determination, and suitable marking by tablets and monuments, of historic sites in Iowa. Mr. Aldrich was a most profound scholar of Iowa affairs, but took little pleasure in public addresses. His correspondence was voluminous and his personal acquaintance very wide, and of immense value. Mr. Harlan since being called by Mr. Aldrich into the work, and especially since the death of Mr. Aldrich has been giving such time as he could spare to personal visits to and public addresses at historic sites and occasions. At such times he has

had some most pleasing experiences. Many items are reported, and gifts to the collection offered or promised that otherwise would remain in the attics and old receptacles of the pioneers, or would be destroyed and lost. Some very interesting and distressing stories are told of documents especially of a personal nature, as letters, and heirlooms being hoarded by some tender hearted member of an early family, until the death of that member or their removal from the homestead has resulted in the obliteration of the most precious and valuable among them. Mr. Harlan once found in a trash pile a number of French lithographs of 1823, which he traced to the homes of the immigrant Icarians, and nothing better than such objects tells of the home life and of the tastes of those pioneers. In an administrator's sale there was obtained a pamphlet on sheep raising, issued by the Rappites in Indiana about the time of the first Iowa settlements, the pamphlet bearing the signature of Governor Chambers, the second territorial governor. It is the location and acquisition of such materials and the placing of them into shape accessible to the scholar as well as the average person that forms the most interesting phase of the particular work of the historical department of Iowa. Some of the most interesting objects have been reported by persons desiring to be rid of the accumulations of other days and yet dreading to destroy them.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

Entered matter.

r. JULY 3, 1887.

KENTUCKY PIONEERS.

An Incident in the Life of the First Settlers of the Dark and Bloody Ground.

The dangers which Boone and his companions encountered in the fields came to the very doors of their cabins, and constantly menaced their families. Indians lurked singly or in parties to seize a prisoner or take a scalp whenever an incautious white should give the opportunity. Frequent combats (and each combat ended, as a rule, in the death of one or more of those engaged) had habituated the men to danger. It was later that they felt the danger of their wives and children.

Late on a Sunday afternoon in July, 1776, three young girls ventured from the enclosure of Boonesborough to amuse themselves with a canoe upon the river that flowed by the fort. Insensibly they drifted with the lazy current, and before they were aware of their danger were seized by five warriors. Their resistance was useless, though they wielded the paddles with desporation. Their canoe was drawn ashore, and they were hurried off in rapid retreat toward the Shawnee towns in Ohio. Their screams were heard at the fort, and the cause well guessed. Two of the girls were Betsey and Frances, daughters of Colonel Richard Callaway, the other was Jemima, daughter of Boone. The fathers were absent, but soon returned to hear the evil news and arrange the pursuit. Callaway assembled a mounted party, and was away through the woods to head off the Indians, if possible, before they might reach and cross the Ohio, or before the fatigue of their rapid march should so overcome the poor girls as to cause their captors to tomahawk them, and so disencumber their flight. Boone started directly on the trail through the thickets and canebrakes. His rule was never to ride if he could possibly walk. All his journeys and hunts, escapes and pursuits, were on foot. His little party numbered eight, and the anxiety of a father's heart quickened its leader, and found a ready response in the breast of three young men, the lovers of the girls.

Betsy Callaway the oldest of the girls, marked the trail, as the Indians hurried them along, by breaking twigs and bending bushes, and when threatened with the tomahawk if she persisted, tore small bits from her dress, and dropped them to guide the pursuers. When the ground was soft enough to receive an impression, they would press a footprint. The flight was in the best Indian method; the Indians marched some yards apart through the bushes and cane, compelling their captives to do the same. When a creek was crossed they waded in its water to a distant point, where the march would be resumed. By all the caution and skill of their training the Indians endeavored to obscure the trail and perplex the pursuers.

The nightfall of the first day stopped the pursuit of Boone before he had gone far; but he had fixed the direction the Indians were taking, and at early dawn was following them. The chase was continued with all the speed that could be made for thirty miles. Again darkness compelled a halt, and again at crack of day on Tuesday the pursuit was renewed. It was not long before a light film of smoke that rose in the distance showed where the Indians were cooking a breakfast of buffalo meat. The pursuers cautiously approached, fearing lest the Indians might slay their captives and escape. Colonel John Floyd, who was one of the party (himself afterward killed by Indians), thus described the attack and the rescue, in a letter written the next Sunday to the Lieutenant of Fincastle, Colonel William Preston:

"Our study had been how to get the prisoners without giving the Indians time to murder them after they discovered us. Four of us fired, and all rushed on them; by which they were prevented from carrying anything away except one shot-gun without any ammunition. Colonel Boone and myself had each a pretty fair shot as they began to move off. I am well convinced I shot one through the body. The one he shot dropped his gun; mine had none. The place was covered with thick cane, and being so much elated on recovering the three poor little broken-hearted girls, we were prevented from making any further search. We sent the Indians off almost naked, some without their moccasins, and none of them with so much as a knife or tomahawk. After the girls came to themselves sufficiently to speak, they told us there were five Indians, four Shawanese and one Cherokee; they could speak good English, and said they should go to the Shawanese towns. The war-club we got was like those I have seen of that nation, and several words of their language, which the girls retained, were known to be Shawanese."

The return with the rescued girls was one of great rejoicing. To crown their satisfaction, the young lovers had proved their prowess, and under the eye of the greatest of all woodsmen had shown their skill and courage. They had fairly won the girls they loved. Two weeks later a general summons went throughout the little settlements to attend the first wedding ever solemnized on Kentucky soil. Samuel Henderson and Betsey Callaway were married in the presence of an approving company that celebrated the event with dancing and feasting. The formal license from the county court was not waited for, as the courthouse of Fincastle, of which county Kentucy was part, was a distant more than six hundred miles. The ceremony consisted of the contract with witnesses, and religious vows administered by Boone's brother, who was an occasional preacher of the persuasion popularly know as Hardshell Baptists. Frances Callaway became within a year the wife of the gallant Captain John Holder, afterward greatly distinguished in the pioneer annals; and Boone's daughter married the son of his friend Callaway.

—*John Mason Brown in Harper's Magazine.*

140.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

141-

The Daily Gate City
2 — KEOKUK, IOWA
THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 1968

Construction of St. Joseph's church in Montrose nears completion

By Mrs. Russell Hancock

MONTROSE — The Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church, met Thursday evening for their first meeting in the basement of their new church on Fifth and Cedar.

They made plans for a Christmas bazaar and chili supper to be held in the new church basement on Thursday, December 5.

The bazaar booths will be open at 3 p.m., but the serving will not begin until 5 p.m. Several other organizations will have booths at this bazaar.

The desire of this congregation is to be in this beautiful new church by Christmas. Most of the work is being done by their own parishioners, who have worked very faithfully on the church since April. While the Rev. O. H. Kiefer was pastor of the church beginning in 1956, it was he who saw the need of a new church and started the plans. Late in 1966 Father Keifer was transfered to St. Paul, Iowa Catholic church.

It was then the Rev. L. J. Leinen came to the St. Joseph's church, Montrose as its pastor. He was here only eight months and he helped make the construction plans. He is now at the Seminary in Dubuque.

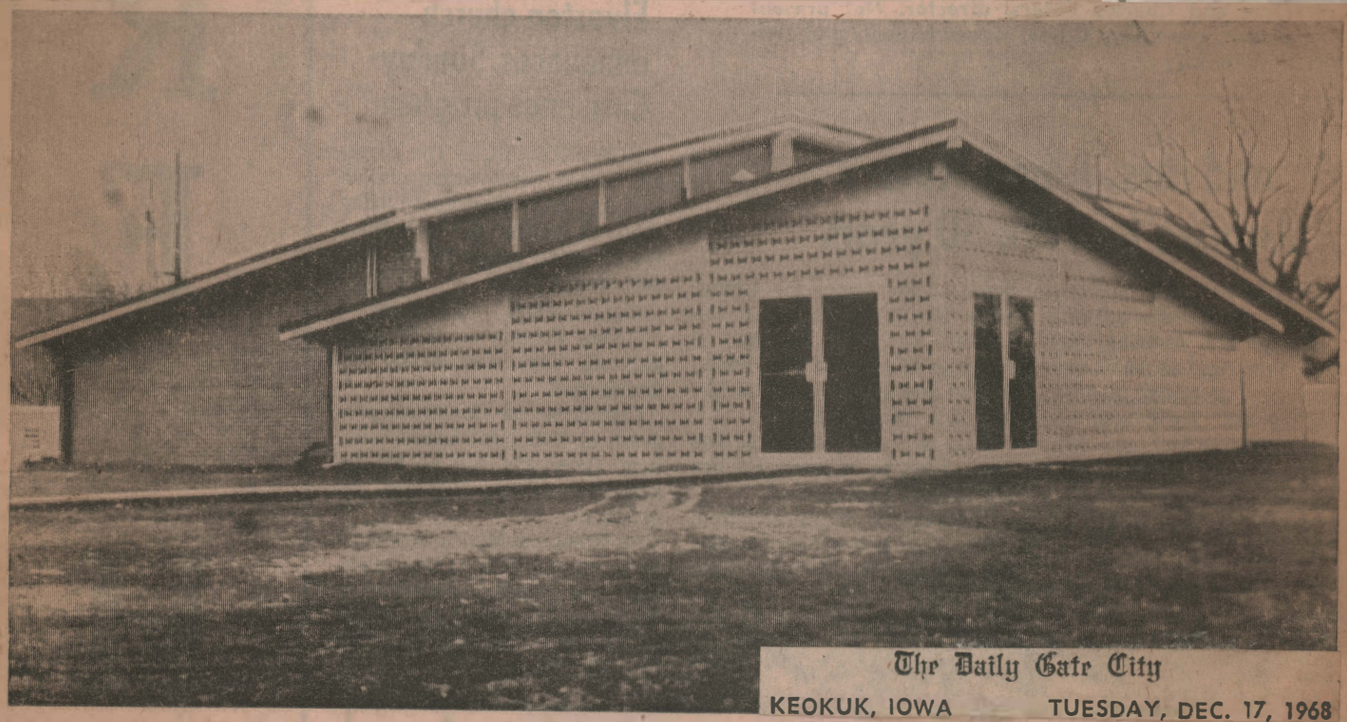
The boys and girls will also have a double header at Fox Valley on November 19.

The Rev. Mackin of St. Mary's church in Ft. Madison is also pastor of St. Joseph's Cathodic church Montrose at the present time. On October 2, 1960 the St. Joseph's church celebrated its centennial.

The land of the old St. Joseph's church was purchased from Walter I. Riddick; the lumber was sawed at the saw mills in Montrose, the pews were hand made and in continuous use up to the present time. The bricks were made in Montrose, some being made on the site, where the old church now stands, and the stone used was delivered from various sources in Lee county.

The new church, the pews, altar and all other furniture is a dark grey, the basement, entrance and priest's office are all panelled.

The church membership has grown in the last years tremendously, so it will be with two great thoughts in the members' minds when they move into their new church, more space, and a new church building.

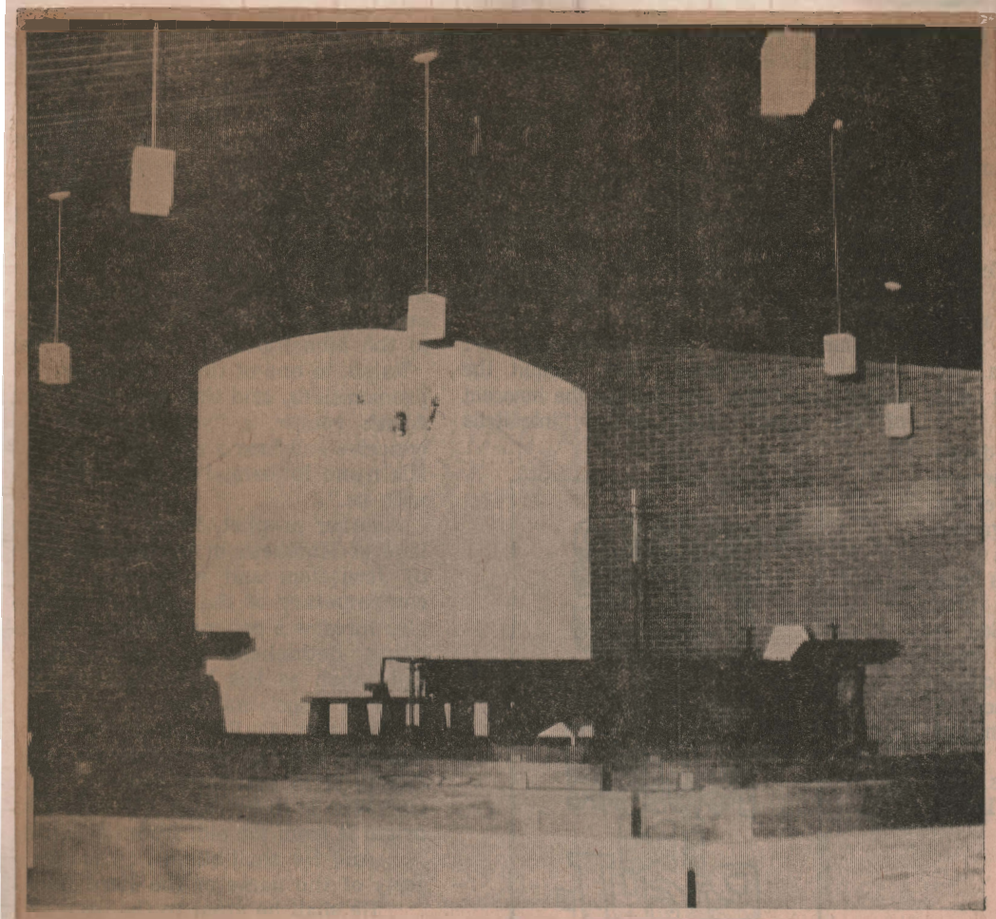


The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 1968

EXTERIOR OF THE NEW ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Montrose is shown. The 60 by 60 foot church is of red brick and decorative glass blocks. Additional picture on page 3. —Gate City

New Montrose St. Joseph opens on Christmas Day

142-



PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Montrose will attend their first mass in their new church on Christmas morning. Built almost entirely with volunteer labor, it was begun last April. —Gate City

St. Joseph

By Marcia Buss

MONTROSE — Christmas 1968 will be one of great rejoicing for the members of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church in Montrose. On Christmas morning the 8:30 a.m. mass will be celebrated in the handsome, functional church recently completed with members of the parish doing most of the building themselves.

This will be the first service in the church and it is a most fitting Christmas present to the members.

Father James Mackin of St. Mary's church, Fort Madison, is in charge of the mission and he or one of his assistants will celebrate and preach at this first service.

According to one of the older members of the church the idea of a Roman Catholic church for Montrose was discussed in a tavern about 1860 by six men who had gathered there. From their suggestion St. Joseph's church was formed. No decision has been made regarding disposition of the little one room brick church that has served the parish for many years.

It was in 1966 when the parish began to grow that the Rev. O. H. Kiefer saw the need of a larger church and an architectural firm, Stolze and Steffen of Ottumwa were engaged to draw up plans. When Father Kiefer was transferred to St. Paul in late 1966 the Rev. L. J. Leinen, chaplain of St. Joseph's hospital in Keokuk became the priest in-charge and he began a fund raising drive. He also named a building committee headed by Bernard Groene, Hank Inghram and William Metzinger Jr.

The ground breaking was held in April of 1968 and construction has proceeded at a truly remarkable pace. It is evidence of the good will and cooperation within the parish that such an accomplishment has been made.

The church has a membership of approximately 58 families or about 120 persons and most of those have helped in some way to see the church finished. Also included in the volunteer labor were many townspeople, Protestants and others, just interested residents of the community.

The exterior is red brick with decorative glass blocks and thermopane windows at the roof line. It is 60 by 60 feet and has aluminum and glass doors. The gutters and down spouts are all copper.

The entrance to the sanctuary is done in walnut paneling and the walls of the nave are brick. The chancel, aisles and foyer are all carpeted in a warm harvest gold carpeting. Back of the free standing altar is a reredos almost ceiling height in white with a large bronze figure of Christ centered on it. The electric organ brought from the old church is at the right near the front.

The pews, altar, candle holders and beams in the ceiling are done in charcoal over oak. They are modern in design. There is no altar rail in keeping with the new liturgy of the church which does not demand that the people kneel at the altar.

At the rear of the nave is a cry room for babies, a sacristy and confessional room. The sacristy has ample closet space for the storage of acolyte robes, flags and other items necessary for the service.

A wide open stairway leads to the basement dining room and kitchen, utility room for the furnace and storage and rest rooms.

The floors are done in a process called beauty flo and are white with colored chips and the surface is glazed. The walls are light oak and the ceiling is suspended with recessed lighting. The kitchen will be a pleasure for the women of the church with a freezer, two refrigerators, a double sink and another single one, a disposal, two electric stoves and plenty of work space.

The furnace is a new type and one used extensively in Florida. It utilizes water from a deep well that goes through a heat exchanger and is distributed through heat ducts. The installation is about the same in cost as more common types but the cost of heating is much less. The church is using water from its own deep well on the premises.

Furniture for the basement matches the walls and the tables were purchased from the Iowa Industries and were made at the Fort Madison prison. There are ten tables and 120 chairs all purchased by the Altar and Rosary society with money they earned. Just recently the set of china formerly used at Sacred Heart hospital in Fort Madison was presented to the parish.

Father Mackin feels that the people of the parish have done a marvelous job on what was a tremendous task. Perhaps best of all is the fact that only a small mortgage will need to be paid off and Mr. Groene hopes to see that paid off in his lifetime.

Although the interior of the church is finished the ground and walks will be completed in the spring before the church is dedicated.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. L. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

143

NESTLED IN A WOODLAND SETTING is the beautiful old stone St. Barnabas Episcopal church at Montrose which was started in 1868 and completed in 1871. It was built largely with stone from the old rapids and work was done by Montrose men on a volunteer basis. The evergreen at the is one of 10 which were first used for Christmas trees and then planted on the lawn. —Photo by Bill Sailor

Believe Montrose church bell is oldest in county

By Mrs. Russell Hancock

MONTROSE — What is believed to be the oldest church bell — or any other bell for that matter — in Lee county hangs in the belfry of beautiful old St. Barnabas Episcopal church in Montrose.

Said to be more than 125 years old, it is much older than the stone church itself which was started in 1868 and completed about 1871.

Came from St. Louis

Tradition has it that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ward, before leaving St. Louis for Montrose in 1865 were assured by officials of the church they attended there that when the new St. Louis edifice they were planning had been completed, they would send the old bell to Montrose as the first tangible evidence of an Episcopal church to be.

Since the Montrose Episcopalians were using the Methodist church at that time, they hung the bell on a frame near that church where it was used by both congregations for a period.

Belfry in 1910

In 1910 women of St. Barnabas church raised enough money to add a beautiful stone vestibule and belfry to the church. Thus the bell was finally hung in the church for which it was intended and for nearly 50 years has pealed out its chimes to call the faithful — now sadly dwindling away — to worship.

Money for the erection of St. Barnabas church was raised by subscription and since there were only a few Episcopalians in the community it took several years to secure adequate funds. It was built by Montrose men during their free hours from regular work.

Most of the stone was excavated from the old Des Moines rapids when the canal was built.

Square donated

Mrs. Frances Billion donated the square on which the church stands and all carpenters in town donated work. Nearly all of the inside work, however, was done by Matthew Richardson, J. S. Larqin and J. N. Ballou. They constructed the pews, a task few carpenter of today would tackle and complete in such a craftsmanlike manner.

Early members of the church were Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kiel, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ward, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Larkin, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fisher, William Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Ballou, Mrs. Morris Peck, Mrs. George Welshymer, Mrs. Nancy Givens, Mrs. Frances Billion, and the Coyne, Moon, Griswold and Runner families in the country.

10 evergreens

The ten evergreens on the lawn were first used as Christmas trees for church festivities and then planted. They were donated by H. M. Crouse.

Church services have been held regularly in St. Barnabas until the last several years, during the winter months in the homes of members and in the summer in the church.

The late Rev. William S. D. Lamont, rector of St. John's in Keokuk, served as vicar for 26 years until his retirement in 1944, alternating Sunday evening services between St. Barnabas and St. Andrew's at Mooar and conducting regular Sunday morning communion services.

At present the Rev. W. W. Swift of Fort Madison holds services on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

144

The Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 2, 1857.

Montrose.

This town, until recently, has been cursed by a band of thieves and gamblers, who occupied water street or "rat row."

As the efforts of our citizens from time to time to break up these "alligator holes" have been fruitless, as a last resort they made application to the Legislature for a city charter aad received it.

Since then, these gentlemen have been shown no mercy. They have been brought before the city authorities,—some of them by force and at the risk of the officers' lives,—their liquors poured upon the ground, and themselves fined as heavily as the law would permit.

The Railroad was completed from Keokuk into this place some ten days ago, connecting the upper and lower packets. "Rat row" stands in the middle of the street exactly where the railroad is to be built. The city Council has declared it a nuisance and the proprietors ordered to remove their buildings. They are now removing their rickety old shells, very much against their will, too.

Let not those who shall from time to time pass along this street, judge the place from what they here see. It is hoped the town proprietors will improve this street, or let others do it.

Nine-tenths of the citizens of this town and vicinity are peace-loving, church-going people. In the immediate vicinity are some of the finest farms in the State, owned and cultivated by skillful and experienced farmers, of wealth, talent and influence, ornaments to the country and the State in which they live.

SIGMA.

THE NAUVOO INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday Morning.

Friday, August 8, 1930

A huge granite boulder will mark the site of the first Iowa orchard which was located at Montrose. A fine specimen was found south of Pontoosuc and moved there.

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 27, 18 2.

MONTROSE.

Its Churches, Schools and Manufacturing Institutions.

EDITORS GATE CITY: You Keokukians imagine perhaps that the Gate City is *the* city of Lee county, ignoring perchance its many tributaries. The great Mississippi, shorn of *its* tributaries, would be shorn of its greatness. So Keokuk, deprived of the trade received from the towns of Southeastern Iowa, would greatly suffer. Yet we will not conceal the fact that we are proud of your city, and its interest is our interest. Montrose is situated at the head of the rapids, and will, I dare say, in time be the seat of manufacture for Keokuk.

THE CHURCHES

Represent the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Mormon and Catholic faiths. The first two of these are now holding protracted meetings, that are attracting interest. The officiating clergymen are from Keokuk—Rev.'s Craig and Burgess.

THE SCHOOLS

Are now attracting the attention of the public. The graded school building is a fine three story brick, in which is a well organized graded school under the management of Prof Miller. Below town upon a a hill in a grove overlooking the Rapids, is the *Riverside Institute*, a young and flourishing institution. It began last September with eighteen students and has now more than forty-five young ladies and gentlemen in attendance. The first term closes next Wednesday, Jan. 31. The second term of five months begins without a recess. Some interesting lectures have been delivered during the winter at the Institute. Among the lecturers were D. Hyrum Smith, Rev. C. H. Belville and Dr. Ike Hollingsworth. The subjects were respectively, "Salt Lake," "Two Sides" and "Female Suffrage." Prof. Lake, Prof. of music in the Institute, who, by the way, is an elegant pianist, will give a musical concert at the College in the course of a few weeks.

THE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

Are not the least prominent feature in a bird's eye view of Montrose. Messrs. Wells, Felt & Spaulding, of Keokuk, have done more than all others to give employment to operatives and laboring men in Montrose. They have established a large saw mill, shingle and lath factory, planing mill, sash and door rooms, and lumber yard, that during the summer season give employment to from forty to sixty men.

Thos. B. Hough's Furniture Rooms are always well supplied, and Donaldson's Cigar Factory supplies wholesale and retail trade with anything from a No. 9 to a lady's cigarette.

The gentlemanly Johnny Kiel manufactures everything in the Hardware and Tinner line, while Wm. Anderson, Druggist, can fill a prescription and compound a pill with any apothecary living or dead; while Del. Patton, Jeweler, can make a new watch or clock out of an old one. Fischer can make a boot to fit around a corn so nicely that it's a positive pleasure to wear it. Montrose contains a population of 1,000, and is increasing rapidly.

Messrs. Editors, when you get worn with work come up and spend a week at one of our hotels and get recruited, for any of them will gladly "dead head" you if you do not forget to pay them with a "puff"—at your exit.

ESCULAPIUS.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Saint Barnabas' Church, Montrose

MARCH - APRIL, 1969
IOWA MOTOR NEWS, MOTOR CLUB OF IOWA
P.O. BOX 4290, DAVENPORT, IOWA 52808

FRONTIER CHURCH

By Michael R. Link, Rector
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Madison

One of the oldest existing churches in the state, Saint Barnabas' Church at Montrose, stands one-hundred years old, a quaint reminder of early Iowa history. Looking like a transplant from a small parish in England, the church was built as Grace Episcopal Church in 1869 on what became some of the first land titled in Iowa. It overlooks the site of the first of three Iowa forts to be named Fort Des Moines and the area briefly important to steamboat travel on the upper Mississippi.

Originally, the land in the Montrose area belonged to Chief Quashquame (Jumping-Fish) and his Sac-Fox Tribe. Because early settlers and fur traders referred to the Chief as "Cut-Nose," the Indian settlement was referred to "Cut-Nose Village."

In 1799, Louis Tesson Honoré obtained a Spanish Land Grant for this area and established a fur trading post, planted the first Iowa apple orchards, and provided settlers, fur traders, and Indians with produce from the "civilized" world. His business abilities were less than successful and his personality even worse as attested to by Zebulon Pike in his personal diaries. Thus in 1803, Honoré's property was publicly auctioned in St. Louis. Thomas Riddick, first mayor of St. Louis, would become third owner of this property.

The advent of steam transportation came in 1823 when the *Virginia* successfully steamed from St. Louis to Fort St. Anthony at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers near what is now Minneapolis. Five of the twenty days spent journeying the 700 miles upstream were needed to navigate the Des Moines or Lower Rapids and the Upper Rapids at Rock Island. This historic first led to the navigation of the upper river for commerce and transportation of military men and supplies to northern fortifications.

Legal conflicts over an American citizen holding title to land as the result of a Spanish Land Grant presented an interesting battle in the early courts of the early Iowa frontier. Land west of the Mississippi was not generally open to settlement until June 1, 1833. One area, now known as South Lee County, however, had been set aside as the "Halfbreed Tract," a result of an Indian Treaty with Black Hawk. This land was preserved as the land owned by those people, who when first trading with the Indians, married and started families of mixed racial background. Riddick's title to land pre-dated this agreement, and finally after many suits and appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the validity of the land title of the Riddick family. Thus, the land at Montrose has the oldest land title in the State of Iowa.

In 1834, Montrose became the site of the Fort Des Moines Barracks. The Barracks, occupied by three companies of the fort's United States Dragoons, were commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen W. Kearney. Captain of one of the companies was Nathaniel Boone, a son of the famous Daniel Boone. The fort was abondoned three years later when the Dragoons were transferred to Ft. Leavenworth.

Montrose grew and flourished in the later 1800's due to its position as the upstream point of the steamboat portage over the Des Moines Rapids. The rapids in the Mississippi at this point, treacherous even in high water, were next to impossible at low river stages. Thus, Montrose, and Keokuk at the downstream end, became the two points of portage or litterage for those wishing to traverse the Des Moines Rapids on their way up and down the stream. Montrose boasted of boat builders, wood mills, and rapid pilots.

It was during the prosperous times, that the church was built on land donated by a married daughter of Riddick. With much donated labor and $2000, it was constructed from stone excavated from the old Des Moines Rapids when a navigation canal was being built. The nine-mile canal was completed in 1877.

Prosperity in Montrose met a quick death in 1913 when the Keokuk Dam was completed. The special portaging, piloting, and boat repairing centered in Montrose came to a standstill as the water level was raised, well submerging the formerly "hazardous rapids." Montrose population declined and with it support for the church which closed in the late 1950's.

Presently, a group of Montrose businessmen, hoping to preserve the century-old landmark, are seeking support to repair the building and set it aside along with adjacent grounds and cemetery as an historical site. Gravestones date back into the 1840's verifying the close relation of the church and Montrose to the early settlement of Iowa.

146. Montrose

WORD RECEIVED OF PASSING OF PIONEER WOMAN

Mrs. Sarah Reeves, 92, Was Teacher During Civil War—Went Went is Covered Wagon in 1876.

MON. MAR. 1, 1937

(Gate City Tri-State News)

MONTROSE, Ia., Mar. 1—Mrs. Addie Reeves Leffler has received a message telling of the death of a relative who at one time was a teacher in Montrose, and was a pioneer woman of Kansas. Mrs. Sarah Ann Reeves, 92, died at the home of her foster daughter, Mrs. Virginia Bridges at Winfield, Kansas, on February 13.

Last September, Mrs. Reeves suffered a broken hip when she fell at the family home at Winfield. She recovered sufficiently to sit up in her chair a part of each day. Early in February, however, she became ill and gradually grew worse from that time.

Mrs. Reeves as Sarah Ann Everett, was born June 17, 1844 in Gaysport, Ohio, 13 miles from Zanesville. She taught school there during the Civil War days. In 1869 she boarded a Mississippi river steam boat and went to Keokuk, where on September 6, 1869, she was married to Manasseh R. Reeves, a blacksmith, who had served as a blacksmith with the Union army at Chattanooga, Tenn. They established their home at Montrose, where they lived until 1876.

In 1876 Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and their adopted daughter, Virginia, a child they had taken into their home as a tiny tot, went to Elk county Kansas to live. They made the trip by covered wagon. The nearest railroad east was at Independence, 50 miles away. A new town was organized on the railroad and Mrs. Reeves had the honor of naming the town, Grenola. Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and daughter cast their interest in the new town. They continued their residence there until October, 1920, when failing health compelled Mr. Reeves to retire. Mr. and Mrs. Reeves moved to Winfield, Kansas, where they made their home for the rest of their lives. Mr. Reeves died December 19, 1923.

Mrs. Reeves' funeral services were held in Grenola at the Methodist church. She is survived by her foster daughter, two foster grand children and four foster great grand children.

En Constitution - Democ.

AUGUST 28, 1883.

Nashville, Iowa.

NASHVILLE, Iowa, August 27, 1883.—Found near the brewery hill to-day, a pocketbook containing a sum of money and some trinkets that can be very easily described. Owner can apply at J. S. Marshall's, one mile northeast of Nashville.

The guard lock was thrown open to-day, and the Mollie Mohler is just entering the canal with a raft, it being the first of the season.

Mr. Robert Reed and Mrs. David Lyon, who have been wrestling with sickness, are reported some better to-day.

Johnson & Son are doing a big fish business the last few days. This, Montrose township appears to be pretty evenly divided between Daughterty and Higgins for sheriff.

R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

147.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY

C. F. | AUGUST 2, 1914 | anager

The Old Apple Orchard.

Something was said recently in a random kind of way of the old apple trees that not many years ago still marked a historic spot in Lee county. These trees were located on the Mississippi river, a short distance below Montrose, old Fort Des Moines. The place was called in that neighborhood the "old apple orchard."

Writing of this locality and the "old orchard" many years ago, the late D. W. Kilbourne wrote:

"Having lived near these trees, a part of the time in sight of them, for more than a quarter of a century, I can testify to the fact that the apple trees are there, and that they have not been barren cumberers of the ground, but have been as prolific from year to year as most of their species. I have often eaten of their fruit, and can bear testimony that it is very good. But the question that interests the public is, how came the trees there? What hand planted and protected them until they stood tall and strong like the forest trees with which they were intermingled and surrounded? The spot they occupy, as well as the surrounding country, was only a short time ago, comparatively, the home of Black Hawk and Keokuk, and their nations—the Sacs and Foxes."

It seems from Mr. Kilbourne's story that a half breed Indian of the Sac and Fox nation named Red Bird, known among the whites as Thomas Abbott, had a wick-e-up contiguous to the spot occupied by these trees, as early as 1790. He was often at Montrose in 1837-9, and Mr. Kilbourne knew him well and sat under the old apple trees with Red Bird and others of the nation and had from his own lips, the story of the trees, and this story was confirmed by Black Hawk.

It has been claimed by many that these trees were planted by Louis Honore Tesson, a Frenchman, and the story has been accepted by many writers on the early history and traditions of this locality. But Mr. Kilbourne' story has always appeared to the writer to be the most plausible and the true version. This is what Mr. Kilbourne wrote:

"Somewhere between 1795 and 1798, Red Bird, then a young man, paid his annual visit to St. Louis in the early spring. On his return he stopped a few days at St. Charles, on the Missouri river, and when about to leave for home, a "nishe-skin," "chemo-co-man," (good white man), made him a present of about twenty very "petite" apple trees, put up in a bundle, with the roots protected, and instructed him how to plant them near his own wick-e-up. Red Bird brought them all the way in his hand, and planted them promiscuously among the forest trees contiguous to his home. He protected them by placing stakes around them, and they grew up slim and tall, in consequence of being so much shaded."

Mr. Kilbourne had full confidence in the story told by Red Bird and pinned no faith to the stories that Tesson was the originator of the old apple orchard.

Famous Old Orchard Site at Montrose To Be Marked

DAILY GATE CITY

Tesson Grant on Which First Apple Trees Were Planted Will be Recorded in Marble.

JULY 14, 1930

MONTROSE, Iowa, July 14.—Outstanding historic spots of Iowa have had memorials erected to preserve the remembrance of the site. One of the many historic spots of Lee county, is the site of the first apple orchard at Montrose, and it is to be marked in the near future with suitable ceremony.

Local organizations have had this project under discussion at various times. The Montrose Woman's Civic club members have considered this to the extend during the past few years of trying to obtain material aid from state finances. Other organizations of the county and state have become interested in this matter and the plan and purpose has grown.

The idea of erecting a marker on the site of the first apple orchard was suggested to the state Horticultural society by George Schurk of Ft. Madison, in the annual meeting of the society last December in Des Moines. A committee composed of Lee county Farm Bureau Agent W. C. Calvert, George Schurk and Prof. R. S. Herrick, secretary of the Horticultural society, was appointed at that time to attend to making plans for the erection of a memorial. A fund was appropriated by the society for the marker's erection. The remainder of the money necessary to erect the marker will be donated by interested societies and popular subscription.

Committee Visits Montrose.

This committee came to Montrose a short time ago to interview the committees, locally, and to locate the original site. Edgar R. Harlan, curator of the Historical department of Iowa accompanied them, as did also J. P. Cruikshank of Ft. Madison, Jonas M. Poweshiek, an Indian who aids Mr. Harlan in his historical researches, and Richard, the little son of Mr. Poweshiek were here also. Mr. Harlan brought out the fact that this section is one of the favored points from which originated the fruit industry of the county. As early as 1841 there were extensive fruit orchards in this region. The area on which the first apple orchard grew is to be marked in order that the spot will be definitely indicated, so that future generations will know and have no trouble in finding the site of the first orchard.

Mr. Powshiek was interested in this region of Iowa and spoke of the pleasure of having the opportunity of being able to visit the territory in which his ancestors lived. The grave of the Indian Maiden, Kalowequois, was most interesting to him and this feature of this locality attracted his intense regard. The marker of the grave, it will be remembered was placed there by the D. A. R. chapter of Fort Madison a few years ago and is near the entrance of the gate leading to the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Curtis, on State Highway No. 61, a short distance north of Montrose.

Orchard Serves Pioneers.

The first orchard planted, in after years furnished fruit to the pioneers on both sides of the Mississippi and provided their children the way to get their first tastes of that standard fruit, the apple. It also became one of the landmarks of the country. The Iowa Journal of History and Politics furnishes the fact that "Louis Honore Tesson was granted a tract of land in what is now Lee county, by acting Governor Zenon Trudeau of Upper Louisiana on March 30, 1799. Tesson took immediate possession of that tract of land and planted his famous apple orchard. Subsequent events indicate that times were hard, or Tesson most unfortunate, for on May 13, 1803, Joseph Robidoux obtained an execution on the property which was sold to him as ceditor. Shortly afterwards, Robidoux died and his executor, Auguste Chouteau, sold the tract to Thomas Riddick. Although Tesson was neither the first to settle nor to receive a Spanish grant, much colorful history is woven about his tract. The Tesson tract, moreover, was accorded the distinction of being "the oldest legal title to land in the State of Iowa" when the United States supreme court in 1852 confirmed the ownership of Riddick's heirs.

When the first settlers began to filter into south eastern Iowa, during the early thirties of the last century they were amazed to find in the forests skirting the banks of the Mississippi river evidence of an earlier habitation of the white man. Near the head of the Des Moines Rapids in the Mississippi River was an old apple

orchard. Already the trees had reached maturity, and many of them had fallen to decay. Some had been toppled over by storms.

Whence came these apple trees? Whose hands had planted them and protected them? Evidently some white men must have preceded the early settlers in a futal attempt of colonization and settlement in that locality.

Tesson's Venture

The third venture in the ownership of Iowa land was hazarded by Louis Honore Tesson, the son of a French-Canadian tailor who lived in St. Louis. Like so many of his race, Tesson seems to have responded to the lure of the wild. He voyaged up and down the Mississippi River, traded with the Indians and made the acquaintances of other hardy adventurers engaged in the same occupation. In the course of his travels, Tesson probably spent some time at the large Sac Indian village at the head of the Des Moines Rapids on the Iowa side. Here the seems to have made many friends among the Indians for if they did not prevail upon him to come and establish a trading post near by, they at least were not hostile to the project. This site situated on a beautiful level terrance of second bottom land, fertile and picturesque, probably appealed to Tesson. A high prominence at at the rear afforded a magnificient view of the river for miles in either direction, whiie below was an excellent landing for boats. Being about midway between the Spanish mines (Dubuque) and the seat of the government at St. Louis, the place gave abundant promise of being a splendid location for a trading post from the standpoint of the Indians and those who plied the river. Tesson approached the Spanish government where his proposition to establish a trading post was favorably received. On March 30, 1799 Louis Honore Tesson received permission to make a setlement upon 7056 arpents of land from Zenon Trudeau, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Upper Louisiana. According to the terms of the permit he was to setle at the head of the Des Moines Rapids. He was also placed under obligation to plant trees and sow seeds, to instruct the Indians in the art of agriculture and to spread the tenets of the Catholic faith.

His conduct in these respects was to "serve him as a recommendation to be favored by the government in such a way as to let him have the benefits of whatever he may do to contribute to the increase of the commerce in which he is to participate."

Would Fulfill Grant.

In order to secure a clear title to his land through confirmation by the governor general, Tesson set about fulfilling the terms of the grant. Having purchased some supplies in St. Louis, and obtained about a hundred seedling apple trees of several varieties at St. Charles, he proceeded on his northward journey, transporting the small apple trees, it is said, on pack mules. His family may have accompanied him upon this trip for it is recorded that he married Theresa Creely in 1788 and that a son bearing the name of Louis Honore was born in St. Louis about 1790. Some time in the summer of 1799 Tesson reached the site of his land grant. There he erected buildings, built some fences, cultivated a small patch and planted his apple trees. For a number of years he lived at the head of the rapids, fraternizing with the Indians, and trading in pelts, liquor and baubles.

Life on the very outskirts of civilization was probably not altogether monotonous. Dubuque, Giard and other itinerant traders must have stopped on their way to St. Louis. Quail, prairie chickens, turkeys and deer were commonplace. Wild strawberries, blackberries and grapes varied the menu. The apple trees were probably too young to bear fruit.

All of the circumstances pertaining to Tesson's undertakings were not rosy. He seems to have been lacking in tact and general business ability. At all events he incurred the enmity of some of the Indians and was no match for the shrewd British traders. His trading operations failed and he fell deeper and deeper into debt in St. Louis After four years all his property was attached. According to Spanish law and upon the authority of an order from the lieutenant governor of upper Louisiana, P. A. Tablaux, acting as attorney for Joseph Robidoux, appeared unexpected before the door of Tesson's house on March 17, 1903, and there accompanied by two witnesses and in the presence of Tesson seized the property and gave notice that it would be sold for the benefit of the creditors. The sale would be public auction at the door of the parish church in St. Louis. The auction occurred in customary form at the conclusion of high mass, the people coming out in great numbers after due notice given by the town crier.

Bids Are Made.

On the first Sunday only twenty five dollars was bid; on the second, thirty dollars; on the third and last one hundred dollars and subsequently one and fifty dollars by Joseph Robidoux. It was cried at one o'clock, at two o'clock and at three o'clock and no other persons presenting themselves the said land and appurtenances were adjudged to him for mentioned price of one hundred and fifty dollars and having received this sum himself he gave no security. Robidoux finding himself in possession of the property for which he had no immediate use, permitted Tesson to remain on the tract of land for some time thereafter. It is not known whether Tesson was finally ejected from the tract or whether he left of his own accord. He was still in the vicinity in 1805 when Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike explored the Mississippi River from St. Louis to its source.

Tesson's land was acquired by Thomas Riddick on the death of Joseph Robidoux in 1809, at an auction held on April 9, 1810. Thomas F. Riddick paid sixty-three dollars for the property, the highest and last bid. Nearly thirty years later the legality of this transaction was confirmed and Tesson's title acquired in 1799 was established by the United States government when a land patent was issued covering six hundred and forty acres of the tract. This was the first patent to Iowa land and established a title record that dates back to 1799, the oldest in the state. Tesson himself had dropped from sight altogether. At what time he forsook the environs of his hapless undertakings, where he went, what he did and where he died are unknown facts. In 1832 Alexander Cruikshank visited the old orchard, in the summer. At that time there were about fifteen trees bearing. During the year 183[illegible] when Fort Des Moines was abandoned the town of Montrose was laid out by D. W. Kilbourne on the site of the old apple orchard.

Early Plan to Mark Site.

As the town of Montrose developed, the Riddick heirs disposed of their inheritance to various people. The old orchard site came into the possession of George B. Dennison who in 1874 conveyed the plot to the town of Montrose to be held in trust for the Old Settlers' Association. The intention at that time was to erect an ornamental iron fence around the plot and otherwise improve the appearance of the grounds. These well meant plans did not materialize. None of the trees survive, the last one according to the memory of the older residents of Montrose died or disappeared over fifty years ago. During the second week in June 1913, when the flood gates of the great dam were closed the swirling water of the Mississippi were transformed into a placid lake, which slowly enveloped the greater portion of the historic spot.

R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Naming of streets at Bluff park recalled in 1886 Journal

The Daily Gate City

8 — KEOKUK, IOWA TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1965

By Mrs. Russell Hancock

MONTROSE, Ia. — Summer has gone. Soon the fall will be here, the beautiful hard maples on the hill side along the bluff will be turning to red and gold. The wild asters and many other fall flowers are blooming along the road side up the hill to the Bluff, near Montrose.

There are still many resi dents of lower Lee county, and perhaps in Keokuk, who will remember the days when Bluff park was one of the most famous places in Lee county.

How famous it was in the early days when its streets, avenues and divisions of the park were named.

Streets renamed

This item was taken from a Bluff Park Journal dated 1886 with Mrs. E. H. Hardin as its publisher.

The article

The article reads:

One of the many good things done at the meeting May 5, 1886 was the decision to rename the streets, avenues and divisions of the park and give in evey case a Bible name. Mrs. Bonnell has made a plan, and will submit it to Dr. Corkhill.

All the park included in block 1, 2, and 3 is called Zion, and encircles what is, and will be known as Mt. Zion. West of Zion in the shady grove the name of Shiloh will appear with an avenue of the same name.

Going southward will be Temple avenue, and then we come to Mt. Carmel, which is the bluffy point, and a fine out look, on which brother Sweeney's cottage is now being built. Olivet will retain the old name and also Kedron avenue. Siloam includes block 4 and nestles in a semi-circle above Kedron and between Olivet and Zion.

Excellent breeze

The orchard part, now so well patronized by lot buyers, and from which such a fine breeze can be had will be called Hebron. Directly to the west of this is Bethany, and the three streets in this division are named for the family on Bethany street. They are Martha avenue, Miriam and Lazarus streets.

Bethlehem

Down under the hill, and near the bountiful spring with its cool and refreshing water, and cornering Sweney Block 29 lays the town of Bethlehem.

While the new addition near the railroad depot is called "The Plain."

The new and unoccupied part from the south and below Bethany will be called Bezetha, meaning "New City." The large avenue formerly called Grand ave. will now be called Palestine. We only question one name suggested by Mrs. Bonnell, and that is calling the road from Montrose side up the bluff "Jerico Road," and yet if she concedes that we live on the side of the road where stood the Good Samaritan, we will allow the wound to be healed by pouring oil and — no thank you no wine, this is a prohibition state.

Other news appearing in the same 1886 issue reads.

We are glad to learn of the great find on Bluff park.

Water plentiful

Now that it is demonstrated that there is plenty of water on the park grounds, and that it is so easily secured, why not pipe it all over the grounds.

Two hundred dollars will put up a good wind engine by which the water can be pumped into a big tank and thence by means of gas pipe, sent to all parts of the park occupied by tents or cottages.

On Tuesday, May 18, 1886 Bluff park trustees authorized Mr. E. Cooper to bore for water on the encampment grounds, which he proceeded at once to do.

On Thursday, May 20, he wrote the secretary:

I have gone 31 feet deep and in a few minutes had 12 feet of water.

Artesian well remains

This is one land mark on Bluff park that now remains. It is the ancient and honorable artesian well.

Ancient because it was one of the first wells dug, and the deepest in all southeast Iowa, this in the year 1886.

Honored because its water was shipped for hundreds of miles for health purposes.

Many cottages

Bluff park is still occupied in this year of 1965. There are many summer cottages and several permanent homes.

There still is that beautiful view from the bluff, of that wonderful and beautiful Mississippi river still rolling lazily along, as it did in 1886, only now it isn't divided by a canal as it was in by gone years. It is one large beautiful body of water, largest in all the U. S. A.

DAILY GATE CITY
AUG. 10, 1935

BLUFF PARK HAS HISTORY BACK TO WAR

Purchase of Bluff Park by Walter Phillips, a former owner of the place, suggests a glance into the history of this well known camp ground just south of Montrose.

Bluff park is probably one of the oldest outing places in Iowa. It was founded in 1865 just after the Civil war, as a Methodist summer church resort. The property went into general use as a camp site after it was disposed of by the Methodist church many years ago.

Mr. Phillips, a former owner of the park, bought the property from the receivers who have been in control of the park ever since the closing of the bank at Montrose about three years ago. Mr. Phillips is reported to have paid $2,250 for the property.

In addition to a farm located in the bluff tract, there are 12 summer cabins owned by the park and 18 cabins owned by private owners. The property of the privately owned cabins is not included in the purchase.

150-

PARK BOWEN, 79, stands on the platform of the Montrose depot where he served as agent for the C. B. and Q Railroad for over 31 years. He has worked for the railroad a total of 58 years and will retire soon. He rides his bicycle to and from work every day. —Gate City

Park Bowen, Montrose agent will retire after 58 years

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, DEC. 31, 1965 — 3

By Marcia Buss

Next year will mark the end of a long life of usefulness for the little depot at Montrose. It will no longer be used as a station and it may well be torn down although this is not certain.

Shipping from the Montrose area will be handled in the future through either Keokuk or Fort Madison.

With the closing of the Montrose agency, retirement will come to Park L. Bowen, who has put in 58 years of service with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. He has been the agent at Montrose since 1942 and has served as the Montrose agent for 31 years altogether.

During his long tenure he also served the stations at West Quincy, Ashburn, Mo., Viele, Iowa and Hilton, Mo. as operator.

Since 1907

Bowen recalls going to work for the C.B. and Q. in 1907 and learned to be a telegrapher from the agent at Montrose at that time, Guy E. Ferree. In those years there were seven passenger trains that made daily stops at Montrose and four freight trains as well.

"Why the platform would be filled with passengers and sightseers when a train was due," Bowen said.

The ferry from Nauvoo brought 160 carloads of grapes each year to Montrose for shipping and this continued until 1942. Large amounts of pears, strawberries and apples as well as watermelons, muskmelons and sweet potatoes were shipped out of Montrose to eastern markets.

Buffalo fish mostly to Chicago and New York were shipped in barrels and numbered 10 to 12 barrels a day.

Now shipping from Montrose consists of grain and molding sand.

Bowen recalled that in the early days he loaded mail sacks on to his back and carried them to the train.

This kindly man with a twinkle in his eye has a remarkable work record during his 58 year tenure. He has never had a personal accident on the job and has lost only two weeks during that whole time with illness.

Rides bicycle

He rides the seven blocks from his home to the station on a bicycle two round trips a day. Although he drives a car he has always ridden a bicycle to and from work.

Bowen, who will be 79 on April 8 was born in Montrose and attended schools there. He is married and has a son, Milton R. Bowen, and a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Comstock, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Dec 31, 1965 - page 1
(Montrose Depot)

Montrose Depot

THE GREAT DUST REMOVER
R.L.BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Montrose Register. Dec 31, 1965 - page 12 (Montrose Depot)

Depot in question

The fate of the depot which was once out in the river and moved to its present location in 1918 is undecided. A poster on the outside of the building says that the railroad is looking for a custodian for the building to begin on January 1. The section hands hope it will remain since it provides a warm place and a shelter for them in bad weather. Its pot-bellied stove is indeed a reminder of the fun of times past when one could warm his toes on the rail around the bottom.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE KEOKUK GATE CITY FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1943

Old Newspaper Uncovered in Montrose Reveals Era of Days When River Traffic Was Booming

MONTROSE, Iowa, Dec. 24—A newspaper clipping, browned with age, but itself bearing no date, was uncovered this week here by Charles Wardlow. Under the heading "Early Recollections About Old Montrose," the writer for the old Burlington Post begins his story with the words, "I will tell you a plain narrative of my early recollections of old Montrose from 1849. My father (the late H. M. Patten, river captain), moved his family from Keokuk to Montrose on the first day of May, 1849. (The writer does not identify himself further.)

The author relates that his father took the family to Montrose on two wagons which also hauled the family household goods. They drove through "Muddy Lane," he says, and the roads were so bad the wagons would often mire down to the hubs. (Gas rationing isn't that bad). Muddy Lane, it seems, was really the ancestor of the present Plank Road out of Keokuk.

"Montrose was only a small village," the writer relates. There were two or three stores, he says, and two hotels, "The Eagle" and the "Bowen House." In addition, he adds, were a postoffice, distillery, cooper shop and "three or four places they called saloons, but they were nothing more than doggeries, all along the river front. There were also two blacksmith shops and two wharfs, one belonging to Henry Singer and the other to John LaMott, a Frenchman. There were quite a contingent of French folks living there. Among them were names I now recall to memory, Lemanaus, Provost, LaMott, LaRont and DeLisle.

Wharf Busy Place.

"Wharf boats did a good business, receiving freight from the steamboats. They both sold whisky, tobacco and playing cards, which were always in good demand. Mr. Singer carried a line of groceries and patent medicines in conjunction with the whisky, rum and gin.

"John LaMott's wharfboat was the hull of the old 'Osprey' that at one time was the property of the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith. The Osprey was purchased from Joe Smith by Capt. Alford and presented to his brother-in-law, John LaMott, they having married sisters. LaRont was their names. They were half French and half Indian, coming from Prairie du Chien, Wis. Capt. Alford owned some very fine steamboats on the upper Mississippi, one of which was the 'Grey Cloud,' sidewheeler which ran between St. Louis and St. Paul.

River Drama.

"The Grey Cloud was lying at Montrose waiting for the lighters with her upstream freight and deck passengers when Remy LaRont, brother-in-law of Capt. Alford, took a notion he wanted to be the mate of the Grey Cloud, and after filling up with firewater he got several other men who had also filled up with him to go down and board the Grey Cloud and demand the captain to give him the mate's berth.

"Remey LaRont was a half-breed and when 'in his cups' was a terror to everybody, and when he and his associates started down to the boat, everybody standing in front of the saloons thought there would be some bloodshed. But when the lighter arrived, having been towed up to the Iowa shore by teams, among the deck passengers were several stout, ablebodied Germans. When Remey opened up the fuss on the lower deck, those German immigrants came to the rescue of the officers of the boat and threw Remey and Doc Ruley overboard off the forecastle, and that ended the riot, the boat proceeding on up the river.

"Remey LaRont was killed in November 1856, by a man who has since died with the cholera. He was a cook on the Clara Hine. He had gone to a saloon to get a drink when LaRont attacked him with a table leg. The man went to the boat and got a hash knife and waited for LaRont to come out. When he did, he ran the knife through LaRont's body and escaped. LaRont lived three days.

Packet Company.

"Capt. Alford built and ran several fine boats on the upper Mississippi in after years, the Denmark, first steamboat with a calliope, and the Northern, which was one of the original boats of the old Northern line. Capt. Alford died while in command of the steamer Rob Roy, of the St. Louis and Keokuk Packet company."

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT JAN. 25, 1955

Thriving Lumber Industry At Montrose Just a Memory

By MRS. RUSSELL HANCOCK

MONTROSE, Ia.— Among the several industries which made Montrose a thriving river town of the 1870's was a sawmill and it was one of the largest and most important of the local industries of that day. But, like the others which faded into oblivion, it also found the Mississippi to be first a boon (Montrose was at the head of the rapids), then a "Nemesis" because the dam destroyed the value of Montrose as a stopping place for boats.

The sawmill, pictured above, enjoyed prosperity in the 1877 period when lumber was available at low cost in this immediate area and practically all steamers stopped here and sent their cargoes on over the rapids in lighters. It was first thought that when shipping was lost to Montrose by the dam, this manufacturing of lumber might be sustained as an industry. However, when lumber had to be shipped in from the north, the cost was too great and the lumber mill was dismantled.

On River Bank

The sawmill naturally was located on the banks of the Mississippi and was built by Guy Wells, G. B. Fett and D. J. Spaulding. It had a capacity of 50,000 feet of lumber a day — a very good production figure for those days. Machinery was attached for production of laths shingles and pickets as well as other small pieces of lumber used in construction.

Nearby was a planing mill owned by J. A. Smith. It produced staves, boxes and other articles. Also local not far away was a flour mill, situated across the tracks and now actually across the street from the Pete Reide home here.

1,000 Population

Montrose was a thriving community of 1,000 persons and was surrounded by magnificant farm country which also helped the community grow.

But the eventful year of 1908 saw the beginning of the end of these industries. It was in that year that construction of the dam at Keokuk got underway. It also saw a change in the industrial picture for Montrose and although many efforts were made, it seemed that the town was just not able to make a comeback from this set-back to its industrial progress. Factories, stores and other buildings located near the river had to be moved back. Many were just dismantled and never moved back.

The rapids and canal, which had been a boon to Montrose, therefore, became its nemesis

It is said that in the picture, dismantling of the saw mill preparatory to its going out of existence, had already begun.

Lumber in Many Homes

Yet Montrose has vivid memories of this sawmill. Many of the sturdiest homes in town were built

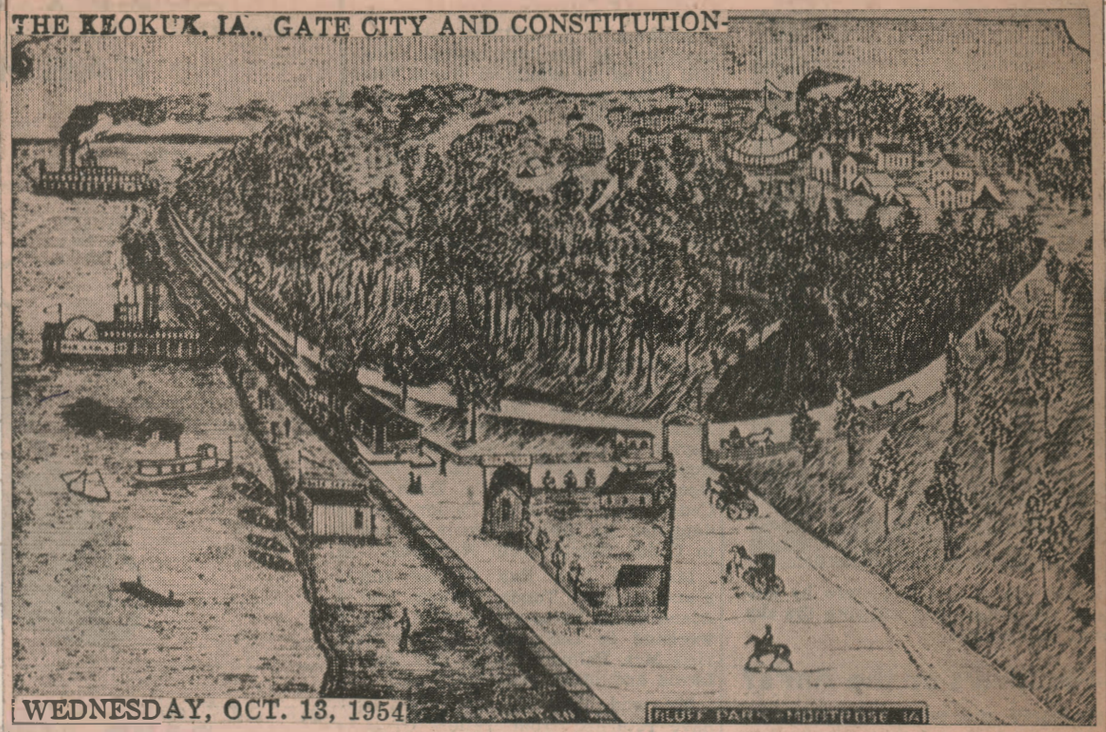
SHOWN ABOVE is the Montrose sawmill of another day, built in about 1877 by three pioneer Montrose manufacturers, Guy Wells, G. B. Fett and D. J. Spaulding. This picture is said to have been taken at the time that the saw mill was being prepared for dismantling. It was going out of business because of the high cost of bringing lumber into Montrose after native lumber supply could not keep up with the demand. This picture, incidentally, is the possession of William Sailor, Montrose, who has a valuable collection of old memory pictures of Montrose. It is said to be the most complete in this section of Iowa, depicting the early history of the area. Included are many excellent reproductions of early steamers which plied the waters of the Mississippi. Some of the photos are of steamers which still navigate on the Mississippi or other rivers. The picture of the sawmill was taken by Robert Owens and John Keil, whose hobbies of that day was photography. Special credit goes to Mr. Sailor for use of the picture.

from native lumber processed at this mill. Those homes are in good condition today almost as much as when they were built, attesting to the quality of the lumber produced from native wood in this area.

Many residents may not recall, but it is known that shavings from the sawmill were strewn over the streets of Montrose of that day and then treated to form a coating which was the first form of "black-topping" done in the community. Actually it was more of "blond-topping" because of the color of the shavings when mixed with oil or other material to form the coating. It was certainly better than mud, but not to be compared with the black-topping or rock surfacing done today.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
by J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Bluff Park Had Its Big Day As Famous Recreation Resort



By MRS. RUSSELL HANCOCK

MONTROSE, Ia.—Summer has gone, fall's crisp cool air is now bringing out the beautiful colors that only nature can paint along picturesque Lake Keokuk between the dam and Montrose. Thus the season for summer resorts is passing.

But many residents of lower Lee county, Montrose, and perhaps even in Keokuk will remember the days when Bluff Park, near Montrose to the south, was one of the most famous spots in all Lee county. How famous it was in its "big day" is brought out by the following statement published more than 50 years ago:

"Bluff Park is one of the most beautiful spots on earth!"

That statement may seem a bit grandiose to the average reader today, but not to those who know the history of Montrose and the grandeur which once marked Bluff Park as a summer resort, community recreation area and camp grounds for that "old camp meetin' tonight" Let us take you back in print and picture (above). Nostalgic memories will go along with some who read these lines, because they will recall some of the happiest moments of their younger lives!

Bluff Park in its Day

Perhaps it will be hard to believe, but Bluff Park, in its day, attracted thousands of persons from all over the Middle West. Special trains brought in huge delegations of youth campers from the churches; big camp meetings of various categories were held there; the Rev. Sam Jones preached to packed houses each week in that "tabernacle" affair you see in the picture above—with the rounded roof.

Not alone did the trains bring them in "droves" but in those days the boats brought them by the hundreds every summer to beautiful Bluff Park. Why so beautiful?—because it presents the natural beauty of the Mississippi from a high vantage point and at one time the entire bluff was covered with beautful wild roses supposedly planted by Louis Honore Tesson, originally in 1790. Eventually they died out.

The Picture Presents:

Let's take a look at the picture for a moment: This picture was printed in 1905 and taken from the now defunct Montrose Journal. Perhaps the cut will not reproduce it, but the picture shows a long train pulling into the "Bluff Park station" (not Montrose!)

A Mr. Cassidy and Bill Allcott met these trains with covered wagon and spring wagon taxis and took the loads of passengers up that incline you see at the right. Sam Dayton and his wife and children lived in a house on the bluff (not shown). He acted as sort of caretaker, apparently. He owned the boat house seen on the left side of the cut. He also owned the rowboats, used for pleasure cruises on the Mississippi of that day (before the dam and Lake Keokuk). One could also go fishing in the boats, of course.

The sternwheeler seen on the cut is the "Hope" which did a big business in those days, hauling hundreds of Bluff Park summer vacationists up and down the Mississippi. The large boat in the background is a freighter of that day, but it could also double as an excursion boat. The buildings in the direct center of the picture are all restaurants and they did a thriving business, too. Actually, most of this is now out in Lake Keokuk, at least near the shore. This was before the days of the old canal there, too.

Old timers will recall boats stopped at Keokuk above the rapids, discharged passengers and cargoes; they were hauled down below the rapids to about the foot of Main street where the boarded southbound boats —hence Keokuk got its name—Gate City. (Gateway to the north and south).

The road going up to the park is still there, but is densely overgrown with shrubs and weeds and unusable.

Even a Medical College

Historic records to which we have had access state emphatically that Bluff Park once housed a medical college! This was not the one in Keokuk—and it didn't last nearly as long. A few years after its establishment, it became defunct and the building later became an apartment house. Today it exists only in memory of a few who still are living, as do most of the other extensive buildings which were once a part of beautiful Bluff Park.

Dozens of cottages and tents dotted the Bluff Park of this era. People thought nothing of sleeping out in tents while on vacation. Today it is still used by King's Daughters as a summer camp and there are many privately owned cottages still used

each summer.

But gone are the grand pavilion, the great assembly hall where Sam Jones so fervently preached hell, fire and damnation—or else, the recreation facilities that brought crowds of hundreds each week. Did you know Bluff Park once had a huge dining hall that would comfortably and adequately seat 500 people for dinner? Many a young girl in this area made her "pin money" serving tables in those days.

Bluff Park was a mecca for homecomings, family reunions, assemblies (outdoors) for dozens of organizations in southeast Iowa. And where else, especially today, could you find a big, polished clean barrel full of cold lemonade wherein all you needed to do was to take the tin cup off its hook and help yourself! Bluff Park had it.

Admission was only a dime. In those days a dime was equal to a dollar, or even a five-spot today in some respect! At any rate girls (and boys, too, of course) were not above the idea of having one of their number pay the 10c admission fee, attracting the gatekeeper's attention while many others sneaked in by ways we won't discuss here. After all, it was more fun spending that thin dime inside, rather than just giving it to the gatekeeper.

Concerts and Jazz Bands

Bluff Park boasted that you could listen each Sunday afternoon to an uplifting concert by a 20 piece band —and then unlimber at night to a jazz orchestra. Music-appreciation covered a wide span in the heyday of Bluff Park, they tried to cover the field from the sublime to the ridiculous. It just depended upon your point of view and Bluff Park catered to the crowds, realizing "zoot-suiters" of that day had a few pieces of change as well as the tuxedoes.

One landmark of Bluff Park still remains. It is the ancient and honorable artesian well. Ancient because it was one of the first dug and deepest in all southeast Iowa, honored because its water was shipped for hundreds of miles in all directions of Bluff Park for health purposes. Perhaps the old well isn't used much today, but as far as we know, it is still there.

Bluff Park has changed hands many times in the generations that have come and gone. At one time the property belonged to southeast Iowa Methodists who used it as a thriving church camp. Charlie Gregg purchased it from the Methodists and converted it into a summer resort. It was purchased by John Whittaker in 1916 and sold to Walter Phillips, later, who held it until 1927. In that year R. V. McCutcheon purchased it and in 1934 Mr. Phillips bought it back. He is the present owner.

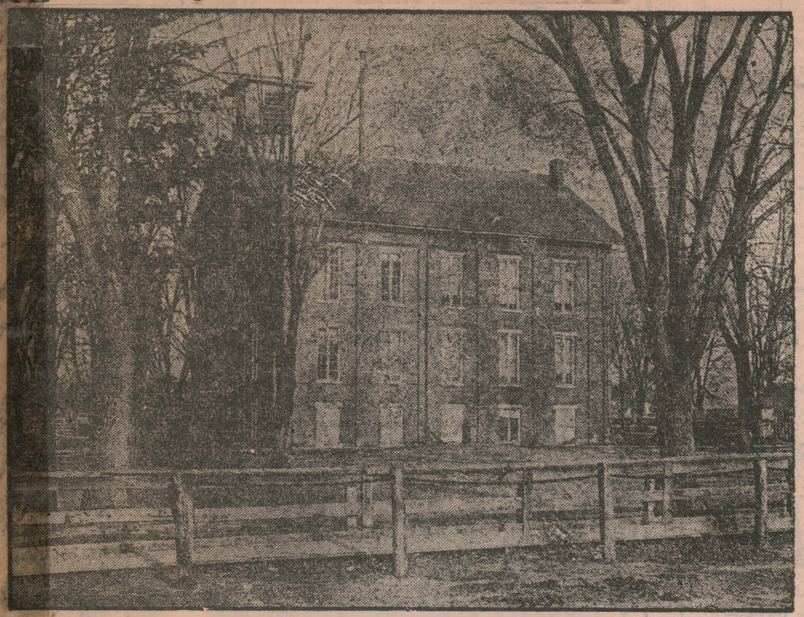
Next time you drive up Montrose way and pass what is now only a weeded area just below the park, you can recall that 50, 60 or so years ago, this spot was one of the most popular in all Lee county—the days when Bluff Park was the "Okoboji of the Mississippi", the days when the colorful Lake of the Ozarks was just a meandering stream!

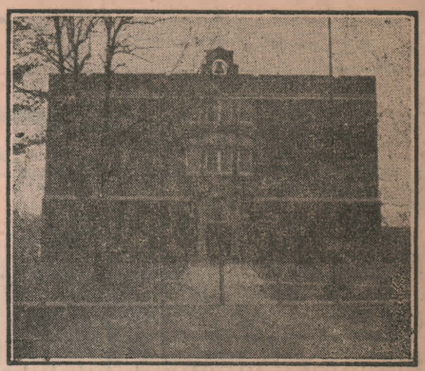
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. T. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

157.

Scene of First Commencement and Present School

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY





At left is old Montrose school from which the first class was graduated 50 years ago this week. Above is new school, erected on same site about 10 years ago. Most of the data for the accompanying story was secured by Mrs. Cora Wahrer, Gate City correspondent, from Mrs. Frank Sawyer of Sandusky, one of the three members of the class. Cut furnished by Louis Wahrer.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1937

* *

Three Girls Made Up Graduation Class Of the Montrose High School Fifty Years Ago

(Gate City Tri-State News)

MONTROSE, Iowa, April 3—It was fifty years ago last Thursday that the first graduation class of Montrose high school received its diplomas.

Members of that initial class, three girls, remain alive today and hope to have a reunion soon. They were then Bessie Sloanaker, Clara Fisher and Anna Anderson, all of Montrose. Today they are Miss Bessie Sloanaker of Seattle, Wash., Mrs. Clara Whitton of Tacoma, Wash., and Mrs. Frank Sawyer who lives near Sandusky.

"Not the Most, But Best."

Invitations were delivered personally to each family in Montrose by the three graduates. On the cards was printed also the Latin motto of the class, translated "Not the Most, but the Best."

George H. Duty was the principal of the school at the time and it was through his efforts and the co-operation of the three excellent students and their families that the first class was graduated.

The invitations stated that the commencement exercises were to be held "Friday evening, April 1, 8 o'clock at the city hall." Reference was made to the city hall because the building, erected about 1870, had also housed the municipal departments.

J. J. Dofflemeyer of Keokuk, was Lee county superintendent of schools, and he delivered the principal address of the evening. Diplomas were presented by Principal Duty in behalf of the school board, of which E. Cooper was president and Finley Johnson was secretary.

Vocal duets were sung by Miss Anderson and Principal Duty and a vocal selection was also sung by a trio composed of Miss Clara Fisher, Miss Anderson and George M. Reeves. The accompanist was Mrs. Lena L. Bowen.

The stage was decorated with palms and other house plants. Cut flowers at that season were rare, but each of the three young graduates received a bouquet from Garret Fisher who had spent a large part of one day driving to Keokuk with a horse and buggy to secure them.

Plan Reunion Soon.

After graduation from the old high school, the three young women continued their work of higher education and since then have been successful in their chosen fields.

Mrs. Sawyer is planning to have as her guests this spring and early summer the two classmates who now live in the west. Thus when the graduates of the Montrose high school gather for their annual alumni banquet, the class of 1887 will answer roll call 100 per cent.

PROGRAM
First Annual Commencement
MontroseHigh School
April 1, 1887

Invocation.
Piano solo, "The Storm ..... Bessie Parker
Essay, "Earth's Battle Fields" ..... Anna Anderson
Essay, "Cariacatures ..... Clara Fisher
Vocal duet, "Moonlight, Music, Love and Flowers.
Oration "Individual Character Building" ... Bessie Sloanmaker
Vocal Duet ..... "Life's Dream is O'er"
Address ..... J. J. Dofflemeyer
Presentation of Diplomas.
Trio ..... "O, Restless Seas"
Benediction.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

159-

St. Joseph's at Montrose to observe its centennial

The town of Montrose enjoys two enviable historical distinctions: The first white men to place foot on Iowa soil did so at what is now Montrose. The second relates to the first house built in Lee county also a Montrose first.

In the chronology of Lee county—Page 366—of "The Story of Lee County, Iowa," Items No. 1 states: "June 21, 1673 (Father) Marquette and Louis Joliet landed near Montrose on their voyage down the Mississippi, and were the first white men to set foot upon Iowa soil." Item No. 2 states: "——1796—Louis Honore Tesson settled where the town of Montrose now stands on a grant of land given him by the Spanish government of Louisiana." Keokuk's first house was built in 1820, Ft. Madison's in 1808.

The same chronology also lists this item: "The few Catholics living at Montrose built a neat brick church in 1860—and there is a Catholic church at String Prairie, but both places are without resident priests and are attended from Farmington."

The Daily Gate City

6 — KEOKUK, IOWA TUESDAY, SEPT. 20, 1960

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH in Montrose will observe its centennial on Sunday, October 2 with the Most Rev. Ralph L. Hayes, bishop of the diocese of Davenport celebrating the jubilee mass at 8:30 a.m. Brick for the little church was made in Montrose, some of it on the site, and the stone also came from Lee county.

—Daily Gate City Photo

Bishop Hayes here

In this connection the Rev. O. H. Kiefer, pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Montrose, (and chaplain of St. Joseph hospital, Keokuk) announces the centennial of the parish, to be celebrated on October 2 of this year of 1960. This 100th anniversary of St. Joseph's will be honored by a visit from the Most Rev. Ralph L. Hayes, bishop of the diocese of Davenport. Bishop Hayes will be the celebrant of the mass at 8:30 a. m.,, standard time, and will also preach the sermon.

Following the mass a breakfast will be served in the Montrose high school gym for families of the parish.

W. J. Reddy, in acting as "historian" of the jubilee parish, states that the history of St. Joseph parish is somewhat nebulous, depending almostly entirely on tradition, and on information available from present residents (and in turn from their deceased parents and relatives).

Rev. James Taner

Although the "Mission" of Montrose was, undoubtedly, served by Fathers Alleman, DeCally, Trevis, Heer, Dunn, Goffrey, and other missionaries who served Keokuk and Ft. Madison in those early years, the first pastor "remembered" by the present parishioners or (their deceased kinfolk) is Father James Taner, who was followed by Father James Troy, Dennis Ryan, Henry Schaeffers, Jas. Baumler and John Daley.

The pastors better remembered for their service to the parish include Father Vincent Phillips (pastor at Farmington), Rev. Michael Moriarity (also Farmington), Monsignor James W. Gillespie (St. Peter's Keokuk), Rev. James Peters (St. Joseph hospital, Keokuk) and the present pastor, Rev. O. H. Kiefer.

Fr. Peters 24 years

Father Peters served St. Joseph's parish from 1932 until 1956—24 years of faithful and appreciated tenure. During these years Father Peters ministered to his "beloved parishioners at Montrose" with the celebration of Mass every Sunday—to say nothing of Catechism classes. First Holy Communion and confirmation groups. The ceremonies of the sacrament of ma-

BEAUTIFUL ALTAR of St. Joseph parish in Montrose which will celebrate its 100th birthday Sunday, October 2, was given to the church by the Sisters of Charity after their new convent was built in Keokuk and a new altar was donated by Keokuk people. —Daily Gate City Photo

trimony as well as the administrating of the last rites of extreme unction to the dying —all of these are beloved memories of his parishioners —and certainly of Father Peters, that makes his retirement at St. Joseph hospital one of truly pleasant memories.

Father Kiefer has cared for this fine "mission" church these past four years in addition to his duties at St. Joseph hospital as chaplain.

Family names

The names of families appearing in the records list these names in the early history of St. Joseph parish: Fallon, Shay, McCarthy, Ryan, Flanagan, Gallagher, Finnerty, O'Conner, Farrell, Dugan, Slattery, Leeper, Hickey, McBride, Hatton, Dillon, Foley, O'Brien, Boyle, Arthur and others.

The "physical" history of St. Joseph church indicates the land being purchased from Walter I. Riddick. The lumber was sawed by the saw mill in Montrose. The pews were hand made and continuous in use to the present time. The bricks were made in Montrose, some being made on the site where the church stands. The stone was delivered from various sources in Lee county —some as far distant as West Point.

The mission of St. Joseph's was made possible through the planning and persevering efforts of the early settlers listed above. Tradition reveals that the number of Catholic families were increased at the time of the building of the canal, and it was through the combined efforts these "new" and "old" families, through meetings, contributions and personal work that the present church was built.

Interior redecorated

Within the last several years the interior of the church has been completely redecorated, with new tile floor and new altar drapes.

On the occasion of the building of the new Sisters convent in St. Peter parish a new altar was donated and the altar which had served the Sisters so long was given to St. Joseph church and in 1959 a new organ was installed.

Reddy pointed out that some 40 families worship in this particularly nice parish of southeastern Iowa, with Mass celebrated by its pastor, Rev. O. H. Kiefer, on Sundays, holidays and many other occasions throughout the year.

He further stated that no American cathedral can boast of a finer attitude between pastor and parishioners—between these parishioners and citizens of other faiths. There is no room for lines of demarcation among creeds and beliefs in this friendly little community of the annual Watermelon festivals, and such, participated in by "all" the citizens of Montrose.

It is with this grand feeling of friendly relations, that congratulations and best wishes are offered to the pastor and his parishioners on this important and happy occasion, by every citizen of this enviable historic town—this spot where whitemen first set foot on Iowa soil—this spot that boasts the first house erected in Lee county—this "home" of Fort Des Moines, established in 1834—this friendly town of St. Joseph's parish—100 years "old" on October 2.

Reddy acknowledges historical data furnished by R. J. Bickel, Al Weber and Ray Garrison.

XXX

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

ntered in Keokuk postoffice as 2d class matter

SUNDAY. AUG. 16, 1914

Random Sketches

Early Montrose Mystery.

Among the early incidents of this locality is related a startling incident which occurred at Montrose in which a citizen came very near losing his life at the hands of an infuriated mob, and who was only saved by the determined efforts of a brave official.

This remarkable story of the details of that exciting occurrence was related to the writer by Mr. A. W. Griffith, then an old resident of Keokuk, who had figured conspicuously in the early affairs of the county. The very place where he related the story and notes taken of it are still vivid in memory. It was on Fifth street in front of the building in which Justice Leindecker now has his office and it was about a quarter of a century ago. Mr. Griffith long since joined the innumerable caravan of honored pioneers and old settlers of the "Half Breed" tract. Mr. Griffith was an eye witness of many of the stirring scenes connected with the tragedy which he described.

He thought that it was in 1846 that a man by the name of Walsworth and Malancthon Knight were the proprietors of a wharf boat at Montrose. Walsworth was a married man and Knight was single, using a little back room in the back of the boat as a sleeping apartment. In the middle of the boat they kept a bar. After a time they disagreed and Knight bought Walsworth's interest, but they remained bitter enemies, and Walsworth was frequently heard to make threats that he would get even with Knight. One morning a citizen of Montrose went on board the wharf boat quite early to get his bitters, a custom very fashionable in those days, and practiced to some extent even now, and this early-rising citizen was surprised to see a trail of blood leading from the front door of the bar room to the outer guard on the river side of the boat. He then instituted a search through the boat and found nobody there. Passing through the bar into the back room he noticed some paper and a pen and ink on a small stand. Further investigation revealed a half-written letter, evidently in the handwriting of Knight, and addressed to his sister, showing bloodstains upon it. But the searching citizen went aboard for a drink, and blood or no blood, he was going to have it. So he went behind the bar and after helping himself, he discovered a hatchet, ghastly with blood and hair and Knight's hat, with a hole cut in it, daubed with blood and hair. Considerable blood was also found upon the floor of the bar room. He gave the alarm, and the village was aroused. Suspicion pointed strongly to Walsworth. He was arrested and blood was found upon his shirt bosom and his handkerchief. The mob raised the wild cry of "hang him," and all that saved him was the resolution and firmness of Peter Miller, now dead, but at the time of this story, was still an old settler, a resident of Fort Madison, who was sheriff at the time of this exciting incident.

But where was the body of Knight? That was the anxious and exciting question. The citizens sent across the river to Nauvoo, Ill., and got a Mormon cannon, which they fired repeatedly, thinking that Knight's body was in the waters of the Mississippi river and there being quite an eddy at that point, would not drift far. But the booming of the cannon brought nothing to the surface. Knight had lived some time at Keokuk, and his brother John Knight was still a resident here when Mr. Griffith told the story; so many of the friends of the family of Keokuk, only twelve miles away from the "maddening crowd," rushed to Montrose with vengeance in their minds and a determination to hang Walsworth.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the regular packet from St. Louis arrived at Keokuk, and a boy about ten or twelve years of age got off the boat. He was the son of old Mother Jordan, who lived in the famous Rat Row, on the levee in Keokuk.

"He was a very bad boy and seldom told the truth," said Mr. Griffith, "if he could think of a lie." He commenced telling that he saw Melancthon Knight below Hannibal, Mo., drifting down the river in a skiff, hatless. Dan Hine, Charlie Moore and others, thinking it another of the boy's lies, threatened to whip him and scared the boy until he said he did not see Knight. But John Knight and James Mackley were not satisfied. They boarded the boat and started on the downward trip, but they could hear nothing of the missing man until they arrived at St. Louis. There they struck his trail and found him in Jefferson barracks where he had enlisted in the government service for five years.

In those days there were no railroads nor telegraph lines and the best the two men could do was to take a packet boat back to Keokuk. After an absence of forty-eight hours they landed at home at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and all this time the brave sheriff was fighting with the mob at Montrose. As soon as the boat landed at Keokuk, John Knight and Mackley got the best horses they could find and ran them to Montrose. Arriving there they found that the mob had Walsworth out of jail and under a tree with a rope around his neck and one end thrown over a limb. The courageous sheriff was standing there, pistol in hand, swearing:

"I will shoot the first man that dares to pull on that rope!"

You can scarcely imagine the feelings of that mob when the two Keokuk horsemen came dashing up, their animals foaming with sweat, and informed the swaying and excited gathering that Knight was still living and well. Walsworth was at once set free and became a citizen of Fort Madison where he remained until his death only a few years previous to Mr. Griffith's relating to the writer the details of this story.

Mr. Griffith's story of the theory of this affair forms a thrilling sequel and adds an interesting phase to the tumultuous and dangerous incident which came near causing the violent and disgraceful death of an innocent man. At the time of the occurrence, an old tramp had been lying around Montrose, full of whisky when he could get it. He never had any money and was very quarrelsome when under the influence of liquor. He slept in the stables about the village, nobody knowing his name, and nobody seeming to care whether he had a name or not. Very likely the old tramp went aboard the wharf boat late at night for whisky and got into a fight with Knight. Perhaps he drew a knife on him and Knight, probably in self-defense, dealt him a fatal blow with the hatchet. Seeing what he had done, under the excitement he drew the body of the dead tramp along the floor to the outer guard of the boat and dumped it into the river.

As to Knight's hat, found besmeared with blood and hair, Knight may have cut the hole and daubed it for the purpose of creating the impression that he was killed, thinking that if he remained, murder would out and he would get into trouble over the affair. He took what money he had, jumped into a skiff and quietly drifted down the river to St. Louis, where he was found by his brother and James Mackley. As further evidence of this theory, the old tramp was never seen in Montrose after the memorable night. Mr. Griffith added that he had talked to ex-Sheriff Miller on the subject within a year, and he agreed with him in the solution of the mystery.

SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL ARCHIVES
KEOKUK IOWA

DECEMBER 17, 1913.

INDIAN'S BONES ARE DUG UP

FOUND AT QUARRY NEAR MONTROSE BY WORKMAN.

BONES WERE DECAYED

STRING OF BEADS DISCOVERED IN STRANGE GRAVE.

In Excavating to Dig Out Steam Roller Remains Were Discovered Under 15 Inches of Earth.

Montrose, Dec. 17.—While George and Press Davis were operating a steam rolier for the Water Power company near a creek near Montrose the machine slid down a slight embankment where the ground was quite soft and in getting it back on the road it was necessary to excavate to a depth of about fifteen inches in order to pry out one wheel, which had sunk down into the mud. Imagine their surprise when they discovered that they had dug into an Indian grave.

The grave was on little bench near the back of a small creek, where the ground seemed to be washed down three or four feet lower than the surrounding country, and that prabably accounts for the fact that the remains were found so near he surface.

Further excavating disclosed the full length of the grave, though the bones were almost entirely decayed, the skull even having gone to pieces. This would indicate that the interment had been made perhaps early in the nineteenth century, as human bones retain their form and solidity for a very long time.

In the case of the soldier whose bones were found in the basement of the Episcopal church, the bones were not decayed, and the skull was intact. This interment must have taken place somewhere between 1834 and 1838, as that was the time five companies of dragoons were stationed here and a row of soldier buttons provedthe remains to be those of a soldier.

In the case of the Indian above mentioned the bones were all decayed and gone to pieces, but the identity of the sleeper was clearly shown by finding a handful of beads about that part of the grave where the chest would have been. These consisted of seven different kinds. Some were of copper and resembled sleighbells, about one inch in diameter, with the little ball still inside. Another kind was soft as chalk and about one inch long and resembling macaroni. The others were of different sizes, some of copper and some of agate or cornelia.

No investigation has been made to ascertain whether or not an Indian cemetery was located on the bank of this stream, but this was probably the case, as Indians were known to have set aside cemeteries for the burial of their dead.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, '10

MEMORIES OF OLD MONTROSE

Pioneer Merchant of that Town Writes Very Entertainingly of Early Days in that Nearby Town

KENNEDY A PRINCIPAL

Man Who is Now Congressman Was at Head of Fine School Building Completed in the Year 1870.

Charles H. Petten, pioneer merchant of Montrose, continues his very interesting memories of old Montrose in the Burlington Post. In his latest chapter he tells of many of the old land marks. His article follows:

After refreshing my memory, I will now mention some old land marks that I overlooked in my former articles.

There was an old stone house that stood on the southwest corner of Main and Second streets from the river front, where E. J. Hamlet kept store, and afterwards took into partnership S. S. Bonar. This firm then built a two-story brick building where Charles Allen now has his store. That old stone house was removed, and W. J. Fischer put up a small frame house for a shoe shop, also dry goods and groceries, who in after years moved to Washington territory, when the big mill was moved to that territiry.

Garven Hamilton had erected the two-story brick store building on that corner, where he did business until he sold out to Robert Woster, about 1876.

The Reeves families, Oliver, Manassah, Phil. W. and James, came to Montrose about 1852.

Oliver Reeves acquired the brick store building from Hamlet & Bonar and succeeded that firm in business, and was appointed postmaster by President Lincoln.

Manassah Reeves was a tailor, and in a few years built up a general merchandise business. P. W. Reeves was a stone mason and plasterer, and James Reeves a carpenter, other old-time citizens that I now recall to memory, that were living in Montrose when the big coffer dam was there, are Thomas Ward, drug store, and Robert Master, J. B. Kiel, hardware.

R. Master, general merchandise, G. G. Hamilton and Garven Hamilton, Robert Allen, groceries; W. J. Fischer & Son, Thomas Hough, furniture and undertaker; Patten & Baum, boat store and coal yard.

Fred Green was proprietor of the Gault house. P. W. Bowen kept the Bowen house. Pete Haubert and Will Walthers had the meat markets, Martin Spring made the beer at his brewery for the six or seven saloons.

The fine school building was completed in 1870, and when it was about completed Henry Winther, the president of the school board, fell from the roof to the ground and was killed. That school house stands as a credit to the Montrose independent school district, in which many young people have acquired a good education and gone out and "made good" in the world. Hon. C. A. Kennedy was the principal of that school for a number of terms.

There are some old land marks remaining in the old town that were there in 1849. The old Coleman brick house that is on the north side of the street from Capt. J. D. Hamilton, the one-story brick house where Alonzo Crandel lives is where McFarland, a lawyer, lived, afterwards moving up to Boonsboro and elected judge. A two-story brick house on the west side of Second street from the river, opposite where Henry Moore lived, was there in 1849, and was there the last time I was in Montrose. The frame building where Dave Houghton lives was built by Fred Burleigh, a wagon maker, and is one of the old-timers, as well as the frame house on Main street.

Next to Wahrer and Stanwood's store was where E. J. Hamlet resided in 1849. There was another frame house moved from Nauvoo on the ice to Montrose that stood on Front street, John Carroll moved it from where it stood to the corner of Second and ——— street, which he occupied as a residence until his death.

There is a lot more I could tell about old times in Montrose, but this will suffice for the present.

CHARLES H. PATTEN.

SUNDRY ACCOUNTS

Des Moines Sunday Register
Dec. 6, 1959
General Section
22-G

Catlin's Visit Declared to First Fort Des Moines

To the Open Forum Editor:

You are to be congratulated on the fine pictures and story in the picture section of the Sunday, Nov. 29, Register covering McCracken's book about George Catlin. The colored pictures reproduced are very fine. I am sure many people are grateful to you for these fine color pictures of some of the Indians, famous in Iowa history.

CATLIN

However, there is an error in the printed story on Page 13. Your article states that "Catlin and his wife, Clara, came up from the mouth of the Des Moines river to the present site of Des Moines."

Actually Catlin put his wife on a steamboat at Keokuk and then in his canoe went back up the Mississippi to Fort Des Moines which was at the head of the Des Moines Rapids, where the town of Montrose is situated. From this spot he traveled overland to the Sac and Fox Indian camp located on the Des Moines river.

McCracken makes the same mistake in his book and you evidently took your information from his book. However, in Catlin's own account he says: ". . . and at the foot of the rapids (Des Moines Rapids) I placed my wife on the steamer for St. Louis, in company with friends, when I had some weeks to return on my track and revert back again to the wild and romantic life that I occasionally love to lead. I returned to Camp (Fort) Des Moines."

I think it should be made clear that the first Fort Des Moines was at Montrose (the present town) at the head of the old Des Moines Rapids.

—Alois J. Weber, R. F. D. No. 2, Keokuk, Ia.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4.

—The Montrose *Vindicator* needs to vindicate itself a little. For three weeks the subscribers have seen neither the proprietor nor the paper, and we are told that it has joined the innumerable caravan of non-paying institutions, and is far up the place where the traditional woodbine twineth. So is some three or four hundred dollars paid out by the citizens of the vicinity.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6.

The "Vindicator"---A Correction.

MONTROSE, IOWA, Dec. 5th, 1876.

EDITOR CONSTITUTION: I noticed an item in the CONSTITUTION of the 4th inst., in which you say the Montrose *Vindicator* has "joined the caravan of non-paying institutions," and "is far up the place where the traditional woodbine twineth." Well, it has, but the proprietor, Mr. W. C. Brown, did fulfill every contract he made to the citizens of Montrose to the letter. He agreed to publish the *Vindicator* for three months at Burlington, and at the end of that time if he met with encouragement enough he would bring press and material to Montrose. The encouragement he did not get, consequently the *Vindicator* went where others have gone before. As for the proprietor getting ahead of the citizens of Montrose and vicinity it is a mistake; he only took his just dues and nothing more. All subscriptions, &c., that were paid over and above the thirteen weeks of its publication, were returned to the parties paying the same. Anything else to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Yours, &c.,

J. B. KIEL.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 30,

MONTROSE MENTION.

How This Town Enjoyed the Show—Other Notes.

Special Correspondence.

Old John Robinson's big show was here yesterday, and in consequence the citizens and little folks donned their best "bib and tucker," and assumed metropolitan airs for the day. There was considerable disappointment among the farmers and mill men because they did not give but one entertainment; but we do not see how the people could expect such a stupendous affair to make "a stand" in such small towns as this, to say nothing about giving two entertainments. Robinson is justly entitled to all that he claims—the biggest show on earth. We had the pleasure of meeting some friends who are connected with the show, in their several capacities; Sol. A. Shane, purchasing agent, we steamboated with twenty years ago, and Austin Campbell, the clown—we have tipped many a social —— with in New Orleans in 1865–66, and there is Jas. Hutchinson, who is never satisfied unless he is introducing some new novelties to the public.

We also had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with Mr. Chas. A. Jones, press agent, who is an affable and courteous gentleman, and his genial disposition makes one loth to part with him.

PAT FORSHORT.

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF
FOLIO | CK | CREDITS
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY" R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

165.

DAILY GATE CITY

MONTROSE CHURCH NEARLY AS OLD AS THE TOWN ITSELF

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1934

MONTROSE, Iowa, April 2.—The First Presbyterian church in Montrose was organized in 1846. The town of Montrose was laid out and named in 1837. Captain James White settled in this community in the year 1832. The early pioneers were a fine sturdy class of people who came from the east and south principally an destablished their homes, churches and schools in the new country. Rev. G. C. Beoman came to Montrose as a missionary and taught school and in the course of a short period of time the First Presbyterian church was organized by him, September 13, 1846. Services for six months were held in the homes of those who were interested. The place of meeting after this period of time was in the school house until the year 1852, when a frame building was erected during the pastorate of Rev. E. D. Holt. This church was in constant use until the new edifice was erected in 1924, with the dedication services held Sunday, September 21, 1924. The charter members of the church organized in 1846 were: Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Beckley, Mrs. Amelia C. Beaman, Mr. and Mrs. George Singley, Mr. and Mrs. David Bouler, Mrs. Marie LaFevre, Mrs. Jane Burkholder, Mrs. Fidelia Bishop, Mrs. Lucindia S. Fisher, Mrs. Sarah Brown. The old church stood on the same site on which the new church was erected. The old church was kept in good repair during the years of service and improvements were added from time to time as they were needed. The former pastors of the church are named in the order of their pastorate: Reverends G. C. Beaman, E. D. Holt, A. Van Stavern, Wm. Kendrick, A. Thompson, W. Waldenmire, P. M. Phillips, R. Burgess, C. R. French, S. R. Belville, G. C. Beaman, second pastorate; J. T. Bliss, R. McCoy, C. M. Lombard, H. R. Pearirs, W. P. Nelson, J. A. Markham, W. E. Fisher, W. J. Creswell, Frank W. Throw, J. A. Aleander, G. J. Schillerstrom, A. G. Beecham, A. S. Covert, Louis T. Hughes, H. B. Reed, L. L. Spaulding and W. P. Hanson.

When the old church was found to be inadequate to meet the needs especially of the Sunday school. As a result work and plane were begun for the erection of a new church and every member aided in the enterprise and undertaking. Every branch of the church at that time went to work with new zeal and interest to help in raising and contributing funds and on the day of the dedication everything was satisfactorily arranged. That was almost ten years ago and the pastor at that time, the Rev. Louis T. Hughes, is now in Wales. H. B. Reed who same after him in succession, is in Missouri and the Rev. L. L. Spaulding is in Farmington, Ill. The present pastor, Rev. W. P. Hanson, has also the charge of the Second Presbyterian church in Keokuk, Iowa.

At the time of the erection of the new edifice ten years ago, the officers of the church were the following: Board of elders, E. T. Curtis, Curtis Younkin, John C. Wardlow, Robert Grimes, John Valkinberg. Board of trustees, John Megchelsen, Charles H. Curtis, William Younkin. Building committee, Louis Wahrer, Charles H. Curtis, John Megchelsen. Finance committee, Robert L. Reed, Curtis Younkin, John C. Wardlow.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

Fort Des Moines Originally Built at Montrose in 1834

SEPT. 6, 1946

Mention of Fort Des Moines during war years brought to mind pictures of thousands of snappy, well-groomed WAC's who then received their training at the bustling fort on the southern limits of Iowa's capital city.

Although this military post has had a colorful history since its first occupation in 1903, it actually is the third establishment to bear this name in Iowa history.

Abandoned in 1837

The first Fort Des Moines was erected by Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny and his dragoons on the present site of Montrose in Lee County in 1834. This post was abandoned in 1837 and the troops moved to Fort Leavenworth. The story of the second Fort Des Moines is told by Dr. John Ely Briggs in the May issue of "The Palimpsest", in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of its founding in 1843.

Fort Des Moines No. 2 was an outgrowth of the Treaty of 1842 whereby the Sauk and Fox Indians relinquished all claims to central Iowa. The Indians had agreed to remove into the western half of this cession by May of 1843 and a fort was accordingly needed to protect them from white encroachments and to enable the government to fulfill its treaty obligations.

Reestablished in 1843

A new Fort Des Moines was established by Captain James Allen and a small force of dragoons early in May of 1843. A steamboat wharf was built, gardens planted, and a storehouse and hospital erected. Small cabins served as barracks for the dragoons, houses were constructed for the officers along the Des Moines, and stables and corrals set up for the horses.

The second Fort Des Moines was a busy place during the summer of 1843. Four officers and forty-eight dragoons arrived from Fort Sanford on May 20th, and a company of infantry the next day. The following November General Winfield Scott reported ninety-nine officers and men at the post. The soldiers worked in the garden and rode over the prairie on military expeditions during the summer. Indians often visited the fort, but the whiskey-selling traders still preyed upon them. The site was abandoned in March, 1846, and promptly became a magnet for city builders.

The Gate City.

= OCTOBER 1, 1897. =

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as econd-Class Matter.

Judge Henry S. Austin of Chicago,on the 1st day of June, 1837, took possession of old Fort Des Moines, at the head of the rapids of the Mississippi, where Montrose now is, having been appointed agent of the United States government in charge of the fort, says the Nauvoo Rustler. He was also agent of the "Des Moines Land company," afterwards known as the "New York company," or Marsh, Lee & Delevan, they owning a large part of the Half-breed Tract. That year, 1837—just sixty years ago—assisted by an engineer named Brattle, he laid out the towns of Montrose and Keokuk. After laying out the town at the head of the rapids they were considering a name for it. They started to come to the foot of the rapids over the bluff, by the prairie road. When reaching the top of the bluff, back of the old fort, he saw a bunch of wild flowers, and he instantly said, "We will call it Mont Rose." He says at that time Dr. Isaac Galland lived on the opposite side of the river from Montrose, and claimed to own the town site of Commerce, which, in 1839, he sold to the Mormons, who afterward changed the name to Nauvoo. Dr. Galland then removed across the river to Nashville. In 1838 Mr. Austin was appointed postmaster at Montrose, succeeding Jacob Huner, who was the first postmaster at that place. David W. Kilbourne succeeded Mr. Austin as agent of the New York company at Montrose, and also as postmaster, Mr. Kilbourne having been appointed postmaster July 27, 1839.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-

It's June and Rose Time— JUNE 10, 1953

Montrose Derives its Name From Wild Flowers on Bluff

By MRS. RUSSELL HANCOCK

MONTROSE, Ia. — Montrose is a beautiful little town nestled along the Mississippi just below picturesque Bluff park. Its name implies beauty—Mount of Roses, so profuse in June. The town was originally named by David Kilbourne, prominent Keokuk leader well known throughout this area. He named it Mount of Roses (later cut to Montrose) because the hillsides along beautiful Bluff park were covered with roses.

Few towns in Iowa can boast more of historical significance than can Montrose. It now has a population of 680 but in the years gone by it once had 2,000 residents, numerous factories and industries. This especially was at the time of the old Keokuk canal and the days of the river steamers.

Marquette Stopped in 1673

Going back to the begnning, it was here on June 21, 1673 that Father Marquette and Louis Joliet, famous explorers of early American territory, stepped ashore. They traded with the Indians — that is Joliet. Father Marquette sought to bring the message of Christianity.

Here also was set out the first orchard in Iowa. It is now beneath Lake Keokuk and waves of the Mississippi because it was along the old canal which was submerged when the Keokuk dam was built in 1912-13. Louis Honore Tesson planted the first orchard on a tract of land given him by the Spanish government of Louisiana in 1796.

In 1832 Capt. James White made a claim and built a home here. This was four years before Lee county came into existence and two years before Lee county was formally established by an act of the Wisconsin legislatude.

Old Fort Des Moines

The early Fort Des Moines was established on what is now Riverview park in Montrose.

Among the thriving industries of more than a century ago were clam digging, saw mills and various other pioneer plants in which hundreds of persons were employed. At one time all boats landed at Montrose to take on or discharge freight—it was a busy waterfront in those days, compared to the scene today where only the Mississippi rolls placidly by.

Montrose is famous for its religious convictions. It is reputed to have more churches—thriving ones too—than any other town in Iowa in proportion to its size. The denominations which have good congregations and satisfactory financial reports each year are Methodist, Presbyterian, Latter Day Saints, Church of the Nazarene, Episcopal and Catholic.

Watermelon Festival.

Montrose also has an active Chamber of Commerce. Foremost among its projects is the annual Montrose watermelon festival. It also has an annual Christmas party for the children and a thriving baseball program in summer—softball, of course. A fine lighted field has recently been built here. A progressive school system is another local accomplishment. There are 80 high school students and 150 elementary pupils enrolled. A new field house and auditorium just constructed seats 850 people. The Montrose school band is also noteworthy. Full dress uniforms were recently purchased.

Montrose is likewise proud of its volunteer fire department. It recently purchased a truck of the most modern and efficient design. The volunteer firemen meet each month.

Today Montrose is perhaps best known for truck gardening, commercial fisheries, orchards and general farming.

Established in 1854.

The original platt of the town was drawn by David Kilbourne of Keokuk and although enlarged and changed as the years went by, it is today basically the same. The town was formally established in 1854 by platting and incorporated in 1857.

Dr. J. M. Anderson was the town's first mayor—elected June 1, 1857. The first industry was the sawmill where 50,000 feet of lumber was cut every day. The first newspaper was established in 1910. Other buildings and business included an opera house, three general stores, a hardware store, drug store, garden tool factory, button factories and coal and lumber yards.

Until several years ago the Nauvoo ferry operated regularly across Lake Keokuk between Nauvoo and Montrose.

What happened to the industries?

Most of them were located along the riverfront. When the dam was built, they were "evacuated" because most of this area is now out in Lake Keokuk. They just moved away from town, rather than re-locate here.

Montrose figured in the early history of the Morman era because the Mormans crossed the frozen Mississippi on their trek to the West. They camped here for several days, unmolested, but decided to head west. Today their descendants visit Montrose along with Nauvoo in order to pick up the old Morman trail here. This trek was started in 1847.

Old Army Well

Another historical fact is that near Riverview park is one of the five wells U. S. government troops used between 1833 and 1837.

Other early pioneers around Montrose in addition to Kilbourne, White and Anderson was Washington Galland (apparently the son of Dr. Isaac Galland), B. F. Anderson and George Prucell.

Older residents will always recall the days when Montrose was that larger community, industrial city in fact, where all steamers stopped, loaded or unloaded and some went over the rapids in lighters, except in high water when many of the steamers could pass over the rapids. Montrose had ship yards for repairs in those days and it was not uncommon to see 15 steamers lined up, most of them waiting to get over the rapids or for cargo to go north.

Montrose even had a touch of the "Old South" because Negro slaves were employed here in the early years and they would take their banjos and sit outside under the trees during the hot summer months, presenting their melodies of banjo and vocal—just like the movies have shown them to have done. It happened in Montrose.

Taught Law to Pioneers

Montrose learned its first civil law from Col. W. Kearney, who was stationed here with a detachment of the U. S Dragoons in 1834. He patiently taught the early pioneers the necessity of law in a growing community and they respected and loved him for the way he enforced law and order, despite his training in military harshness.

Some Montrose historical records maintain that the first printing press to enter Iowa came into Montrose in 1834. J. O. King was its owner. He came from Ohio and eventually settled at Dubuque. These records mention an academy or college here called Riverside Institute with 74 students. The school enrollment of the early days reached 300, this document states.

Some more pioneers listed in this history were:

John Kite in 1837 who came from Kentucky. J B. Keil in 1845. G. S. Lauman, a justice of the peace who came from Norway in 1840. G. W. Meyers from Penn in 1843, R. S. Owens, a pilot on the rapids from Indiana in 1838, H. M. Patton, a boat captain from New York in 1845, D. C. Riddick, attorney from St. Louis 1859, Sam Williams, a pilot on rapids from Ohio in 1838 and T. H. Worthington from England in 1848.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. SICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

167.

Memories of Pioneer Trails in This Section Undimmed by Network of Paved Highways

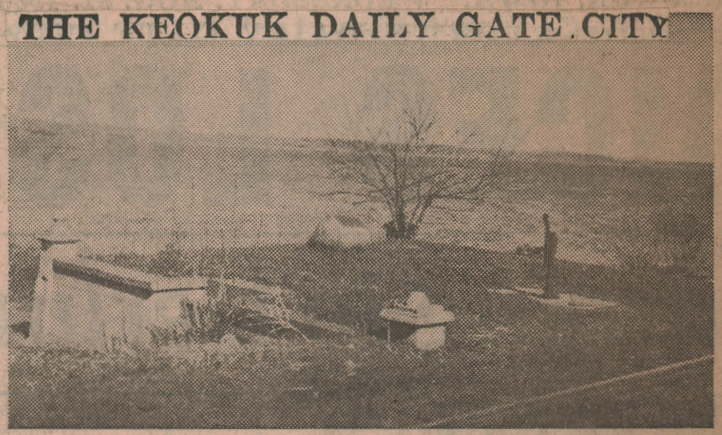
AUG. 31, 1938

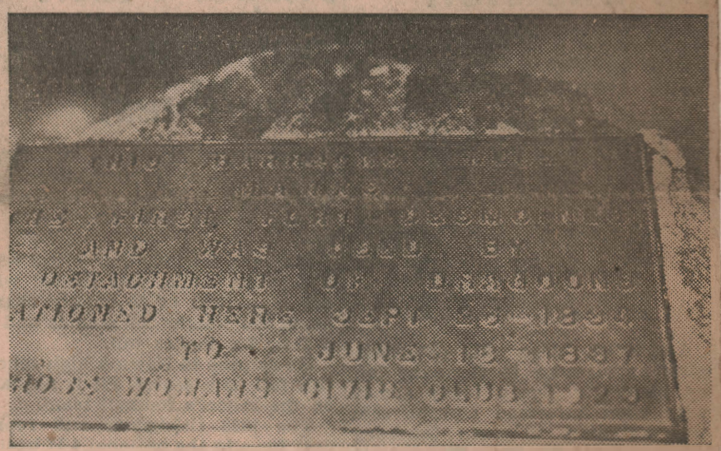
DRAGOON TRAIL BEGINS

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

Paradoxical as it may seem for a state which has a system of concrete highways, Iowa in its centennial year has become trails conscious, and interest is being focussed on the marking of many of the pioneer roads through the state. Of particular local interest are the Dragoon and Mormon trails, and the old military road running into Missouri from northern Iowa. A bronze tablet commemorating the trails was installed in the rebuilt Keokuk monument in Rand park as far back as 1913. Today the marking of the Dragoon trail which begins with the first station of these mounted soldiers at Montrose, too, are interesting features of the state centennial, to people of this section. And out in Van Buren county on Highway No. 3 and No. 1, at their junction, is the old military road marker, indicating the route soldiers took in swift marches of defense.

The dragoons came into Iowa and took up their station at what is now Montrose in 1834. In this company of soldiers was Sgt. James C. Parrott, who later was to become one of the leaders of Iowa soldiers in the Civil war and a beloved figure in post-war Keokuk. His grandson James W. Kirkpatrick lives in Warsaw now. It was in 1833 that Congress passed on act "for the better defense of the frontier by raising a regiment of dragoons to scout the country west of the Mississippi river". On May 19, 1834, pursuant to this act and orders from the war department, Lt. Col. Stephen W. Kearney was instructed to "take up winter quarters on the right bank of the Mississippi within the Indian country near the mouth of the Des Moines". A quartermaster's force sent by Kearney under the command of Lieut. George H. Crosman of the Sixth U. S. Infantry, to select the site chose the location in what is now Montrose, where the old barracks well used by the dragoons is marked by the bronze tablet on the boulder, alongside the pump, enclosed with the concrete wall on the river front just east of the Burlington railroad station.





In the upper picture is shown the spot where the old Barracks well of the first Fort Des Moines was located. In the lower picture is the marker on the boulder, which reads "This barracks well marks the first Fort Des Moines and was used by detachment of Dragoons, stationed here September 25, 1834 to June 18, 1837." The marker was erected by the Montrose Woman's Civic Club in 1923 and dedicated at the time.

ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER

Recruited from every state the three companies of Dragoons, 113 strong, left Fort Gibson and arrived at the mouth of the Des Moines, on September 25, 1834. Lumber was brought from Pittsburgh for the officers quarters built nearest the river. The soldiers' barracks were built in the form of an L and also ran towards the river with a parade ground in the center. Tents housed the men during the building. The story is told that the logs were notched for the barracks and put together before anyone noticed a lack of doors. The building was ordered torn down, but an officer intervened and the lack of doors remedied. Secretary of War Cass named the station Fort Des Moines.

Gen. Parrott, then a member of Crosman's command describing the condition of the country in which the dragoons were to be stationed wrote that "we saw many traces of a former settlement around the camp, the most prominent of which was the old orchard of apple trees a short distance below. (Tesson's famous orchard). The orchard at that time contained some ten or fifteen trees in bearing condition. The fruit was very ordinary being a common seedling. The Indians were in the habit of visiting the orchard and gathering the fruit in its green state, so that none of it, to my knowledge, ever came to perfection. Sage brush grew in the prairie in the rear and remains of dirt and adobe chimneys indicated settlement existed at a former time".

The captains of the three companies which moved into the compieted barracks late in the fall were Edwin V. Sumner, who afterwards became a general in the Union forces in the Civil war; Nathaniel Boone, son of Daniel Boone, Kentucky pioneer, and Jesse B. Brown, who remained in Lee county and became one of the county's early attorneys when he left the army.

DECLARE MARTIAL LAW

Before the dragoons came, it is reported by historians of the section that settlers frequently

were victimized by some of the hordes of unprincipled adventures who hang upon the margin of civilization to prey upon these unprotected communities. Since civil law was not established until after the territory was placed under the domination of Michigan Authorities, the Black Hawk Purchase offered these gentry a fertile field for the operations. When Col. Kearney arrived at the new post which was named Fort Des Moines, he proclaimed martial law throughout the district, for which he was given the everlasting esteem of the pioneers. As Isaac R. Campbell put it, "The names of Brown, Boone and Sumner, captains of these companies will ever be remembered by the surviving pioneers of the Half Breed tract for it was through their vigilance, that civilization here received its first impetus. Their bayonets taught us to respect the rights of others, and from martial law we learned the necessity of a civil code".

Kearney was succeeded by Lt. Col. Mason as commandant of the fort, and in September, 1836, he wrote that a town had been laid off "at this place and lots sold which took part of the garrison." He warned against certain collision between troops and settlers, and while there had been talk of a two mile square reservation for military uses, Mason declared that persons were building within this radius and planned to sell whiskey to the Indians and soldiers. The secretary of war ruled upon receipt of this news that Fort Des Moines had never been intended to be permanent and ordered it abandoned. June 1, 1837, the post was closed, and the dragoons began their march to Fort Leavenworth. The moving date purposely was made in the summer when grass was sufficient for feeding the horses, since corn was not to be purchased on the route. For many years after its abandonment as a fort the furniture used in the barracks was in possession of a family named Knight, in Keokuk, historians of the day assert. Robert E. Lee, Confederate leader, then a young lieutenant, Benjamin Roberts, Jefferson Davis, Winfield Scott and Gen. William Harney appeared as young officers and soldiers in the first Fort Des Moines.

TRAIL IS EXTENSIVE.

So much for the dragoons, the history of the Dragoon trail follows their time at Montrose and embraces a big portion of the state. Ordered by the war department to investigate the forks of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers as the site for a permanent post and as a march for drill and discipline following the winter, Lt. Col. Kearney and the dragoons marched along the ridge between the Skunk and Des Moines rivers, through Lee, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Jasper and Polk counties to the headwaters of the Des Moines. They angled northeast into what is the state of Minnesota as far as Wabasha's village, where Winona stands, and on the return trip covered the present site of Des Moines and down the west bank of the Des Moines river. Lea's notes on the Wisconsin Territory reprinted in "The Book That Gave Iowa Its Name" tells of the march, and a map traces the dragoon trail. In all the dragoons covered 1,100 miles on this march, Cyrenus Cole's history of Iowa asserts. It took ten weeks to complete. On the route the soldiers traded with Sioux Indians, Sergeant Parrott's diary reveals. In 1842, Capt. James Allen with his troopers marched from Fort Leavenworth with Company I of the dragoons, to Fort Atkinson, near Dubuque, and then came south as far as twenty miles due west of what is now Fairfield. In November of 1842 he established the fort at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers. This was named Fort Des Moines, also, the second to be established in the state.

MORMON TRAIL MARKED.

On the river bank at Montrose, within a stone's throw of the old fort site, now is a wooden marker on which is the legend "Mormon Trail." These markers are later to be made permanent, and they will mark the route of the Mormons, who expelled from Nauvoo were heading west to their promised land. Attention should be called to the fact that there is not a "one and only Mormon Trail," warns Benjamin F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the Iowa State Historical Society, in pointing out that obviously with thousands of Mormons moving westward at a time when there were no roads there was a considerable variation in the routes followed. This would account for the markers being placed at various points which are not directly on what is believed to be the main or principal trail.

Besides the permanent markers at Chariton, near Talmage, near Lewis and in Council Bluffs, some 140 temporary markers have been placed across the state, following in a general way the main route followed by the fleeing Mormons. These are a project of the Iowa State Planning Board. Leaving Nauvoo in February, 1846, the Mormons crossed the Mississippi and after leaving Montrose traveled west by Charleston or New Boston and camped on Sugar Creek. Here they stayed some weeks with temperature twenty below zero, and supplies and fuel scarce. Later they reached the east bank of the Des Moines, four miles from Farmington, at what is probably now Croton, and crossed the Des Moines at Bonaparte Mills, March 5. There was a camp fourteen miles above Keosauqua and the trail led on through Bloomfield and Davis county until finally Council Bluffs was reached.

It is estimated by Jacob Van der Zee in an article in the Iowa Journal of History that by July, 1846, there were 15,000 on Iowa trails, with 3,000 wagons and 30,000 head of cattle, horses, mules and sheep.

The Mormon Trail and the Dragoon Trail ran almost parallel from Montrose to a point near Keosauqua, which accounts for the real or apparent crossing of the trails at Brattain's Grove, a point on Highway No. 16, just six miles west of the Coleman road, just before it heads into Hillsboro. This junction is marked by a boulder and a bronze tablet by the D. A. R. of Iowa. On the tablet is a replica of the trails drawn on a map of Iowa, and verses from Whittier's poem lauding the pioneer who crossed the plains like his ancestor crossed the sea.

Then there is the Military Road, which was built like those of the Romans to afford quick movement of armies in case of war with Indians. In 1839 Congress provided such a road from Dubuque in the territory of Iowa to the northern boundary of the state of Missouri, and appropriated $20,000 for its building. The road was built from Dubuque to Keosauqua, and thence to the northern boundary of Missouri. Other military roads went through Burlington and points in Henry, Des Moines and Van Buren counties to the seat of the Indian Agency on the Des Moines, in the year 1839. The road from Dubuque to Missouri is also marked by the Iowa D. A. R. with a boulder and tablet at the junction of Highways One and Three.

F. C. S.

THE GREAT BOOT AND SHOE HOUSE OF R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

169.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

Lee County Is Rich In Its Early Education Tradition

By MRS. RUSSELL HANCOCK

MONTROSE, Ia.—Today Iowa stands high among the states of these United States for its educational standards. Yet few probably remember the foundation upon which this great educational achievement came into being. At least it may never have been stressed enough in our own education to know, sufficiently well to remember.

Did you know that when Iowa became a state, back in the 1840's that, by the authority of an act of congress 500,000 acres of land in the state of Iowa were automatically set aside to be sold and all proceeds were to go into the establishment of a school system within the state?

First School at Galland.

You probably do know that the first school in Iowa was located at Galland and its site is marked today by that little log cabin replica. It was not fortunate enough to have the support of these state funds, that was too early, the state did not set up a board of school fund commissioners until January 15, 1849. Under congressional authority, the sixteenth section of every township or where that section had been sold, another of like value was to be set aside to be sold for school funds.

Iowa's first permanent settler was Julien Dubuque, who came in 1788 and settled near the town that now bears his name—Dubuque, Iowa. Louis Honori followed him shortly, in 1799, and settled at what is now Montrose.

Many of you will remember that Galland was once called Nashville, Iowa, and it was under the name of Nashville that the first school was started in Iowa. Berryman (or Benjamin) Jennings was the first teacher.

Second in Keokuk.

Keokuk is said to have the distinction of having the second school in the state of Iowa. Keokuk was then dubbed "The Point" for the high bluff that overlooks the Father of Waters. This was about 1834. Jesse Creighton, a shoemaker, was the teacher. Shoemaking was not such a profitable trade in those days, so interested parents persuaded Creighton to teach school part time. Most people went barefoot in summer and wore moccasins in winter. Creighton welcomed the chance to make both ends meet.

Keokuk's first school was along the lower part of the bluff between Main and Blondeau street. The Wilkinson drug store has a mural picture depicting what might have resembled it. Unlike the spacious, airy and well lighted schools of today, those early schools were made of logs. Each parent helped build the school.

The early schools had one window on each side which furnished light—that is if the settlers had sufficient funds to buy sashes and glass. If not, greased paper supplied the place of glass. There were doors at each end and a mud stick or sod chimney with an earthen fireplace. Seats were logs split into two pieces. "Desks" were logs cut and shaved down fairly smooth. Principle books were Webster's elementary spelling, the English Reader, Talbott's arithmetic, Olney's geography and Kirkham's grammer.

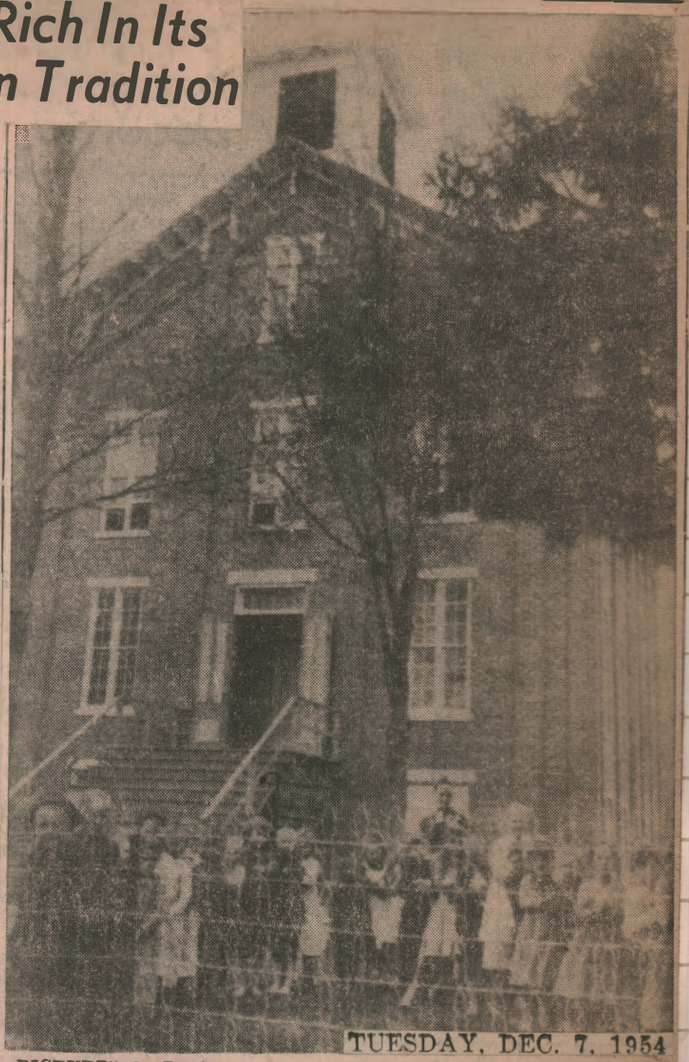
By 1877, log cabin schools in Iowa had become a rarity. Handsome frame and brick structures had replaced them—thanks to the funds set aside by the early congress and foresighted pioneers. Rude furniture and desks were replaced by the latest type of desks and equipment—for those days. Still rude compared to today's, but the best that could be provided then.

Montrose Schools.

Montrose had its first school in the old Hanson house, now owned by A. B. Chatfield. It was for primary children and one for older children was located in a house since torn down. The property of Mrs. Irvin Utley is the site of this school. One of the first teachers was Lucretia Curis, who married Sam Younkin Nov. 28, 1866, according to local records. These available records show the first school classes were held in Montrose between 1862 and 1865.

Other pioneer teachers here were Emma Barber Wagenor, Isora Ellis Duty, Mary Singer and Cora Slonaker.

During the early years here, David W. Kilbourne of Keokuk mapped out the town of Montrose. Soon after the heirs of Thomas F. Ruddick brought suit to have title to one mile of land originally derived from Tesson Honori. The court decided in favor of the Ruddick heirs. Later the Ruddick family gave Montrose the block square which is today the site of the present Montrose school.



TUESDAY, DEC. 7, 1954

PICTURED HERE is the first school built in Montrose in 1870. It was a 3-story structure, costing $15,000. The first graduating class of record was in 1887. However, there were others but school records were lost. The last class graduated from this school, of which there is a record was in 1894. Among the children identified in this picture are Kate Amidon, Gertrude Parks, Anna Worster and the teacher, Elizabeth Strong. Clingham Ballinger has also been identified in the picture as one of the students.

170

Building Cost $15,000.

In 1870 the three story brick building pictured with this account was built at a cost of $15,000. It was perhaps Montrose' first bona-fide public school. This school was of excellent standards and had some four or five departments with Professor J. K. McCullough of Burlington in charge. Approximately 300 students attended classes in it daily. Its first graduating class was in 1887, according to present records. The three graduates, all girls, were Clara Fisher Whitten, Bessie Slonaker and Anna Sawyer, who now reside in Keokuk. The class of 1888 consisted of Bessie Parker Hunt, Blanche Barber, Ernest Fish and Nellie Williamson Hough.

The last class of record was 1894 with graduates being Lulu Hurley, George Kennedy, Lou LaFevre, Nellie Cox, Thomas Younkin, Anna Kerr, Harry Ballou, George Curtis, Belle Kerr, Joseph Reed, Maude Singer and Florence Whitney.

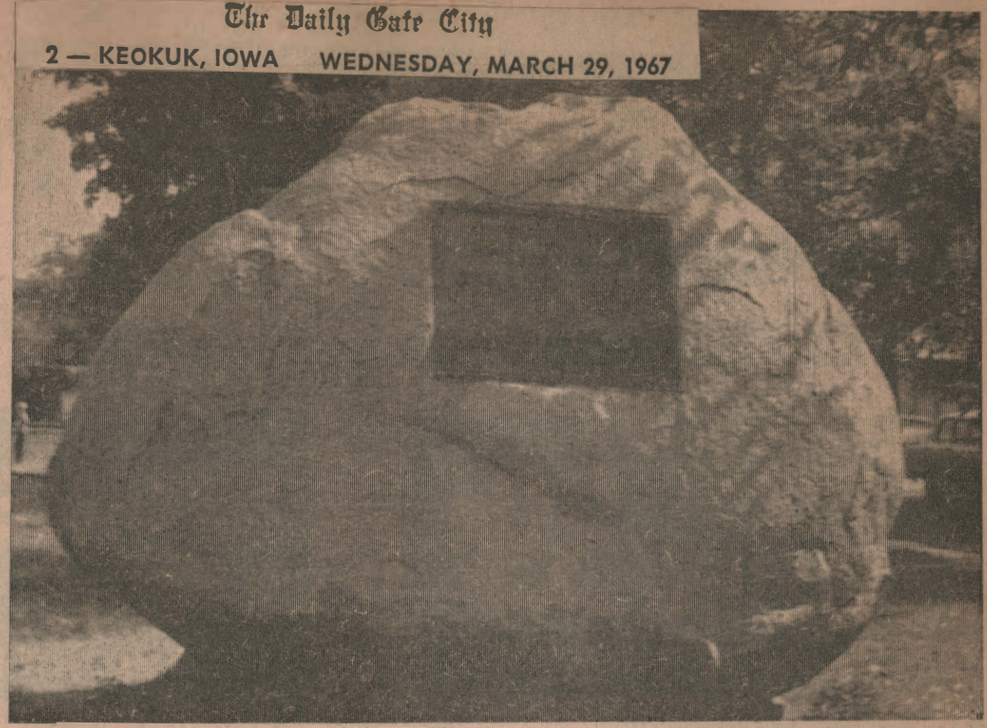
Some of the pioneer teachers in this school were Mary Anderson, Sadie Anderson, Principal Hapkirk, Mrs. Fletcher Glancey, E. T. Bertram, John Kennedy, E. T. Smith and a Mr. Hurley.

Montrose' present school was erected in 1928 at a cost of approximately $32,000. It has 15 rooms including a home ec room, old gym, assembly and employs 11 teachers with A. C. Knapp as superintendent. The school board for the erection consisted of the late Dr. E. C. Buck, R. L. Reed, Joe Choulet, R. N. Smith and John Head. During construction of the school, classes were held in the Methodist church, mayor's office, library room, Allen building and even a large garage on the Fowler property.

A. R. Johnston was the first superintendent. First graduates were Mildred Fowler, Minnie Fowler, Howard Price, Mina Kennedy, Margaret Kite, Myra Reed, Charles Farris, Stuart Younkin, Virginia Lamb and Florence Fruehling.

Montrose' latest school venture was the construction of the new field house. Following voters' approval, the school board secured R. L. Patton of Keokuk as contractor and the field house went up at a cost of $26,800. A new school room has been built over the old gym and a kitchen has been installed in the lower part with provision for a hot lunch program in the new dining room, formerly the old gym, will soon be a reality at the school.

The Daily Gate City
2 — KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1967



THIS TESSON ORCHARD BOULDER on the grounds of the Montrose grade school bears the tablet "In commemoration of the first orchard in what is now the state of Iowa, growing from 1796 to about 1879 on a plot 3960 feet east from this point, it throve beneath the flags of France, Spain and the U.S.A." Other pictures and a story of Montrose are on page 17. —Gate City

DAILY GATE CITY

SITE CHOSEN FOR MEMORIAL FOR ORCHARD

JULY 17, 1936

Members of the Montrose Civic Club Arrange For Program in Connection With Marking of Old Site

Members of the Montrose Woman's Civic club met at the public school grounds Tuesday evening with the hour scheduled for 6:30 o'clock. The meeting was called for the purpose of selecting the site for the memorial, "In commemoration of the earliest orchard in what is now the state of Iowa. It grew beneath the flags of France, Spain and the United States of America." The site was selected and soon preparation will begin in earnest and in the early part of August there will be a celebration fitting for the occasion.

The members of the Woman's Civic Club are planning a pageant and will meet at the home of Mrs. J. P. Kennedy Saturday evening, July 19, to formulate appropriate plans. Probably there will be the Spirit of History, the Spirit of Tradition, woven into the story, with Louis Honor Tesson and wife, Theresa Creely Tesson, with little nine year old Louis Honore Tesson, Red Bird, and a tribe of Sac and Fox Indians with other characters bringing the story down to the present period of time. There will be several speakers of prominence from Ames, Des Moines, and towns in Lee county.

The Iowa State Horticultural Society will make an orchard inspection tour, the culmination of the journey will be at Montrose on this day in August. There will be a large group of people included in the tour and all vitally interested in the event and the program.

Committees In Charge.

The general committee on arrangements for the occasion are: George Schurk, Ft. Madison, chairman; W. C. Calvert, Ft. Madison, secretary.

Finances—Robert Herrick, Ames, Mrs. Anna Kerr, Mrs. J. P. Kennedy, Mrs. Clare Beard, Montrose, Geo. Schurk, J. P. Cruickshank, Ft. Madison.

Inscription and plate—Robert Herrick, Ames, E. R. Harlan, Des Moines, Mrs. L. Wahrer, Montrose.

Grounds—Louis Wahrer, Wm. Metzger.

Program—Robert Herrick, and W. C. Calvert.

Boulder—Geo. Schurk.

Publicity—Mrs. Wahrer.

The boulder has been secured and was given by Mr. Samuel Little of Pontoosuc, Illinois, on whose farm it is located. The committee spent a great amount of time in searching for a suitable marker. F. Jackson of Ft. Madison helped in locating this stone as he knew of its existence and its remarkable size and beauty.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

PICTURESQUE IOWA.

An Iowa Powder Factory--None May Enter There.---By Alex. Miller.

Copyrighted, 1902 by Alex. Miller.

Find the wildest, roughest, woodiest, most primitive looking spot in the state and imagine how it would look. Divest the landscape of all signs of civilization. Remove the school house from the hilltop and blot out the saloon in the valley and forget that there is such a thing as rural mail delivery, and you can imagine the spot chosen by the Duponts for their powder factory in Iowa. They came to Keokuk about fourteen or fifteen years ago. The factory has been running thirteen years. They bought up this tract of land, had the deeds and owned it in fee simple before anyone except the people with whom they had business knew anything about it. Even to this day it is not known especially why they located the factory in Lee county. It is the way the Duponts have ever done their business. They do not proclaim from the housetops what they propose to do. When they have aught to do they do it and let the people talk about it afterwards.

It was so with the locating of the powder factory. They bought up 860 acres of the wildest land they could find. They wanted it that way. They want to be away from civilization and from neighbors as far as possible.

A Typical Workman. Workman's Home.

And in this anxiety to be away from the world they are not at all impeded by the rest of the folks, for the feeling is clearly mutual. If they want no neighbors, the neighbors surely do not object. It will readily be seen that powder making is not a business that a town would pay much of a bonus to have located in the city limits. They are the most selfish people in the world. They not only withdraw as far as possible from the world but they say to the world, thus far and no farther. They do not want any visitors. For this there are two reasons. One is the extreme danger which will be readily conceded and understood by anyone, and the other is the preserving of the secret processes of powder making possessed only by the famous Duponts.

I visited their works near Keokuk. That is to say, I went there for that purpose but I changed my mind. I did not intend to steal their trade nor do any unkind thing, but they kept me at a distance. I asked permission to see the works from the outside, and to this they readily acceded. They said there was absolutely no objection to my wandering through the brush as much as I liked. I climbed hills and trudged through ravines the like of which you do not find in many parts of Iowa. The factory is located down on the peninsula between the Des Moines river and the Mississippi, and Sugar creek is not far, and a little farther on is Fox river, in Missouri, so it is not any wonder that there are hills and hollows equal to Sleepy Hollow made famous by the vagabond Rip Van Winkle. And if I had overtaken any dwarfs belonging to Hendrik Hudson, or to anybody else, I would have been tempted to emulate Rip's illustrious example when he drank to "your health and your family's."

The Dupont powder factory is about five miles northwest of Keokuk. One reaches it by driving or on foot, or if you are not in too big a hurry you can go by the steam cars. There is a train that goes out in that direction every day, and it has orders to come right back the same day. I rode out on the train but I couldn't wait for it, so I walked back. The railroad station is called Mooar. But when you reach Mooar you are still not at the works by a good deal although you have seen great black clouds of smoke rolling heavenward from the chimneys down the ravine long before you reach the station. The works are a mile back from the station in the timber. A beautiful driveway built of crushed stone leads the way to the factory. On each side are shade trees whose branches join acros the road and make of it a perfect tunnel in summer time. The trees got so thick and the branches drooped so low that they had just been closely trimmed in order that they may grow more bushy and less scraggly.

A switch also runs to the works. The wagon road and the switch both belong the powder company. The road leads through farms, and on both sides of the road were farmers busy harvesting the crop, unmindful of the fact that not a mile away was enough powder to blow them all to kingdom come if an accident should occur. For, as a matter of fact, there is no telling what the damage might be if an explosion should take place and all the powder on hand be blown up at once.

The road leads to the timber and thence it winds down the ravine to the factory. The land is all covered with a thick growth of underbrush and scrubby oaks. In many places the bushes are so thick as to be a perfect jungle and impossible almost of being traversed. Rabbits are plentiful and unafraid, for the keen-eyed hunter knows better than to trespass thither. There are numerous signs up bearing the legend: "No hunting or trespassing allowed on these grounds." But none need be told twice to be careful with shooting iron. A stray shot might strike a powder magazine and blow up the whole southeastern corner of Iowa, and nobody would be left to tell the story.

The railroad switch, which is built from the station down, belongs to the company and is built in a very cheap manner. It is a very swift incline all the way down, so steep that a car turned loose at the upper end would find its way down to the works with no motive power but its own momentum, and its speed, one can imagine, would be something frightful before it reached its destination.

But only one accident has ever occurred, and then it was not serious. Better care is taken now, for a workman in the works lives out at the station and is allowed his time while walking down the mile to his work. Instead of being required to be at the factory when the 7 o'clock whistle blows he only has to be at the end of the switch ready to walk his beat. This is deemed a "snap," for it is told with some little show of pride by his friends. It must be a rare favor to be allowed to walk a mile to get to work in a powder factory, where one is liable to be blown higher than Gilderoy's kite before you could say "scat."

The switch engine from Keokuk comes out every morning and brings out material to use at the works and to take the finished product back to town for shipment. It takes from four to six carloads of raw material each twenty-four hours, and half as much of the finished product is shipped out. The raw material consists of sulphur, charcoal, saltpetre and black lead. The processes of mixture and composition are, of course, a secret, locked up within the breasts of the Duponts themselves, I am informed. Especially is this true with reference

A General View of the Works.

to the gunpowder which is made at the parent factory near Wilmington, Delaware. It must be understood that only blasting powder is made at this factory. All the gunpowder is made at the Wilmington factory, of which this a branch, and the name on the signs of warning about the works are the same you see on the powder cans and kegs in the stores, viz: "I. E. Dupont de Nemours." I. E. Dupont was the name of the original founder of the powder business in this country. None of the present Duponts are known by the same given name. The family is a family of powder makers, just as the Vanderbilts are railroaders or the Rothschilds are bankers. It runs in the family, though one would not fancy powder making to be a very desirable legacy. Yet, in more than a hundred years of powder making only two Duponts have been killed, although there have been numerous big explosions, and the owners themselves will not send men where they will not go themselves.

That it is a hazardous occupation you may know from the fact that they can get no life insurance. Yet they have no trouble in getting all the workmen they want. Every day, nearly, they have applications for work. The pay is about the same as in any other line. The most dangerous work is in the finishing, and the men get as high as $2 a day, but that is about the highest. The boys in the canning department get only 50 cents a day. It is considered healthy work, and the men seem to enjoy it. Some of them, indeed a good many of the workmen have been with the factory ever since the beginning. It has been in operation thirteen years. They all say they like it as well as any work they have ever done, and what especially commends it is the fact that they have work the year round and day and night. They run two shifts all the time, and have never since the plant is running been up with their orders. It must be remembered that their product is shipped all over the United States, and perhaps into foreign countries, though that is mere conjecture. It is difficult to get information except as it is drawn from a workman in conversation. The company is not looking for a chance to advertise itself and business.

All sorts of erroneous information is ever on tap also at the works. For instance, there are in reality 860 acres of land belonging to the plant. One workman said there must be 300 or 400 acres, another said 840, still another, the painter, said they had all of 200 acres, when a school boy who had studied arithmetic half a day could have told by looking at it that there were more than his estimate. But this shows how little the workmen know about the business, and also how little they care. They never think to take any interest until asked questions about it, then what they do not know they assume. But the painter was quite deaf, so I do not blame him for guessing wrong. He "had another guess coming," anyway. He had only worked there six months.

One may stand on the outside of the

Main Entrance.

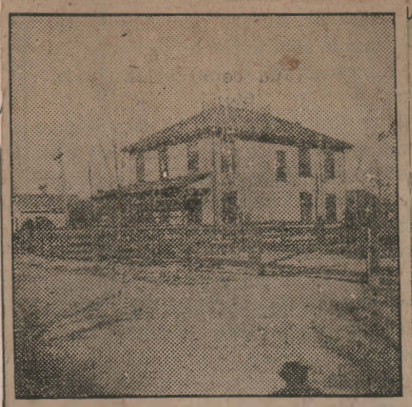
enclosure and he can take many items of interest. One hears the rattle and the hum and the buzzing of ponderous machinery. Immense engines are in motion day and night, and ponderous machinery makes the earth fairly tremble with its vibrations. There are whistles blowing and bells ringing as signals to run this car hither and that car or truck thither all day long, but not a glimpse does the outsider get as he peers through the cracks of a ten-foot fence with three barb wires stretched along the top.

Miniature railways run throughout the yards, for be it understood that the yard or enclosure is about three-quarters of a mile in length, running with the long ravine. High hills skirt either side, so that the sun does not rise or set at the time at the factory as it does out in civilization. Some of the cars are run by little engines and others are simply pushed along by hand. There are miniature trestle works across ravines that traverse the main line, and there are tiny bridges till it looks as if it might be a playground of some children or the workshop of the Liliputians, but it is not much a playground, since it is the busiest place, perhaps, in all Iowa.

The raw material is run into the yards on box cars. The gates are opened to allow them to enter and the workmen distribute the supplies to the various parts of the works. For instance, one squad of half a dozen workmen were unloading a car of sulphur. They shoveled it exactly as you would sand. They paid no more attention. It looked from a distance like New Orleans brown sugar. They stood in it ankle deep, and enjoyed themselves. It recalled the lake of brimstone and fire and sulphur and things that one reads about, but the workmen recked not. One should think that the running of cars on the iron rails would make trouble, but it seems not to do so. There have been three minor explosions in the works, but none did any serious damage. A concussion, it is claimed, will not cause an explosion. A coal or a red hot bit of metal will not unless there is a spark. There have been a good many fires in the works. Of course, they have perfected appartus for fighting fires, but one would count it rather lively business fighting fire in a powder mill. Every kind of mechanic known almost is to be found within those sacred walls, even if the walls are constructed of boards. There are iron moulders, for all their machinery is built at home. Every piece is home-made, except the engines, and they are rebuilt at home. There are coopers, electricians, carpenters, blacksmiths, harnessmakers, wagonmakers, all-round machinists of every kind you may name almost.

The factory is a town all by itself. It has a splendid electric plant of its own and waterworks for the settlement aside from that used by the factory. The settlements, of which there are three, are away from the works a quarter of a mile. They are all upon the high lands where they cannot so much as see the highest smokestack and no sign of the factory is visible except the clouds of black smoke ascending heavenward. The settlements are built somewhat after the fashion of any other municipality, except that the streets go nowhere and end everywhere. Like as not you will run up against a fence when least expecting it. There are no stores in this town, and no postoffice to go to and pester the postmaster by asking him for mail that you never expected and wouldn't know what to do with if it came. But there is a clubroom where the workmen may play billiards, pool, games of all sorts, or they may read, for there is a well-filled library, and there is a splendid gymnasium, and every kind of recre-

March 30, 1902 - page #2
(Powder Town)
Powder Town - 2



Club House.

ation known to a well equipped club-room anywhere.

There is a school house that it patronized only by the children of the powder factory workmen. It is a district school and is under the supervision of the state, just the same as any other school, of course. The only church in the town is an Episcopal church, which is well attended, and it is a very commodious structure of brick. All who are church members are not members of that denomination, however. Some are Catholics and perhaps other creeds are represented.

The man who did the work building the works is still there. He is a stonemason by the name of Hassett and a thoroughbred Irishman with an elegant brogue that would be the fortune of an Irish comedian. He works there yet, for there is always more or less stone work to be done. There have been spent thousands of dollars in stonework, and there is always improving to do and repairs to make. His son, a mighty bright young fellow of nineteen, has never worked at anything else but in the factory, and he says he likes it. He is a timekeeper. Everybody knows Joe Hassett, and he seems to be a favorite with the men. He is a Catholic, and the only church of that denomination that he can attend is at Keokuk.

Naturally there would be all kinds of work that must be done in a community of that kind. One lot of men were driving some of the nicest hogs one could wish to see to market. They were raised in the settlement and weighed perhaps 400. Another group of men were repairing the macadam road, for the road is macadam all the way. Others were trimming trees and the painter was following them up painting the stumps of the limbs to prevent rotting. Another man was repairing something about the standpipe. These were all men at work outside the factory yards. There is a big boarding-house and the women were busy preparing the noonday meal. All appear to be busy and happy. There has never been a strike, and no occasion for one. The men all seem to be loyal and all speak well of the treatment they receive. Their homes are all plain, but comfortable and clean looking. The most of them are two stories high and built after one uniform architectural design. A few of them are one story high. There are no sidewalks in the settlement that we would call such. They are all made of crushed stone and are the same material that the streets are made of. They have the art of good road building down to a nicety. But so could anyone have who does not have to pay attention to cost. The Dupont company has spent millions on the grounds and factory at this place. They are spending money every day in addition to the regular allowance. Improvements are being made right along.

But with all this seeming lavish expenditure of money there is absolute system. So well do the proprietors know what it takes for a day's work and how much a given material should produce that they are given just a certain amount of raw material and, barring accidents, it must produce the required quantity. One of the Duponts comes out from the works at Wilmington every three or four months. The present superintendent is William Brady. That name looks like an Irish name. A peculiar fact is that most of the workmen about the factory are Irish. Whether there is something about the constant danger and risk that appeals to an Irishman, like the police force, I cannot say, but the fact remains that most of the men are of that nationality.

The company also maintains a store at the station for the benefit of the workmen, where such provisions and goods are kept as they may need. But I do not understand that they are required to buy there. It is my opinion that they buy wherever they please.

The greatest danger about powder making occurs at the finishing mills, where the powder receives its last treatment before it is ready for market. The men who work there are as black as any darky when they leave their work. The powder dust is so thick that the workmen are obliged to wear damp sponges on their noses to avoid breathing too much of the black dust into their lungs, and yet it is said to be very healthful, except in case of accident, and then there is not long to linger. If a man feels indisposed it is not for long. He soon gets over it, and it is so sudden that it does not last long. A good many boys work in the shipping department. That is, they pack the powder into cans and into barrels for shipment. The boys make 50 cents a day, and also say they like the work. No girls are employed about the mills. The workmen are required to exercise great care in the clothes they wear, and they do not have to be unreasonably urged. They are not allowed to enter the works without changing their shoes. They wear what they call "powder shoes," that is shoes with no sign of iron about them. Not a vestige of a metallic substance is carried on or about them. Not a man is permitted to carry any matches. The sign "No Smoking" is not needed about the mills. They are not allowed to carry any smoking material into the yards, although outside of the works they are said to be great smokers.

But it is not likely that any outsider will ever be killed by an explosion at the Dupont works. There is no possibility for him to get near enough. Approach any gate, and if you do not heed the sign in big bold letters over the gateway, "No Admission," a guard will meet you and halt you. And then no sane person will argue the question at any great length. Nobody will violently break into a powder factory. What a blessed place that would be to do work that required absolute, serene quietude. How one could give book agents and life insurance agents and kindred bores the horse-laugh! Some day I will own a powder factory just a little while to enjoy myself.

The Dupont powder mills of this country were organized and built at Wilmington, Delaware, by Eleuthere Irenee Dupont, who was driven out of France by the French revolution. The first factory in America was started in 1802—so that it will be seen that it is no infant industry. It has grown, and modern methods of manufacture have kept pace with every other industry. Improvements are being constantly made. The business is still in the hands of the Duponts, and perhaps always will be. They have practically a monopoly of the powder business. But they also make dynamite, nitro glycerine and other powerful explosives at their eastern factory. They are worth many millions. Nobody knows, perhaps, their wealth, for about that, as about everything they do, they maintain strict secrecy. They believe thoroughly in the motto that it pays best to mind your own business.

The fact that there is the air of mystery about the mills, and that there is no admission, makes one's curiosity all the more keen. I asked the guard what they would do if the governor of Iowa or the president would ask admission. "We would keep him out," was the prompt response. He afterwards modified that statement, however, but theoretically there is no admission to the Dupont powder works

174.

under any circumstances unless you are a workman. It is a queer occupation for a family to choose, although it may be said that the present generation of Duponts are not to blame, for they are bred and born to it as the prince is born to the purple, with the exception that the Duponts are a benefit and a useful branch of our civilization, and it is safe to say, that since none of the powder manufactured here is used for aught but in the industrial and commercial world, they are a blessing to the world.

THE GATE CITY
PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY

C. F. SKIRVIN.....Manager

TUESDAY, OCT. 25, 1910.

DAMAGING BLAZE AT POWDER WORKS

Two Structures Wiped Out by the Fire Last Evening When Fire Was Suddenly Started in the Paint Room.

MACHINERY SUFFERED

Keg House and Keg Store Room Burned to Ground—Three Workmen, Hemmed in, Escaped From Being Burned.

Two structures at the powder works were completely wiped out by a conflagration shortly before 6 o'clock last evening, entailing a loss to the company of several thousand dollars.

The fire started in the keg house in rather a peculiar manner. Three men were at work at the time, but all escaped unburned. They were cleaning up the paint room after the day's work, which was concluded at five o'clock, when one of the workmen accidentally broke a burning incadescent globe which was being carried about the room on the end of a long cord. The room was filled with naphtha fumes and fire was started instantaneously with the sharp report of the broken light.

Flames sprang up from every corner of the small room and the three workmen beat a hasty retreat in time to escape injury from burns although they were momentarily hemmed in by the flames.

The entire structure was soon enveloped and the blaze spread to the adjoining structure, known as the keg store room, where a large number of finished kegs were being kept. This building is separated from the keg house only by a narrow guage track, and when once ignited and burning freely, the spectacle presented was one of a single large burning building. Everything kept in the two places were of such composition that they added to the fire and immediately it was seen that fire fighting would be of little or no good. The powder works department with its fire fighting system that has been in vogue for a number of years, was called, however, and the men worked valiantly to save the property.

In a few hours both buildings were smoldering in ruins, entirely destroyed, carying to destruction much valuable machinery.

The powder works office was hardly able to estimate the loss today, declaring that it would near the $3,000 mark at least. No insurance is carried on the buildings.

With facilities for manufacturing kegs destroyed for a time, the company will have them made elsewhere, until building can be done. This is the first fire of any consequence that has occurred at the powder works for some time.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matte

MARCH 7, 1889

CITY AND VICINITY.

—Early this spring at least three hundred men will be employed in the construction of the immense powder plant of E. I. Dupont de Nemours & Co. A well will be dug hirty feet deep and eighteen feet wide, which it is expected will furnish a bountiful supply of water. It will be conveyed to a large reservoir and from there distributed by piping to all parts of the plant. Four million brick will be used in the construction of the buildings to be erected this season and will be manufactured at the site of the mills. When actual construction begins a special train will be run morning and evening over the North road to accommodate the laborers who will be employed.

GATE GITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1945

Two Killed in DuPont Blast

A flash explosion which destroyed a press mill at the E. I. DuPont de Nemours black powder plant at Mooar Station yesterday afternoon resulted in the deaths of two men for the first fatal accident to occur at the plant in six years of operation.

The victims were:

Perry A. Wright, 58, instantly killed at the time of the explosion.

Elbert Leake, 56, so severely burned that he died in St. Joseph hospital last night at 8 o'clock.

No Cause Ascribed.

Company officials said today that no cause has been ascribed for the explosion which occurred at 2:15 p. m. while the two men were cleaning up the mill where powder is formed into grains.

The mill, one of approximately 35 scattered over the 500 acres of the company's grounds, was not in operation at the time. Officials explain that no men are permitted in the mill buildings while they are operating, a process handled by remote control.

Property Loss $15,000.

Loss to the plant property has been estimated at $15,000 and officials said that production would be interrupted temporarily on one line.

Black powder is not used for military purposes but is important in the mining industry and thus closely related to the war effort.

Both men were long-term employes and skilled at their jobs.

Brisby Killed in 1939.

The mill buildings are story and a half structures made of wood with metal sides and ceilings. They are approximately 100 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet high.

The last fatal accident to occur at the plant was on August 9, 1939, when Allie Brisby, 38, was fatally burned in a similar press mill explosion. He died the next morning. Brisby also was cleaning the presses preparatory to quitting work on his shift.

Few in Keokuk heard the explosion although some persons say they heard a rumbling noise which they took for thunder at about that time.

No Inquest to Be Held.

Dr. E. L. Kingsbury, Lee county coroner, who with Sheriff Harry V. D. Maas, was called to the powder plant after the explosion yesterday, said today he had decided that a formal inquest would not be necessary.

Bodies of both of the victims were removed to the Schmidt Memorial home where they will remain, but funeral arrangements for Leake have not yet been completed. Rites for Wright will be held from the First Christian church on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and burial will be made in the Hickory Grove cemetery.

Total of 66 Years.

Both men resided at Mooar and had a combined total of 66 years of service at the powder plant. Wright had been employed there for 31 years and Leake for 35 years.

* * *

Perry A. Wright was born near Montrose on May 22, 1886, and was the son of John Porter and Catherine Jacobs Wright. He was married at Summitville on Oct 16, 1912, to Emma Mollers, who survives, and was a member of the First Christian church.

Surviving besides his wife are one son, Pvt. Glenn Wright, who is serving with the army in the Philippines; three daughters, Mrs. Kenneth Hackett, of Phoenix, Ariz., and Mrs. Victor Wendling and Leone Wright, both of Keokuk; two brothers, Henry Wright of Kansas City, Mo., and William Wright, of Eva, Okla.; and two sisters, Mrs. Clarence Hardy of Keokuk, and Mrs. R. R. Baker of Downey, Calif.

and two brothers, Clyde M. Leake of Keokuk, R. F. D. 2, and Lloyd C. Leake, of Keokuk; one sister, Mrs. John Sherrill of Keokuk, and four grandchildren. Two children died in infancy.

survives, and was a member of the Moose lodge, the War Dads and was of the Christian faith.

Surviving besides his wife are one son, Loren Leake, a fireman 2/c with the Navy stationed at Albany Base, Calif.; two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Rorabaugh and Mrs. Paul Landman, both of Keokuk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter in infancy and one sister, Mrs. Bertha Philp.

* * *

Elbert C. Leake was born in Keokuk on April 4, 1889, and was the son of Louis and Annette Hayden Leake. He was married here on June 25, 1910, to Leona Toops, who

175-

Mill Explodes At Mooar Plant Killing Man

THE DAILY
GATE CITY
APRIL 9, 1930

JOHN HEDDEN LOSES LIFE IN ACCIDENT

Glaze Mill, One of Largest of Du Pont Plant Buildings, With Six Thousand Pounds of Powder Blows Up.

John Hedden, forty-four years old, glaze man at the E. L. DuPont de Nemours plant at Mooar, was killed this morning in an explosion in the glaze mill, at four o'clock. The mill was wrecked, officials of the plant estimated the loss of property at $10,000.

The explosion is the most serious one since that of March 10, 1902, when two men were killed and buildings were wrecked. The glaze mill was one of the largest in the plant and was a two-story building.

Three Tons of Powder.

It was estimated that between 6,000 and 7,000 pounds of black powder was in the mill to be finished when the explosion occurred. According to officials of the DuPont company the cause of the explosion is unknown. The glaze mill is the one where the powder is finished off, and the mill is in operation at night.

Hedden was the only workman in the building when the explosion occurred this morning. He was married and is survived by his widow and five children, according to the plant records. His home is at Mooar, Iowa.

Explosion Is Felt.

Just how far the explosion was felt is a matter of conjecture, and conditions of the wind and atmosphere would help to govern the extent of territory in which the explosion would be noticed. Some people here reported that they had been awakened early this morning by the sound of what seemed to be low thunder.

In the northwest part of town it was reported that the explosion was sufficient to rattle windows and to shake houses. It was also felt in the territory nearest the plant at Mooar.

Cahalan Expresses Regret.

W. J. Cahalan, superintendent of the plant at Mooar, expressed his regret at the accident and was considerably moved over the tragedy which resulted in the loss of life at the plant. There have been one or two minor accidents at the plant in recent years, but this was the most serious since the one twenty-eight years ago.

No Inquest Likely.

Coroner Walt H. Clements was called by Sheriff Robert H. Hart who was notified of the accident early this morning and went to the DuPont plant to render any assistance necessary. The coroner announced that no inquest would be held unless the family demanded one, and it is understood that none will be asked for. The body was viewed by the coroner and sheriff, and identified by men who work at the plant. The body was blackened by the powder but was not mangled as were the bodies of the men killed twenty-eight years ago.

Investigation by the officials disclosed the fact that Hedden was standing well back in the mill when the explosion occurred. From all that can be gathered he was loading the mill for the next man to come on the shift, the officers believe. Shoes of the dead man found, indicated that the body was blown out of them, the officers said.

Part of Roof in Trees.

Portions of the mill were found blown into the trees nearby and on top of the banks of the ravine in which the mill was located. The official number of the mill was No. 10. It is located about a mile from the main gate. There is nothing left but blackened cinders to indicate the location of the mill.

The explosion twenty-eight years ago in March, did much damage in Keokuk, and in Fort Madison and across the river in Hamilton and Carthage. That explosion occurred at 10 o'clock in the morning and victims of it were badly mangled.

Obituary of Mr. Hedden.

This morning at 3:55 occurred the death of John Hedden at the DuPont Powder Works in the explosion which took place in the building where he was on duty.

John Hedden, son of J. T. and Nancy Schrimscher Hedden, was born at Argyle, Iowa, August 28, 1885, and spent his entire life at Argyle until September, 1923, when he entered the employ of E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. By his faithful discharge of duties he won the confidence and respect of employers and employees.

His untimely death is regretted by a large circle of friends and the entire community extends sympathy to the bereaved family.

Married in 1911.

Mr. Hedden and Lulu Fickel were married December 26, 1911, and the widow and the following children survive: Thelma, Veda, Mildred, Robert and Roberta. Two children died in infancy. The deceased is also survived by the following sisters and brothers: Mrs. Virgie Oleson, Keokuk; Mrs. Lulu Rumbaugh, Hastings, Okla., and Jesse V. Hedden, Athens, Mo.

176-

THE GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1940

DuPont Plant at Mooar Will Be Fifty Years Old Tomorrow

CONGRATULATIONS FROM HEAD OF COMPANY ARE RECEIVED

THIS IS LARGEST BLACK POWDER MILL IN WORLD

Tomorrow will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the E. I. DuPont de Nemours black powder plant at Mooar, the largest black powder mill in the world. It was opened on April 17, 1890, and has been in continuous operation, save for seasonal shutdowns, in the half century which is marked by the anniversary tomorrow. L. C. Myers, manager of the plant, has a letter of congratulation from Lammont DuPont, head of the company.

It is planned to have a celebration of the birthday event on Saturday night at the Hotel Iowa, when all of the employes of the plant, its pensioners, sales representatives and others will be present for the birthday dinner. There are 18 pensioners of the company and at the present time 65 are at work. During the winter 90 were employed at times in the plant.

Made 401 Kegs.

On the first day the plant was operated, April 17, 1890, 401 kegs of black powder were packed. These were kegs weighing 25 pounds each. In the 50 year period, the company's figures on production show that 34,956,240 kegs have been packed, or a total of 873,681,000 pounds of black powder made.

In the letter from Lammont DuPont, president of the DuPont company at Wilmington, Mr. Myers is congratulated and given birthday greetings for the employes. Mr. DuPont recalls that the construction of the unit at Mooar was the first to be done by the company outside of the immediate vicinity of Wilmington where the DuPont holdings were established.

The plant has never been permanently closed, and has the distinction of being the largest powder mill in the world, the head of the company recalls in his letter to Mr. Myers.

Capacity is Shortened.

At the time the plant was built, it had a capacity of 6,600 kegs of black powder a day. In the 50 years that have passed changes in the use of explosives have come just as changes have come in all industries, and the use of black powder is more or less curtailed from the earlier years, so that the present capacity of the plant is 3,600 kegs per day, which still keeps it in the forefront of black powder mills in the United States and probably in the world. Some buildings have been dismantled, due to lack of need for them, now.

In connection with the anniversary it is recalled that Francis DuPont, one of the original founders, himself, came to Mooar, and had shown a close interest in all of the processes, and even had gone into the mills. Recently a grandson of Mr. DuPont came to Mooar plant and evinced much interest in the fact that his grandsire had visited the big plant.

High Safety Record.

The safety record of the Mooar plant is one of the best in the nation, too. Over the 50 year period there have been seven fatalities, five lives lost in explosion, one by electrocution and one workman was caught in a flywheel belt and whirled to death. There have been minor accidents, and some explosions and fires which have damaged property.

The first superintendent was Francis Gurney Thomas, and he was followed by Thomas Brady. H. C. Chapman was superintendent for six years and W. J. Cahalan was the company executive for eight years, followed by M. Clifton Cook for a year. He was followed by L. C. Myers who has been manager of the Mooar plant since 1931.

DAILY GATE CITY
FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1935

BUCK DEER AT MOOAR PLANT LIKES PEOPLE

A buck deer has been added to the herd at the E. I. Du Pont de Nemours plant at Mooar, and from his actions the first two days he has been at his new home, he is going to prove a real pet. He seems much more interested in human friends than in his own kind, and has been hanging around the plant ever since his arrival two days ago. He was present while workmen were unloading lumber today, and raisin cookies, and other delicacies from lunch boxes were shared with him.

A year ago the Iowa State Fish and Game Commission asked L. C. Myers superintendent of the Mooar plant for a white faun, which the commission said would be taken in exchange for a buck. The faun was captured by the commission's men, but was just a young animal and was apparently scared during the capture, and failed to live for any length of time after being taken from the corral here.

Some time ago before he was transferred, Warden Harvey asked Supt. Myers if the bargain on the two animals had been completed. He was informed of the condition of affairs, but Mr. Myers said that he did not intend to push the trade, especially as the faun had died. He thought no more about the matter until a couple of days ago when he was sought at the plant by a workman who wanted to know if he was looking for a deer, saying that one was at the gate in a truck and consigned to the Mooar plant.

New Buck Is Welcomed.

Going to the gate, Mr. Myers was met by a representative of the game commission who said he had a buck deer for the Du Pont herd, and the truck and trailer were brought inside the fence. A couple of slats were removed from the cage, and the attendant called "Here Sammy." The buck walked out, nosed around and apparently decided to make himself at home. He had gone a hundred feet or so into the woods, when the attendant called him, and back he came. Mr. Myers tried the calling stunt, and the buck responded, although did not come quite so close.

However, it was evident that he had decided to make himself at home, and in the two days that he has been here, has endeared himself to everyone at the plant. He has been spending most of his time around the office and plant, and apparently is going to like his new quarters.

The animal has been exhibited at the Iowa State Fair for two seasons, and is a handsome young buck, with a fine shaped head and antlers.

177-

Blasting powder site at Mooar becomes a park of rare charm

The Daily Gate City
— KEOKUK, IOWA SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 1962

By Dorothy Pickett

The roar of the mills is no more and only a few empty, sagging buildings are visible, where once stood one of the oldest industrial firms in the midwest. This is the ghost of old Powdertown.

Man-made structures may rot and decay or be devastated when unused, but nature has a way of perpetuating itself, living on in all its beauty.

So it is with the rustic grounds that surround the site of the black powder mills. Even today the tree-lined, meandering and seemingly "perplexed" roads and woodland paths, canopied with over-hanging branches, are things of beauty. The site's untamed vegetation is perhaps the nearest thing to the Forest Primeval that many tri-citians may ever be privileged to see.

RAILROAD TRACKS once ran through this charcoal shed, now empty and sagging. Gate City

DuPont plant

The little hamlet of Mooar, named for Judge D. Mooar, who owned the land, was established as a railroad stop. A tract of more than a thousand acres was purchased by the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Powder Company for the purpose of producing black blasting powder, eventually becoming not only DuPont's largest black blasting plant, but the largest of its kind in the world.

The first "line", a series of separate buildings necessary in the different steps of production, was built between 1888 and 1890; the second line between 1890 and '92, doubling the company's production strength. A third followed in 1900 and the fourth in 1918.

Some $200,000 was spent in improving the grounds on which rose 50 separate buildings, erected in 1890. Two company towns were established consisting of 45 homes which accommodated approximately 300 workers. The rolling woodlands surrounding the mills, scenic driveways and footpaths became one of the area's loveliest spots.

High fences

High fences surrounded the mill buildings and great safety precautions were adhered to. Workers were required to wear special shoes with no metal in them, and also specially made overalls. No smoking was allowed and a daily search for matches was conducted before the workmen were allowed to enter the working area.

At times there were as many as 225 employes on the company payroll and between April 1890, when production started, up to August of 1948, a total of 923,214,491 kegs of black blasting powder was produced and shipped from the Mooar plant.

Powdertown village, in addition to the mills, office buildings and tenant houses, had a general store, a club house equipped with bowling alley, pool table, dancing facilities and a boarding house. The company is remembered today, especially by former employes still living in the area, as one that fostered and maintained excellent employe relations.

Considering the magnitude of the operations and the precarious product involved, the safety record of the company was considered remarkable during its 58 years of existence, with numerous plaques and certificates from the National Safety council being presented to the local DuPont branch of the company.

Five explosions

But in spite of the strict safety precautions and enforcements, five serious explosions or fires occurred in which there was loss of life.

The most disastrous of all was the first one on March 14, 1902 at 9:59 o'clock when one of the powder plants blew up, killing two, wounding three and demolishing the stone building located on the side of a ravine, quite apart from the other buildings.

Frank Schneider came on duty at this particular mill that Monday morning for the first time, as relief for a workman who was on vacation. Parts of his body were found in trees some 500 feet away from the site of the explosion.

Engbert Erickson was blown 500 feet, burned, blackened and mutilated. Louis Leake was not killed but thrown through the side of the building and lost the sight of one eye. James Galloway, the electrician, was blown 200 feet, yet was able to get up and walk.

Felt for miles

The shock of the explosion was felt for miles around, reaching Burlington, LaHarpe and Canton, Mo. with much property damage resulting in Keokuk.

Other explosions or accidents occurred through the years, one in the 1920's, killing John Heddon, the only man in the plant that night; in 1938 Allie Brisby was a fatality.

On July 3 of the following year at 10:30 a.m. an explosion occurred and the building was engulfed in flames in a matter of seconds. Alfred Kreiss was burned and died within a few days, Albert Miller was also burned. In the plant's last explosion in 1945 two men were killed — Bert Leake and Perry Wright.

The names of former employes still living in the immediate vicinity are legion and it would be impossible to mention all of them. A few of those contacted in security material for this story include E. C. Dunn, who carried powder samples, as a boy, during vacation months; Hugh Shannon, who was on duty at the time of four of the explosions; and E. L. Vinson, who was in charge of decorating and maintenance of the homes.

Archie Peters

Archie Peters, who started working at the plant as a laborer at 15 cents an hour, has as long a tenure of service as most anyone and he has much first-hand information at his fingertips. Upon the arrival of Larry Myers as plant manager, Peters was made superintendent of the mills.

After more than a half-century of operation the Powder works stopped production in February of 1949, due to the lessening demand for black powder. However, Peters stayed on for two more years and

ONE OF THE MANY SCENIC DRIVES in old Powdertown.

was in charge of the remaining seven magazines loaded with powder.

These magazines were used as a part of the Du Pont's distribution system. Black powder was shipped here from their eastern plants to be available for quarry blasting in the vicinity.

In 1951 when all operations ceased, it was under Peters' supervision that 67 buildings were destroyed. Since it was a Du Pont policy that no one be allowed to use a contaminated building, all must be burned. However, this was a precarious undertaking since they were impregnated with powder.

Using a fire hose, each building was thoroughly wetted down, then burned. Some of the buildings were valued at as much as $40,000 each.

Company church

During the early years of the Powdertown development, the company erected a church building on the Argyle road near the village. St. Andrews Episcopal church was established to serve the community and for many years had its own pastor.

With the disintegration of the company and the passing of years the church has often been referred to as the "Cathedral in Nowhere." However, it continues to serve, at least on a part time basis.

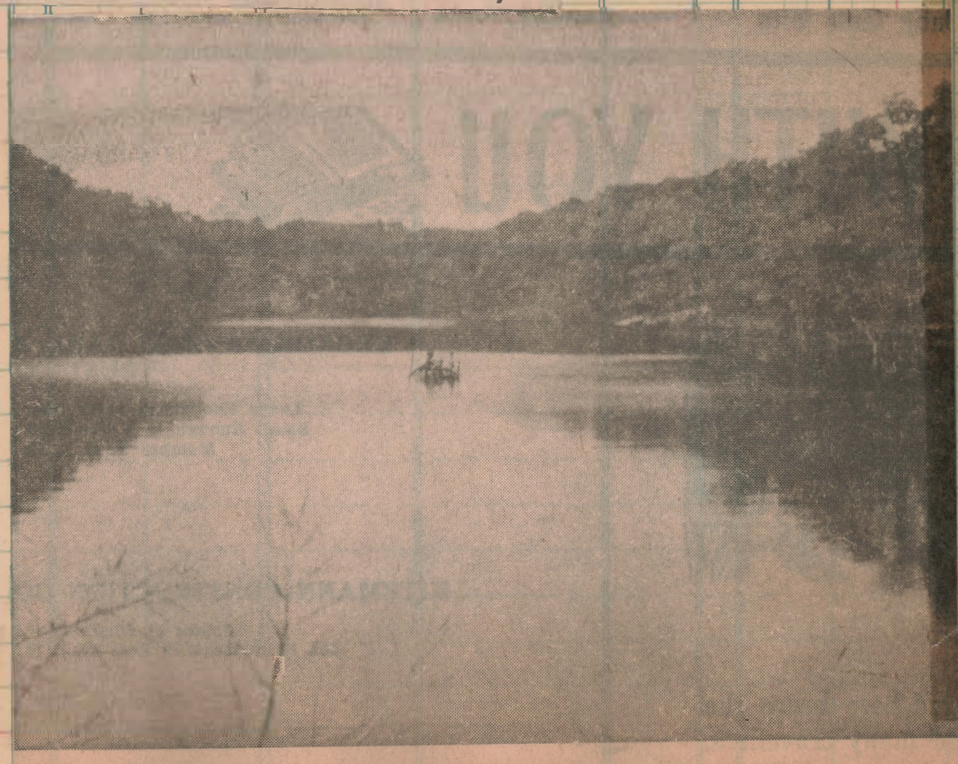
For the past 11 or 12 years W. J. Ingram, Jr. of the Ingram Portrait studio in Keokuk, has served as lay reader, conducting services every other Sunday in the well-kept little church that is now more than three-quarters of a century old.

After operations ceased the DuPont company offered a large tract of the land to the State of Iowa, free of charge, but it was not accepted. Officials thought the site was too far south and east in the state to be of any value as a state Park.

Chatfield park

However, most of the residences were purchased by former employes, and A. B. Chatfield purchased about 850 of the 1160 acres with Archie Peters buying 103 acres, which he later sold.

Chatfield still owns the lake and the land surrounding it between the two clusters of homes, and under the supervision of the Lee County Con-



LAKE IN CHATFIELD PARK

Gate City

Sept 27, 1962 - page #2
(Blasting powder site)

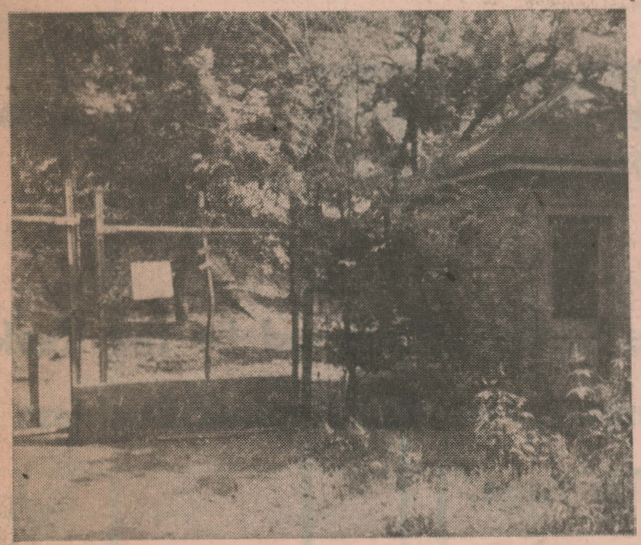
Blasting

(Continued from page 2)

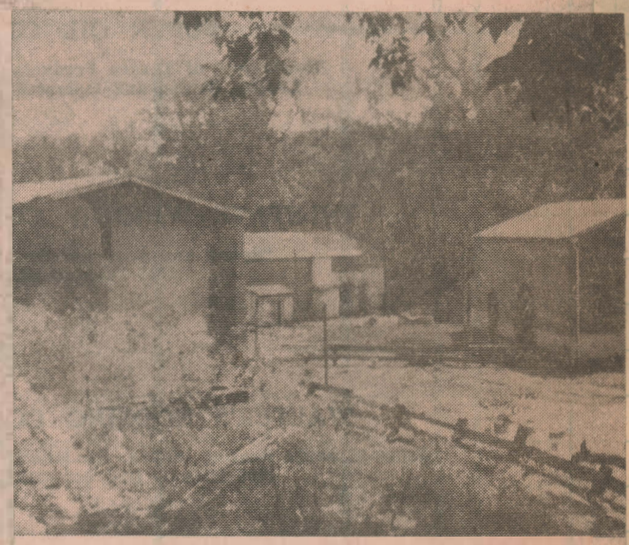
Sept 26, 1962 - page #3
(Blasting Powder Site)

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH on the Argyle road was built in the 1890's by the DuPont Company.

W. J. INGRAM, JR., photographer by trade and Episcopal lay reader by Sunday at St. Andrew's church. Gate City



OLD GATE HOUSE at Powdertown, where men passed inspection before entering the mills. Gate City



SOME OF THE FEW REMAINING BUILDINGS in Powdertown, standing dark and dilapidated—a relic of the past. Gate City

servation the site has become one of the lovliest recreation spots in the entire vicinity, known as Chatfield Park.

Facilities include 15 acres of well-stocked public fishing lake, wilderness camping, picnic areas, trails, bridle paths and southeast Iowa's best archery course.

So, Powdertown lives on . . still a place of unique charm, with its recreational park, its church, its group of trim immaculate homes and a community composed of many citizens who still remember the DuPont company as one of the tops in the entire country.

SHEET NO. 180-

NAME

ADDRESS

MADE BY BAKER-VAWTER CO. → ORDER BY FORM NUMBER C62C BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

DATE 19___		FOLIO	CK	CHARGES	DATE 19___		FOLIO	CK	CREDITS

Early history of St. Andrews church at Mooar is recalled

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 1966 — 15

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL church at Mooar as it appears today. The little mission church, built in 1895, is about to be sold and its furnishings have been moved to St. John's church, Keokuk. —Gate City

By Marcia Buss

Because the ownership of St. Andrew's Episcopal church at Mooar may be changing hands before long it seems an appropriate time to recall its early beginnings which were so closely associated with the Iowa Powder Mills.

Back in the year 1888 a tract of land known as the northern half of section 16 was purchased from Judge Daniel Mooar, a local office holder. This tract was chosen because of its proximity to the railroads and the river. The C. B. and Q. tracks were within a mile of the center of section 16.

The E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company of Wilmington, Delaware was interested in establishing a western plant for manufacturing black powder and Keokuk was seleceted as an ideal location because it was close to the coal fields of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Blasting with gunpowder was part of the process for mining coal.

Great speculation

There was great speculation in the city of Keokuk concerning what purpose the land purchased would be used for since the duPont men had kept their plans secret. A meat packing plant, railroad yards, government projects and others were mentioned but it was agreed that whatever endeavor was undertaken it would be good for the city of Keokuk and its economy.

Francis G. duPont was responsible for the construction and operation of the plant, and his cousin, Francis Gurney Thomas was the first superintendent.

It was the first plant to be constructed by the duPont Company beyond the Brandywine in Pennsylvania.

The railroad built a spur to the tract of land and a station was erected and named Mooar Station after Judge Mooar, its previous owner.

By March of 1890 the plant was completed and the steam was ready to be turned on. On April 17, 1890 the first powder was produced. By 1901 it had become one of the most successful and largest blasting powder plants in the U. S.

Proposes church

Both Thomas and F. G. duPont were ardent members of the Episcopal church and were prominent in its lay activities. In an effort to improve the spiritual well being of the workmen and their families. Thomas established a Sunday school and church in January of 1894. It met in a store building on the company grounds. By May of that year the attendance had increased to such an extent that he proposed erecting a church.

The company could not give financial assistance that year because the country was in the midst of a recession and the company had been operating at a loss. Also it was determined that both Catholic and Protestant workers were employed at the plant and the company did not want to build a chapel that would favor the Protestants over the Catholics.

However Thomas persisted in his efforts to erect a suitable church. On January 21, 1895 he gave an account of the first year of the St. Andrew's mission, the name given to the religious organization he had helped to form.

19 are baptized

He had conducted services every Sunday since the first one on January 7, 1894 and attendance averaged 63 per week. Nineteen were baptized. Mr. Thomas felt the people had taken a great interest in the work and had raised $500 for the construction of a church.

In June of 1895 when Francis G. duPont attended a service he liked it so well that he pledged $500 toward the building fund. At his suggestion it was decided to build a $2000 frame church instead of a stone one for $3000.

On September 14, 1895 the cornerstone was laid and completed in December. The membership had increased from 80 to 150 and the building's capacity of 200 seemed none too large. After its completion the structure was

given to the Diocese of Iowa of the Episcopal church and a minister was hired to conduct the two Sunday services.

Later years

St. Andrews church supported a resident minister until 1925 or 1926 when Father Ford left Mooar to become a chaplain for the duPont company at Wilmington, Del.

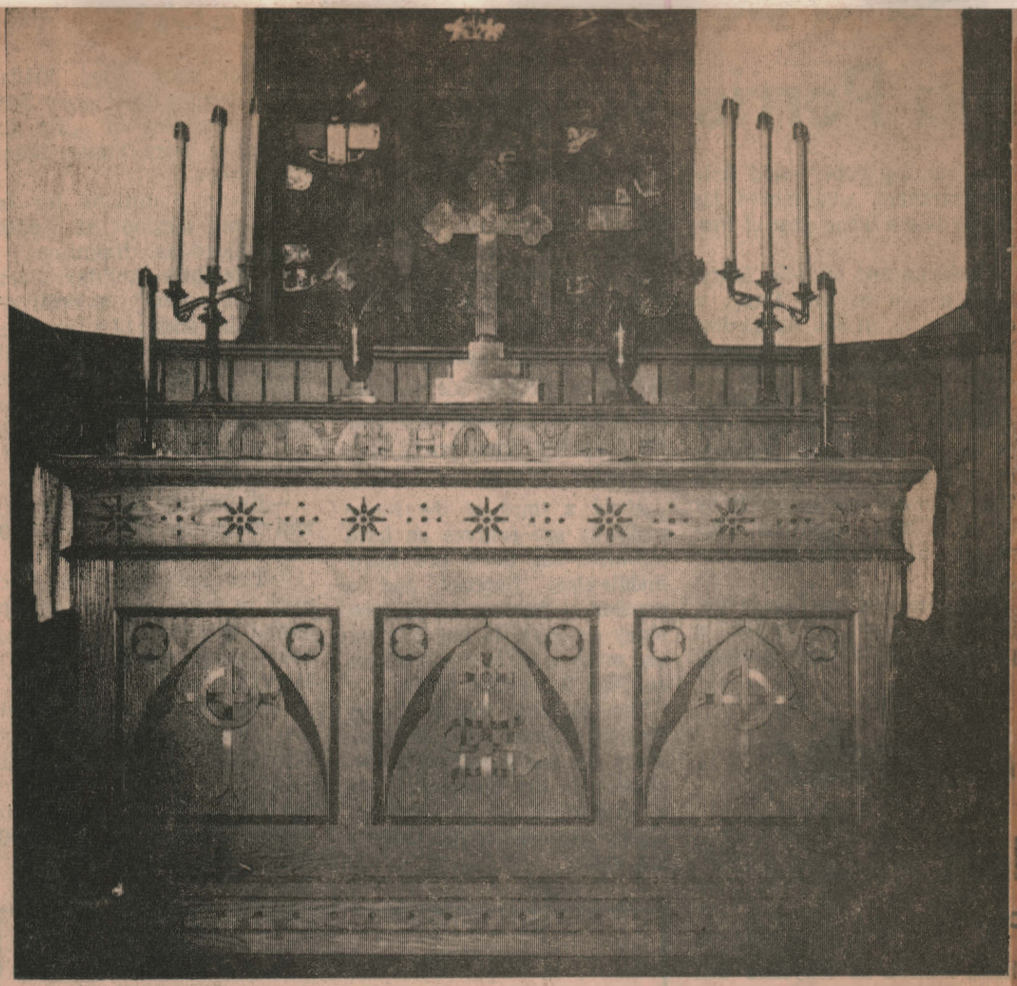
The Rev. Wm. S. D. Lamont served as vicar for many years and later the Rev. Gerald Graham and the Rev. Clyde Jardine conducted monthly services. William Ingram, Jr., lay reader in the Episcopal church, conducted a service of morning prayer and Sunday school until three years ago when the Bishop of Iowa decided to close the little mission church because of the expense. Since that time members from St. Andrews have been attending St. John's, Keokuk.

Move altar

Within the past month some of the furnishings from St. Andrews have been moved into St. John's where they have been placed in the Sunday school room. Included are the altar which has been all refinished and the lectern and hymn board. The room will be known as St. Andrews chapel and special prayers were said on Sunday in the chapel following the regular service. Flowers on the altar were given in memory of former members of St. Andrews, Mooar.

St. Andrew was considered the patron saint of missions within the Angelican communion and it is appropriate that the name of the chapel where the young people worship is named for him.

This reporter is indebted to John V. Miller who chose the Iowa Powder Mills as the subject of his doctoral thesis. The information he gathered from books in the duPont Historical Museum at Wilmington was used in his thesis, a copy of which is on file in the Keokuk Public library.



THE ALTAR from St. Andrews church has been refinished and is now in place in the children's chapel at St. John's church. The room has been named St. Andrew's Chapel. —Gate City

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 1968 — 3

PICTURESQUE ST. ANDREW'S church at Powder Town, has gained a new lease on life after being closed for a number of years. The Rev. Harry Miller of the Johnson Street Road has purchased it from the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa and is reopening it as a non-denominational Country Bible church. Services will be held Thursday at 7:30 p. m. and Sunday morning at 10 and, until plans for Sunday school are completed Sunday night at 7:30. The Rev. M. Miller, formerly a traveling evangelist, is married and has two children, Marvin and Rhonda. He invites the public to attend. — Gate City

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

183-

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1967 — 3

BOOSTING THE "DuPont" bell into the hitherto empty bell tower at Grace church was no small task. Seven men members of the church spent most of a day in the transportation and installation of the 500 pound bell.
—Photo courtesy of the Clinton Herald

Bell from St. Andrew's church now rings in Clinton church

CLINTON — Grace Episcopal church at 21st Ave., N. and 2nd street in Clinton was built in 1855 but until recently its bell tower had no bell.

A group of men remedied the situation when they installed a 500 pound bell which came from the old town of Mooar Station near Keokuk.

Until its transfer to Clinton the bell had hung in the tower of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, erected in 1895 on DuPont powder works property which later became the town of Mooar.

The bell was a gift to St. Andrew's church from the DuPont family. The company had an Episcopal clergyman in its employ at the powder works as an industrial chaplain and overseer of the church.

The bell was obtained by Grace church through the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa with the help of James Larsen, a Grace church member now serving as a seminary intern at St. John's in Keokuk.

The Rev. Gordon Roberts, rector of Grace church noted that about 25 families in Grace church are connected with DuPont. "What could be more appropriate than a DuPont bell ringing from the tower of Grace church?" he asked.

KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27, 1952

BUILT MANY YEARS AGO through the help of the community and the DuPont Power Works, St. Andrew's Episcopal church at Mooar has been redecorated and beautified by the members under the direction, and with much individual work, by William J. Ingram Jr., lay reader.

Young Episcopal Lay Reader Triples Attendance at Mooar

William J. Ingram, Jr. of 1502 Main street, in addition to his work at his own photography and portrait studios here, finds time to conduct services at St. Andrew's Episcopal church at Mooar every Sunday.

That in itself is not unusual, most churches advocate more participation by laymen. While Ingram is doing just that, he has done much more. He has actually been instrumental in building up St. Andrew's church to a point where membership and attendance has tripled in the past few years.

All Bills Paid

Ingram assumed leadership in the church on the invitation of the Rev. Gerald E. Graham, former pastor of St. John's Episcopal church here. He found the work interesting, absorbing and inspirational. He was also instrumental in wiping out a fairly large indebtedness on the church and proudly announced this week "all bills paid."

Under the Episcopal church policy, Ingram, as a layman, is permitted to conduct a complete service, mostly, he says, morning prayer. It includes all the devotions of the church and a ten minute message given by Ingram. While these messages are not sermons inasmuch as he is not ordained, they are, nevertheless, originally written by an ordained Episcopal pastor and sent out to laymen all over the United States for use as messages where services are conducted by laymen.

Busy on Sunday

Ingram is not permitted to give communion, baptism or any major rites of the church, but his work as a layman has been exceedingly successfull from the point of church growth and interest. When the sacraments are given, an ordained Episcopal pastor from Keokuk or surrounding area presides.

Ingram has been exceptionally busy this month. In addition to conducting morning prayer at St. Andrew s at 10 and church school immediately following the service, he has been filling in as lay leader at the Episcopal church in Warsaw. Thus his Sunday morning services begin at 8 a. m. and go straight through until noon.

Although Ingram is a member of St. John's church here, he has not led the services here. Those have been handled during the absence of ordained Episcopal priests by other laymen in St. John's. Ingram says he has been kept busy at St. Andrews.

Ingram is justifiably proud of the impressive appearence of St. Andrew's church at Mooar. He has done much of the work himself, but was quick to give credit to other members there who have worked with him loyally during the past few years.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

185.

DAILY GATE CITY

LARGEST BLACK POWDER PLANT IN WORLD HERE

FRIDAY, AUG. 30, 1935

Keokuk boasts the largest black powder plant in the world. This fine plant of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company is located at Mooar, a few miles from this city, and occupies 1,100 acres of ground. One-half of the acreage is occupied by the plant proper, and

L. C. MYERS
Manager
DuPont Plant, Mooar

there are two company villages and fifty homes on the land. From 200 to 250 people live in these homes.

The name of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. was for many years chiefly associated with the manufacture of explosives. It has been engaged in the production of these basic materials since 1802 when E. I. du Pont de Nemours, founders of the company, then a young man of 28 years, came to the United States from France and established his first powder mill on the banks of the Brandywine, near the city of Wilmington, Delaware.

The plant at Mooar was built in 1890 and is the largest black powder plant in the world, although its capacity now is only about half what it was a few years ago. While black powder is still the best lump coal producing explosive, other factors have gradually lessened the demand for it.

Since that period, the company has expanded until today it is a largely diversified chemical manufacturing industry. It has gone into many chemical lines, relating rather closely to the manufacture of explosives. Many of these products are of especial interest to the motor industry, such as Duco Everbright Pontop and Fabrikoid, rubber accelerants and anti-oxidants.

Others, such as the No. 7 Line and Zerone for anti-freeze, are sold through jobbers to the consuming public. Then there is Pyralin, which goes into shatter proof glass, and toilet accessories; Tetraethyl lead for ethyl gasoline, dyestuffs, rayon, cellophane, heavy chemical, paints and varnish.

The office at the Mooar plant can give information to those interested as to where any of the company's products can be purchased locally. L. C. Myers, manager of the local plant, has been in charge since he came to this community in August, 1931.

DAILY GATE CITY

LION'S CLUB LEARNS ABOUT MOOAR PLANT

MAR. 22, 1932

Lewis Deerfield, For Several Years Connected With DuPont Company, Tells About Manufacture and Use of Powder.

Cub Lewis Deerfield, connected with the DuPont powder plant at Mooar, was the speaker at the regular meeting of the Lion's club here this noon. He was introduced by Hubert Schouten, chairman of the program committee.

The speaker's interesting talk dealt with the manufacture of black powder, especially as made in the Mooar plant which is the largest black powder mill in the world. Prior to 1850, he said, black powder was the only explosive generally used, but with the invention of dynamite and other of its derivatives, black powder was in some measure replaced and is now used largely in mining.

Plant Built In 1888.

The DuPont family came to the United States from France in 1803, he said, and told of the first beginnings of the vast industry which is now universally associated with the name.

The Mooar plant was constructed in 1888 and when it announced a daily output of 410 kegs of powder, it was looked upon as a remarkable feat. Since that time the maximum output has reached 6,500 kegs daily. The plant is now making pellet powder which was first introduced to this country from England in 1921. It has been manufactured here since 1921.

Most persons, declared the speaker, do not realize the actual size of the local company. There are 250 buildings making up the plant, and in addition to these the company maintains two villages with 50 buildings for its employes.

Owns Many Acres.

Many acres of land are owned by the company for purposes of safety. On this land is kept a herd of 35 deer and about 400 sheep. These animals were obtained to keep down the growth of underbrush and thus obviate the danger of fires which might destroy the plan with an attendant loss of life.

Those connected with the Mooar plant are particularly proud of its record which has had fewer accidents than any business of its kind in the country. Only twice have explosions resulted in any serious damage here. The speaker also described the manufacture of powder itself.

HEDDEN RITES TO BE HELD AT ARGYLE, THURS.

The body of the late John Hedden, who was killed in an explosion at the Mooar works of the E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co., this morning, will remain at the Cunningham funeral parlors until time for the funeral services which will be held from the Argyle church tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Burial will be made in the Meeks cemetery at Vincennes.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. L. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

he Valley Whig.

KEOKUK:

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1860.

Look for the "X."

When subscribers find a cross thus ✕ placed before their name, on tha margin of the paper, they will understand that their subscription will expire within a short time, and unless renewed by payment being made *IN ADVANCE*, their names will be erased from our subscription list.

Republican Nominations.

For President,
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
For Vice President,
HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

For Congress,
SAMUEL R. CURTIS.

For Presidential Electors,
At Large,.....**FITZ HENRY WARREN.**
" .....**J. A. CHAPLINE.**
1st District,.....**M. L. McPHERSON.**
2nd " .....**CHAS. POMEROY.**

For Sec'y of State,.....**ELIJAH SELLS.**
For Attorney General,.....**C. C. NOURSE.**
For Auditor,.....**J. W. CATTELL.**
For Treasurer,.....**J. W. JONES.**
For Reg. State Land Office,...**A. B. MILLER.**

REMEMBER

THAT THERE WILL BE A GRAND

Republican Mass Meeting

AND

BARBACUE

AT

PRIMROSE,

ON

Wednesday, Aug. 16.

A great gathering is expected, and every Republican is requested to come out and give one day to the country.

Senator HARLAN, Hon. JAS. F. WILSON of Fairfield, Col. F. H. WARREN, and other speakers, are expected. Senators Harlan and Wilson have signified their intention to be there, and Col. Warren has been invited, and will no doubt attend.

Now let us have a demonstration worthy of our glorious cause.

apr. 29. 1861
Valley whig

INFORMATION WANTED,

OF RICHARD LOKER, JR., who will be 15 years old in May next, and was abducted from String Prairie last September, by one John Barker. Any information of him will be thankfully received by a bereaved mother in St. Louis. Address

MARY JANE LOKER,
April 22, '60-w1m St. Louis, Mo.

The Weekly Gate City

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1877.

For the Gate City.

Obituary.

Hon. E. S. McCulloch departed this life upon the fifth day of April, 1877, in the 65th year of his age. A brief account of the more prominent events of his life will be welcomed by his friends, who are by no means confined to his immediate neighborhood, nor indeed to Lee county. His last illness and death occurred at his home near Primrose, Lee county, Iowa. Here, amid his children, surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of a well appointed household, he received unremitting care, being, in the meantime, supplied with proper medical attendance and all the various aids and attentions the times afford. His last days, hours and moments were as comfortable and painless as could have been expected. He apparently enjoyed the full possession of his faculties until the last, having a word of recognition for each of the many callers from far and near, both by day and by night, while he had the power of speech.

Deceased was born in Davidson county, Tennessee, July 3d, 1812. He removed with his parents at an early age to Montgomery county, Illinois. While there in company with his brother David and Wm. Paisley, he enlisted in the Blackhawk war, serving until its close; thence he came to the Territory of Iowa in the fall of 1835, prospecting, and laid claim to the present site of his late, last and ever happy home. Returning to Illinois, in 1836 he again returned to Iowa and took possession of his claim. His parents and two brothers came with him. Aside from these there were but three families in the neighborhood.

In the early spring of 1841, in company with Wm. A. Donnel, Esq., he again went to Illinois, where he united his fortunes for life in a marriage with Miss Minerva A. Paisley, March 25, 1841. This union proved to have been most propitious, their mutual happiness being broken only by her death upon the 7th of February, 1873. Her loss seems to have weighed so heavily upon his ordinarily elastic spirits that well nigh every subsequent step in life has been toward the deeper and deeper shadows of a setting sun—a closing day which only precedes the dawn. Those who knew the lady best will be most surprised to learn that upon his return to Iowa in her company, she endured the entire journey on horseback—a distance of over two hundred and fifty miles. Mr. Donnell being also of the returning company, affirms that all enjoyed the trip as though it was solely for pleasure in place of sheer necessity.

What particular form of worship or name of religious faith was favored by the deceased, the writer knows not. He was brought up by strictly religious parents, attended whatever divine service was nearest, spoke respectfully of all denominations, and was ever of the same deportment, Sabbath or week day. Having lived the life of a Christian, it matters not for a name of man's giving.

His political career was most remarkable, but space will only be taken for the most noteworthy events. Passing by all town and county affairs, which were matters of almost constant recurrence, his experience as a legislator will only be briefly noted: Elected in 1841, a Representative to the Territorial Legislature of Iowa from Lee county, he served in that body for three consecutive terms. Re-elected in 1842. Again re-elected in 1850 and took an active part in the revision of the laws at that time. In 1854 he was elected to the State Senate, serving four years. In 1860 we find him again in the Legislature, and again taking a responsible position in the general revision of laws. In 1870 again a Senator and again assisting to revise the code of the State. It is sufficient evidence of the appreciation of his labors by the people that up to the last he was considered the strongest candidate of the times, and for the occasion in the party of his political faith in the county, and this supposition was proven correct beyond question at the polls.

Socially he was as popular as politically. Like most of "old settlers" and all true Christians, he was hospitable almost to a fault. His home was proverbial as "home" to all his friends, or those who sought his acquaintance, wayfaring or otherwise.

Forgetful of self in his solicitude for the welfare of others, perhaps his days were shortened by the multitude of offices, official positions, establishing State and county roads, settling up estates, and divers other county, town and neighborhood matters and difficulties, even a tithe of which are utterly beyond the possibility of recollection by the writer, who knew him intimately for over thirty years. As may be inferred from his success in life, as above chronicled, his general character was genial to well-meaning minds, cultivated or otherwise, in all grades of society. Ever courteous, even in reproof, the friendly intent was plainly manifest, while an untarnished honor was immoveably enthroned over all of his moods, motives, acts and deeds. But now at last, the prattling infant, once so tenderly cared for, the gleeful child guileless of wrong, the robust youth trained up to proper ways for manhood, the conscientious, tender hearted but firm in honor's ways. Man created in the image of the omniscient, ever-living God. With us but yesterday, but now the end of one form of existence hath come. Earth to earth and the spirit to the God that gave it being. The last long lingering look from hundreds of friends, and the mortal remains of our friend are borne gently, slowly, sadly away. The last sad rites are over. The last eloquent words fitly spoken, and while soft strains of appropriate music go sighing over the tombs of his ancestors, dying gently away 'mid the echoes of the primeval forest, we lay him gently by the side of the pride of his heart; the sympathetic sharer of all his joys and sorrows through life; the mother of his children whom they hath loved better than life and to whose care we must leave their last resting place. J. S.

187

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

PRIMROSE.

From what is now Primrose postoffice, the nearest postoffice, up to about 1846, was West Point, about twelve miles, and Farmington, about eight miles distant. A mail boy on horseback carried the mail between West Point and Farmington; also between West Point and Keosauqua. The latter route was simply a path, known for years as the mail boy's path, and passing Primrose three miles and a half north. From weekly trips their frequency was increased to daily trips but a short time ere they were superseded by the railroad. Early settlers got their mail as best they could from such distant offices. At times a chance messenger brought the mail for all his neighbors. But more commonly a boy on horseback went once a week to the nearest office and brought all the mail for certain neighbors. The writer did this for years, and has gone to West Point twice for one letter each time, the postage being twenty-five cents. Each postmaster, in those days, sent word to parties who lived ten or twelve miles away, if a chance letter awaited their order. About 1846 efforts were put forth which finally resulted in the Hon. E. S. McCulloch establishing the postoffice of Primrose. The people for a radius of some six miles rejoiced because of an office so handy and in such reliable hands. Mrs. McCulloch named the postoffice and the adjacent village and was, together with her many other estimable qualities, notably as good a postmistress as could be found in any country.

The writer has seen the honorable postmaster more than once acting as mail carrier for his office in emergencies. In this as in all his public life he cared for nothing so much as to do his duty unselfishly on the square, a characteristic which is inherited in his family to this day. In a few years the village of Primrose appearing to the postmaster to be of sufficient size to hold the postoffice, he gladly turned it over to other hands.

About this time Frink & Walker's coach and four appeared upon the scene, carrying the mail from Keokuk to Fairfield, and business affairs about Primrose were wielded by strong and willing hands. Blacksmith shops running six fires, a wagon makers' shop, two large and one small store. A large hotel, and a steam sawmill, were all occupied from early morn until late at night. The railroad excitement was at its flood tide, Primrose, like every postoffice town in the county was to be a county seat or have a railroad of more or less magnificent length. For ought I know, also a pontoon bridge to Europe.

A few sharpers and a lot of fools met. Hence those railroad bonds. Railroads came their own way, and——then busy scenes at Primrose——! But comparisons are often odious. The postoffice yet flourishes and has ever had more than an average good standing. The present postmistress is a good lady who stands squarely among those at the head of their class—reliable every time. She has staunch friends upon every hand who are well known in Lee county as careing for nothing in the world so much as to know they are right—a prevailing characteristic among old settlers. *Esto perpetua.* 12/5/1883

188.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

189.

The Gate City.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1872.

New Steam Flouring Mill at Primrose.

While in Fort Madison a few days ago, the writer was hailed with, "Why don't you write for the GATE, a description of that fine mill that is building at Primrose." Excuses availing nothing, to oblige a public spirited and valued friend, here is the mill in question up to date: The main building is a four story brick, thirty-five by fifty feet. The engine room is eighteen by forty-two feet, and like the main building, has been constructed solely with a view to convenience, strength and durability. The heavy rock forming the foundation for the massive walls, were brought at great expense, on wagons from beyond Franklin, some ten miles away. All the brick in the outside wall, were brought from Fort Madison at a cost of fourteen dollars per thousand. The building, although constructed with massive walls of brick and stone of the very best quality, yet the inside is as though heavy oak timbers were the main reliance, thus rendering it quite impossible for the building to ever become unsafe, either from internal pressure or the long continued vibration, resulting from the running of much heavy machinery. The engine room is roofed with tin, and every part of the machinery therein rests upon brick or stone, fire-proof as near as may be and substantial withal. The boiler, containing five flues and four feet in diameter by twenty feet in length, was made by Mr. Miller of your city. The engine, a sixty horse power, with a balance wheel fourteen feet in diameter, and weighing five thousand two hundred pounds, was made by Sample, Armitage & Co., also of Keokuk. Turning from the engine room to enter the main building, first floor, on the left hand, are the wheat sinks, constructed to hold about two thousand bushels. Upon the other hand is the husk frame, containing spur gearing to be driven by a double edged eighteen inch wide belt.

The above mentioned machinery, being justly held as a very important part of a good mill, is carefully inspected by the writer, while the owners and head mechanics, with commendable pride, assist in the examination, at the same time relating how they went to many large cities in the West in search of, but found none superior to, this of Keokuk machinists, and their own design and make.

We pass to the second floor. This is well lighted, and might be called the receiving room. There are three run of burrs, two of four and one of three feet diameter; also the flour chests, &c. Too numerous to mention are the contrivances and machinery here located, that the miller may with convenience control the many branches of his business, all more or less in this room connected. One outside door of this room is solely for the ingress and egress of grists to be ground, and yet another for those who come to barter, buy or sell, both of which are located at the farthest possible point away from the engine-room and other machinery.

Upon the third floor is a double bolting-chest, with one improvement worthy of special mention. A skillful arrangement of galvanized iron over the cant boards, with other contrivances, are intended to every time give to each customer the identical flour from his own grain—no more, no less. This arrangement, and improvement over many grist mills will be gladly hailed and appreciated by all good farmers, and attract many, both far and near. There is also a new and much needed contrivance for separating oats and broken weed stalks from Spring wheat. The smut machines are not yet up, but are to be of the latest improved make, and every way first-class.

Upon the next floor are huge piles of wheat and rye, lying around loose. Upon inquiry it is found that the sinks below are all full, and this much more on hand than can be properly stored. This looks like business close ahead. In fact the proprietors intend to commence grinding in about two weeks.

Then, Mr. Editor, if you will call in, you will see as complete a mill, quietly doing first class work, as there is to be found in any country. Mr. Beacom and Geo. Whitall, professional mill-wrights, have superintended the works, and the result will be the best possible advertisement and guarantee of their proficiency in their line of business. Passing from the mill, the well comes in view. This is ten in diameter by forty feet deep. But not satisfied with the supply of water thus obtained, the proprietors commenced boring, and at twenty-seven feet struck a vein of water which, when tubed, flowed up with a strength and rapidity that left nothing to be desired. Close by are long piles of cord wood, and much more contracted for and in transit.

Pierce & Kumleh, the proprietors of this mill, should meet with full success in this enterprise. One of the firm having proven himself a shrewd business manager, with unsurpassed resources; the other having the reputation of also being unsurpassed as a practical miller. With a continuance of well-planned efforts, such as they have put forth for the last six months, success will continue to attend them.

Let the public see to it that they properly appreciate the advantages which this fifteen thousand dollar mill can bring to them, and all parties will surely be mutually profited thereby. S.

Primsose, March 6th. 1872.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9.

BOILER EXPLOSION.

A Bursted Boiler in a Primrose Mill--- The Engineer Thrown Fifteen Feet but Escapes Uninjured.

From our correspondent at Primrose, we learn that on Monday afternoon, about four o'clock, the people were startled by a loud report, and hastening in the direction from whence the sound proceeded, discovered that the boiler of the Primrose Mill had exploded.

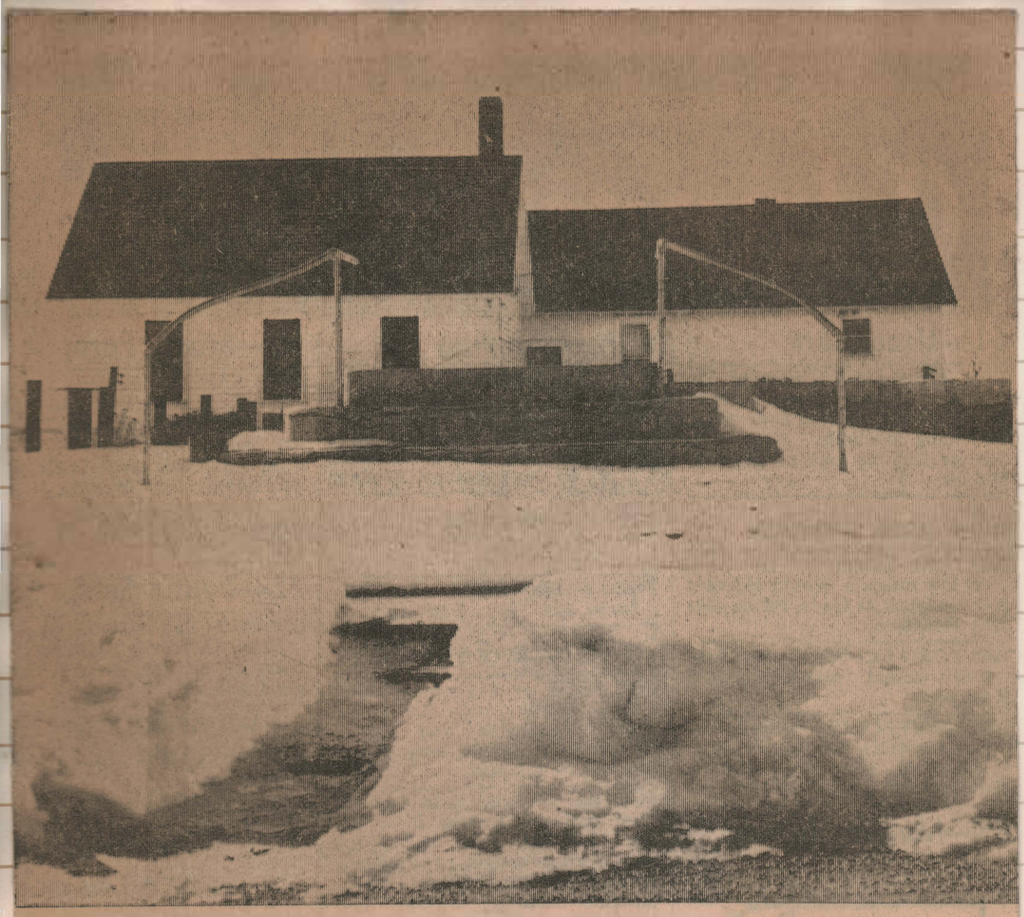
It was at first feared that there had been great loss of life, as a great many people had brought in grain that day and a large number of persons were in the mill at the time the explosion occurred.

When the excitement was over it was ascertained that but one person in the bnilding was injured, and he, the engineer.

There was no person in the engine room at the time of the explosion except the engineer, George Brombaugh, who was sitting in the rear end of the boiler room, on a pair of steps used to get on the boiler. He was thrown some fifteen feet through a door in the main building, which was open. He was fortunate enough to escape without serious injury. In examining the wreck of the engine room, it was ascertained, from the brick and other stuff lying around, that had the engineer been in any other place than where he was when the boiler burst, he would have been badly injured, if not killed.

The explosion was caused by the poor manner in which the boiler was repaired about a year ago. A bad piece of iron had been put on, and sufficient care had not been exercised in attaching the new piece. The repairs were made on the part of the boiler which stood immediately over the fire. The new piece was forced from its position.

The mill was owned by Wm. Brodt, of Green Bay township. There was no injury to the main building, and very little to the engine, the principal damages being sustained in the boiler and engine house. Three hundred dollars will probably cover the loss.



THE PARISH HALL is all that remains of the Zion United Church of Christ at Primrose following the fire that destroyed the church on April 20, 1965 The congregation has voted to discontinue services and unite with St. Paul's church at Donnellson. —Gate City

Zion church at Primrose disbands after 96 years

The Daily Gate City FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 196.

DONNELLSON — The Zion United Church of Christ congregation of Primrose, held its final service of worship Sunday morning, February 12. The congregation had earlier voted to merge with St. Paul's congregation of Donnellson.

The parish hall, where worship services and other activities have been held since the loss of the church building by fire on April 20, 1965, will remain as a Community Center. The Donnellson Saddle club will be in charge of its operation. The parsonage has also been sold.

Since there are a number of legal matters still unsettled, the congregation has not officially dissolved. When these matters are finished, all present members who do not request a transfer elsewhere will be officially received into the membership of the Donnellson congregation. In the meantime, it is hoped that members will feel at home in the Donnellson church where they are invited to worship and attend other activities of the congregation.

Early history

This seems an appropriate time to recall the early history of the Zion church. Miss Sophia Hennies the oldest living member of the congregation and a second generation member compiled a brief history on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the church in October, 1946.

It is from this history that the following story comes.

In the year 1869 a small group of German immigrants (about 12 families) organized an Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Primrose with a resident pastor. Sometimes later the group was served by a Lutheran minister from Farmington who held services in the Methodist church.

Reorganize

By 1871 the group had reorganized and adopted a constitution and by-laws. The name Zion's Evangelical Church of Primrose, Iowa was chosen. That same year the first church building was dedicated on September 14, and the Rev. J. D. Berges was called as the pastor.

It is noted that the church bell was so late in arriving that there was not time to install it in the church belfry before the dedication so it was placed on a pole and rung that day.

German service

Many ministers have served the congregation through the years the last one being the Rev. Robert Elkin who resigned in August, 1966. From 1871 until 1927 the Primrose pastors also served as pastor for St. John's church in Farmington and at the Columbia school house south of Warren. Until 1927 the services were conducted in German.

The first parsonage was purchased in 1880 and a church school was built in 1889 and in 1896 a second church building was erected and dedicated just 25 years after the dedication of the first church.

Ladies Aid

A Ladies Aid was started as early as 1874 with 22 members. The group met on Sunday after the service and one activity was that of making quilts to be sent to an orphanage.

By 1900 a group of young women in the church recognized a need for a pipe organ and by 1905 they had raised $500 for its purchase.

Cemetery

The name of Mrs. Lawrence Breitenstein should be mentioned for she served as church organist for over 40 years. Several from the parish have gone into full time Christian service.

In 1869 land had been acquired for a cemetery located one-half mile south of Primrose. Later a cemetery association was formed and a fund raised for its upkeep.

The women of the parish have been allowed to take a more active part in the administration of the church and have had the privilege of voting since 1930.

Gifts

Many gifts were presented to the church among them a picture of Christ dedicated to the 27 men from the community who served in the Armed Forces.

The parish hall built in 1931 has served as a social center for the community and the young people's group contributed many improvements.

Even though the small country church appears to be disappearing just as the small country school has it is nice to remember that the Zion church filled the needs of its members for almost a full century.

190-

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

191-

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 18 2.

For the Gate City.

New Steam Flouring Mill at Primrose.

While in Fort Madison a few days ago, the writer was hailed with, "Why don't you write for the GATE, a description of that fine mill that is building at Primrose." Excuses availing nothing, to oblige a public spirited and valued friend, here is the mill in question up to date: The main building is a four story brick, thirty-five by fifty feet. The engine room is eighteen by forty-two feet, and like the main building, has been constructed solely with a view to convenience, strength and durability. The heavy rock forming the foundation for the massive walls, were brought at great expense, on wagons from beyond Franklin, some ten miles away. All the brick in the outside wall, were brought from Fort Madison at a cost of fourteen dollars per thousand. The building, although constructed with massive walls of brick and stone of the very best quality, yet the inside is as though heavy oak timbers were the main reliance, thus rendering it quite impossible for the building to ever become unsafe, either from internal pressure or the long continued vibration, resulting from the running of much heavy machinery. The engine room is roofed with tin, and every part of the machinery therein rests upon brick or stone, fire-proof as near as may be and substantial withal. The boiler, containing five flues and four feet in diameter by twenty feet in length, was made by Mr. Miller of your city. The engine, a sixty horse power, with a balance wheel fourteen feet in diameter, and weighing five thousand two hundred pounds, was made by Sample, Armitage & Co., also of Keokuk. Turning from the engine room to enter the main building, first floor, on the left hand, are the wheat sinks, constructed to hold about two thousand bushels. Upon the other hand is the husk frame, containing spur gearing to be driven by a double edged eighteen inch wide belt.

The above-mentioned machinery, being justly held as a very important part of a good mill, is carefully inspected by the writer, while the owners and head mechanics, with commendable pride, assist in the examination, at the same time relating how they went to many large cities in the West in search of, but found none superior to, this of Keokuk machinists, and their own design and make.

We pass to the second floor. This is well lighted, and might be called the receiving room. There are three run of burrs, two of four and one of three feet diameter; also the flour chests, &c. Too numerous to mention are the contrivances and machinery here located, that the miller may with convenience control the many branches of his business, all more or less in this room connected. One outside door of this room is solely for the ingress and egress of grists to be ground, and yet another for those who come to barter, buy or sell, both of which are located at the farthest possible point away from the engine-room and other machinery.

Upon the third floor is a double bolting-chest, with one improvement worthy of special mention. A skillful arrangement of galvanized iron over the cant boards, with other contrivances, are intended to every time give to each customer the identical flour from his own grain—no more, no less. This arrangement, and improvement over many grist mills will be gladly hailed and appreciated by all good farmers, and attract many, both far and near. There is also a new and much needed contrivance for separating oats and broken weed stalks from Spring wheat. The smut machines are not yet up, but are to be of the latest improved make, and every way first-class.

Upon the next floor are huge piles of wheat and rye, lying around loose. Upon inquiry it is found that the sinks below are all full, and this much more on hand than can be properly stored. This looks like business close ahead. In fact the proprietors intend to commence grinding in about two weeks.

Then, Mr. Editor, if you will call in, you will see as complete a mill, quietly doing first class work, as there is to be found in any country. Mr. Beacom and Geo. Whitall, professional mill-wrights, have superintended the works, and the result will be the best possible advertisement and guarantee of their proficiency in their line of business. Passing from the mill, the well comes in view. This is ten in diameter by forty feet deep. But not satisfied with the supply of water thus obtained, the proprietors commenced boring, and at twenty-seven feet struck a vein of water which, when tubed, flowed up with a strength and rapidity that left nothing to be desired. Close by are long piles of cord wood, and much more contracted for and in transit.

Pierce & Kumleh, the proprietors of this mill, should meet with full success in this enterprise. One of the firm having proven himself a shrewd business manager, with unsurpassed resources; the other having the reputation of also being unsurpassed as a practical miller. With a continuance of well-planned efforts, such as they have put forth for the last six months, success will continue to attend them.

Let the public see to it that they properly appreciate the advantages which this fifteen thousand dollar mill can bring to them, and all parties will surely be mutually profited thereby. S.

Primsose, March 6th. 1872.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION.

KEOKUK, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1878

PRIMROSE POINTS.

The Soil and People of Old Harrison---Stores and Improvements in Primrose---Schools and Churches---That North Road—Crop Prospects—Emigration to Nevada, &c., &c.

PRIMROSE, April 2, 1878.

MESSRS EDITORS: Suppose you would not object to hearing something from this part of the county occasionally, I concluded to drop a few thoughts and happenings, although we are out in the cold, as the saying is, as far as railroads are concerned. You may conclude we are all dead or left this part of the country from the fact of there being no communication by railroad, and very seldom that anything appears in your paper from this place. I have been a constant reader of the CONSTITUTION for many years, and must confess (I am sorry to say) this part of the county has been greatly neglected in reference to that particular, viz: of showing up the great advantages through the press, by communication to the different papers of said county; but I suppose it is conceded by all knowing ones, that this part of the county is among the best portion of its agricultural district and composed of the best farmers, and known as amongst the most intelligent, and energetic. In fact, Harrison township is composed of the most enterprising and wealthy citizens of any township in the county—excepting the river townships, probably—and now, as to our town of Primrose, there has been a steady and healthy improvement going on yearly. We have a daily mail running from the B. & S. W. R. R., carried by that enterprising and go ahead gentleman, Z. Leazer; we have three good stores, carrying a heavy stock of general merchandise, and doing a good living business. The firms' names are as follows: J. W. Pierce, Leazer & Williamson and Louis Rye. The latter is our postmaster, and a very genial and whole souled fellow he is. Two smith shops, Jacob Artis and Christ. Smith, proprietors; a wagon and carriage shop, supervised by John Webber; a tin shop carried on by Wm. Wollenweber; also a saddle and harness shop, carried on by G. E. Bauder & Co., but as G. E. Bauder has left for Nevada the business will be continued by C. C. Bauder; also a cabinet shop by Sam'l Bell, who also keeps a first-class hotel, and any person traveling who may need refreshments or lodging, may rest assured their every want will be well cared for and they will go on their way rejoicing—they will find everything clean, neat and tidy. We also have two house painters, one from your city formerly, to-wit: Ed. Giuline and a good workman, also Wm. Tiebe, an industrious and very clever man, and a good workman; one cooper shop, carried on by Wm. Weishaar; two boot and shoe shops, Martin Schwerman and Wm. Rasch being the proprietors; a milliner shop, by Miss Mariah Covard; also three resident carpenters and joiners, viz:

1878

192-

Wm. H. DeRosear, F. H. Weishaar and Ed. Murry; one tailor shop, of which Jno. Taylor is the *Crook*; and only one Doctor A. W. Sailor. We also have a No. 1 flouring mill, run by D. McCulloch and Ch. Ross—the latter takes charge of grinding—an old and experienced miller and an honest man. A person bringing their grain to him will be sure to get his own, which is not always the case at mills. I will say farther, I suppose there is not any better mill and machinery in the country. We also have a graded school, that is one among as good as in the county, also two churches. I fear I am trespassing on your good nature with so lengthy an article, but I must mention something in regard to your N. W. R. R. I think by varying a little more west and make this place a point, you will never regret it, from the fact it would be a great feeder to the road, as also I think you would receive great pecuniary aid. Our farmers are in fine spirits, and well they may, they have put out a large acreage of spring wheat and oats, got it in in good season and order, it is coming up and looks fine; also all the fall grain that was put out, which was the largest acreage for many years, and the prospects now are for a bountiful yield; and now they are stirring themselves to prepare ground for corn, which, if the weather is favorable, will be as large number of acres planted as ever was put out in this section of country; and as for fruit of all kinds I never have seen a better prospect. If providence will so decree and frosts do not interfere, you can rest assured there will be plenty for all and a large amount to dispose of and if you have any doubts in the matter, when your are taking your rounds for items, just make a call about this part of the county and if you don't find all as herein stated, just take my old hat, for I assure you there is no exageration.

But another matter I must mention before closing, although it is with feeling of sympathy for the parents and friends of those concerned, to-wit: About 1 o'clock this afternoon, some half dozen started from this place for Nevada. They went from here to Farmington, took the 9 p. m. train of the K. & D. M. R. R. to Des Moines, thence to Omaha, from there to Silver City, Nevada. It was sorrowful sight to see parents and children bidding farewell, also brothers and sisters following, and the thought that it may be the last time that they may see each other in this life was hard; but so it is. They were among the best of our young people. Although they left much regretted, yet they had the sympathy and best wishes of the entire community, with a desire that they may return at some future time with a gain in health and wealth. Amongst those going were Jacob Benjamin, a young go ahead man, who had retured from a three years stay last October. He took with him his sister Rosa and brother Louis Benjamin, all children of our respected citizen and neighbor, William Benjamin, and G. E. Bauder, our efficient township clerk and whole-souled business men, a son of our old standby, C. C. Bauder. He as well as the rest had no occasion to take up with frontier life—but Young America will venture. Frank Pease, son of Boyle E. Pease, of Big Mound, who is, as we learn, going to gain his health. Paul Raush, a young man from Illinois, but not a stranger to Lee county, as he has been with us for some eight years, and all who know him speak of him in the highest term; in fact the parents, township and county need not regret the honor in having such sons and daughters away from home; and that pleasing young man Casper Gardner, left at the same time for his residence in Nebraska, which he leaves occasionally on account of parent love. His last stopping and bidding farewell was at the postoffice. Whether he looked for a letter from a sweetheart or a sister as his sweetheart is not known to me; but long be it remembered the pleasant hours and evenings these young folks spent at the different gatherings they had during the past winter.

* * *

DAILY GATE CITY
FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 1939

Son of Woman Who Named Primrose Is Visitor There

(Gate City Tri-State News)

DONNELLSON, Iowa, Oct. 6—Joel McCulloch of Eagle Grove, Iowa, whose mother is credited with naming the community of Primrose, east of here, was a guest in the home of William Paisley on Tuesday. He has been visiting relatives and friends in this vicinity for several days.

Mr. McCulloch's mother, an early resident of the Primrose neighborhood, suggested the name of "Primrose" for the postoffice in that town which was established about 100 years ago.

DAILY GATE CITY

IOWA PIONEER'S REMINISCENSES

WHEN STATE OPENED UP

Lee County in Territorial Times as Pictured by J. K. Cooney, Writing From His Home in Montrose.

"Go to Iowa, One of the Best Countries in the World," Was the Cry—School Facilities Were Poor.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3, 1910

J. K. Cooney of Montrose, under the impulse of the approaching Lee County Old Settlers' meeting, jots down a few incidents of the early settlers of Iowa, especially this county, which are unusually interesting. He writes:

When Iowa was created a territory and thrown open to settlers, there was quite a nest here from Illinois, Indiana and other states and it was the cry in eastern states, "Go to Iowa, one of the best countries in the world—it flows with milk and honey and fritters grow on the trees." The first thing a settler had to do was to stake off his claim, then build him a log cabin, next grub and clean up three or four acres of land and plant it in corn and some garden truck.

My father took a team, crossed the Mississippi river and went to the mill on Spoon river in Illinois to buy meal and a little flour to live on till our corn matured. As soon as it got, in a few years, so we could live in luxury on honey and wild game, a good portion of Lee county was covered with heavy timber and there was an abundance of wild bees. I have found and cut many a tree, and I know I got my share of wild game.

A little later my father went to Illinois and bought two cows, then we had plenty of milk. As soon as the corn got hard enough to grate, we made tin graters and grated our meal and our good mother baked us corn cakes and fritters, so we finally got the flow of milk, honey and fritters, but they didn't grow on trees.

Still later Theophilus Bullard built a horse mill, about three miles west of Fort Madison, to grind corn and it would take about half a day to grind a two bushel sack of it. A little later James Stout built a similar mill about two miles east of Franklin, so we had pretty good milling facilities. Still later there was a water mill built at Farmington by a man by the name of Death—and he was death on toll. When we would go there to mill we would probably find twenty or thirty ahead of us and would have to take our turn and would probably have to stay there two or three days, before we could get our grist ground, which would be nearly all corn meal. Still a little later there was a water mill built at Lowell, followed by a stone steam mill built in West Point by Sollamer—and others followed.

In those early days we had very poor school facilities—would build a little log school house in the timber and have school three months, only in the winter—would probably many of us have to go two miles to school. In those days the winters were long and very severe, with an abundance of snow, which would often deprive us of a regular attendance. The seats were made by cutting down little trees, splitting them and hewing the two sides, boring holes and putting in legs in the bottom of them, called benches. A slab of like workmanship was fastened to the wall for a writing desk, with a big fireplace in the end of the building. When we had mastered Webster's spelling book, the First reader and could say the first part of the arithmetic, we considered ourselves graduates and thought we could travel and work as such.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

223 OLD SETTLERS ARE REGISTERED AT SALEM

TUESDAY, AUG. 27, 1935—

SALEM, Iowa, Aug. 27—The largest registration since 1903 was had this year with three pioneers and 223 old settlers registered. The following are those who registered:

Pioneers.

	Born	Came to Iowa
Arthur Murray	1844	1844
Rachel Collins	1846	1846
Mrs. Francis Tomes	1844	1844

Old Settlers.

James B. Clawson	1866	1866
Fred Townsend	1875	1875
Fred Garretson	1871	1871
Isaac Tomlinson	1866	1866
W. L. Hogatt	1873	1873
H. C. Cooper	1858	1858
O. H. Gregory	1853	1853
E. J. Maxwell	1853	1853
Mrs. Elizabeth Bonnell	1849	1849
Wm. W. Hagan	1857	1857
Euna McMillan Hagan	1858	1858
Frank Williams	1870	1870
Mrs. Mary Williams	1873	1873
Mrs. Alice Conard	1855	1855
Mrs. Ed. Kitchun	1852	1852
Mrs. Leanna Ingrim	1849	1849
T. C. Maxwell	1858	1858
Charles Hogate	1871	1871
Charles Cooper	1861	1861
W. T. VanDorin	1858	1858
J. T. Ingrim	1845	1853
J. C. Fisher	1858	1868
Lida J. Spray	1861	1861
Mary Chester	1864	1864
John Dunn	1875	1875
E. H. Frazer	1854	1854
Mrs. Mary Goldsmith	1866	1866
J. B. Hinchman	1854	1854
Mrs. Lilly Rigby Mead	1868	1868
Mary Welch Foster	1860	1860
Charles Foster	1855	1855
Emma Freeman	1848	1848
Mrs. Alice Bond	1871	1871
Hattie Pickard Strock	1869	1869
Kate Rigby Cummings	1871	1871
Alfred Tomlinson	1863	1863
Mrs. Rhoda Tomlinson	1864	1864
Levi Parkins	1853	1854
Frank J. Edwards	1872	1872
Charles Thomas	1864	1864
F. G. Scarff	1869	1869
S. E. Finger	1856	1865
Mrs. L. M. Kinnie	1859	1859
A. V. Frazey	1865	1865
Charles Friend	1868	1868
Harvey Pidgeon	1849	1849
Sarah Nicholson	1858	1858
Mrs. L. A. Weeks	1855	1867
Mrs. H. C. Cooper	1861	1861
George Thomas	1861	1861
C. L. Russel	1865	1865
Mrs. Martha Banta	1869	1869
Mrs. A. Hartey	1865	1865
Sam F. Donaldson	1860	1860
J. C. Canaday	1870	1870
A. Miller	1871	1871
Clara Jones	1861	1861
Jane Adamson	1849	1850
Mark Kirkpatrick	1871	1871
Emma Harvey Miller	1859	1859
Anna A. Thomas	1868	1868
Mrs. Mary Hampton	1857	1857
Mrs. Martha Thompson	1860	1860
Ella Hampton Thomas	1865	1865
Allen Hiatt Gibson	1860	1860
Prof. G. W. Walters	1857	1858
Stark Doan	1871	1873
Mrs. J. W. Boyles	1861	1861
Eli Brown	1849	1865
Mrs. Allen Lewis	1874	1874
W. T. Wright	1868	1868
George L. Tomlinson	1869	1869
George Hodson	1852	1852
Mrs. Iowa Davidson	1869	1869
Mrs. Mary L. McCoy	1859	1859
Mrs. Cliff Cook	1869	1869
Sarah McDowell	1854	1854
Mrs. E. Davidson	1862	1862
Mrs. M. S. Briggs	1861	1861
M. S. Briggs	1859	1859
M. L. Packer	1850	1861
Mrs. J. W. Grubb	1857	1857
Mrs. Lizzie L. Wilson	1870	1870
Mrs Molly L. Church	1857	1857
Mrs. Belle Pinkerton	1858	1858
John Jones	1874	1874
A. D. Hodson	1874	1874
R. L. Hodson	1872	1872
Mrs. Mary Church	1857	1857
Frank Randolph	1870	1870
Ralph Crane	1869	1869
Lydia Ozbun Davis	1869	1869
Mrs. C. L. Russell	1871	1871
Walter Shriner	1849	1849
Mrs. E. S. Dille	1872	1872
B. S. Brombaugh	1863	1863
M. H. Doan	1860	1860
G. A. Brown	1857	1857
F. F. Stringer	1875	1875
Charles Hutchinson	1867	1867
John Knowles	1875	1875
Milo Fenn	1875	1875
Mary Moxley	1861	1861
R. A. Graves	1853	1855
Mrs. R. A. Graves	1854	1854
J. J. Eastburn	1874	1874
George Dille	1872	1872
E. E. Ozbun	1872	1872
G. W. Hodson	1868	1868
W. A. Barney	1860	1860
Robert Bell	1870	1870
Levi Spray	1852	1852
Schuyler Stanley	1865	1865
S. S. Skipton	1858	1858
Mrs. Anna Winslow	1861	1861
C. I. DeLashmutt	1871	1871
Mrs. Maude Price	1866	1866
N. Trueblood	1875	1875
Fred Hodson	1869	1869
Z. S. Ratliff	1862	1862
Mrs. Jennie Pickard	1864	1864
B. Nau	1855	1855
Mrs. Cora Noble	1872	1872
Mrs. E. J. Maxwell	1868	1868
L. D. Taylor	1856	1856
George Kerr	1869	1869
Ben Boyles	1860	1866
J. H. Almond	1875	1875
A. H. Frazer	1864	1864
Ira D. Detrick	1857	1857
Owen Hourihan	1872	1872
Theodore Spray	1857	1857
M. S. Hockett	1870	1870
E. E. Winslow	1861	1861
H. D. Tade	1872	1872
Dr. J. M. Howe	1869	1869
J. E. Parks	1873	1875
Mrs. Hannah Hodson	1871	1871
M. E. Harlan	1854	1854
Mrs. M. E. Harlan	1856	1856
H. L. Weenick	1870	1870
Mrs. Mae Brown	1870	1870
Wm. Rugarber	1873	1873
O. H. Tyner	1865	1865
H. G. Welpton	1870	1870
G. W. Refior	1873	1873
Alvin Trueblood	1872	1872
W. J. Dinsmore	1859	1859
Henry Stuekerjugen	1856	1875
Ida Anders	1865	1865
Mrs. John Utterback	1869	1869
Byron Moore	1871	1871
Mrs. Rose Pitman	1869	1869
A. B. Hixson	1867	1867
Miss Lulu Wright	1869	1869
Mrs. Alice Snook	1854	1854
Mrs. L. H. Handell	1868	1868
Mrs. Samantha Noble	1854	1854
J. J. Mosher	1871	1871
J. M. Martin	1860	1866
Mrs. Rosa Bunker	1854	1854
Frank L. Knight	1869	1869
Mrs. Eugena Barton	1869	1869
Mrs. Lissie Frazey	1859	1863
Mary A. Hitch	1854	1854
Mrs. Lida Thompson	1865	1865
Mrs. Florence M. Banta	1860	1860
Ora Brown	1875	1875
F. W. Church	1873	1873
xSteven D. Hockett	1885	1885
James C. Hockett	1880	1880
Anna Cotton	1858	1858
Mary Young	1865	1865
Elizabeth Edwards	1871	1871
Marie E. Loomis	1870	1874
Mrs. Nellie Garmoe	1873	1873
Mrs. Milo Fenn	1873	1873
L. S. VanTrump	1872	1872
Miss Alma Kellum	1854	1854
Winona E. Reeves	1871	1871
Max Garretson	1871	1871
A. W. Miller	1867	1867
Mrs. Laura E. Miller	1871	1871
Mrs. Carolina Miller	1866	1870
Mrs. Mary Pidgeon	1851	1851
E. H. Collins	1858	1858
Mrs. E. H. Collins	1873	1873
Mrs. Ora E. Davidson	1873	1873
Mrs. Nora Mulkins	1865	1865
Mrs. D. A. Hartley	1865	1865
D. A. Hartley	1855	1855
Mrs. Martha Hoyer	1865	1865
Mrs. Nellie Collatt	1862	1862
J. W. Foss	1858	1858
John Abraham	1866	1866
C. W. Cruckshank	1863	1863
Mrs. Bert Cooper	1872	1872
Mrs. Julia Trueblood	1872	1872
Mrs. Bert Taylor	1872	1872
zJohn Street	1856	1856
zD. C. Street	1851	1851
zE. R. Haines	1873	1873
zJ. P. Street	1875	1875
Mrs. C. W. Cruickshank	1866	1866
Rachel Hockett	1850	1852
H. B. Massey	1861	1861
Frank Rook	1864	1864
Frank Davidson	1863	1869
Mrs. Emma J. Keller	1853	1853
Mrs. J. F. Wolfe	1861	1861
J. F. Wolfe	1861	1861
Mrs. Rebecca White	1862	1862
Mamie Garretson	1875	1875
Mrs. J. C. Fisher	1860	1860
Milo B. Huston	1868	1868
Nellie Cammack	1871	1871
John Livix	1863	1863
Ben Randolph	1862	1862
C. H. Cook	1866	1866
Jennie T. Faulkner	1858	1858
Mary T. Druewell	1861	1861
Anna Watson	1853	1866
Bell Parvin	1859	1859
David Grim	1841	1861

David Grim, the last named, was the oldest person on the grounds. He was 94 years of age and came from Westmoreland, Pa., when twenty years of age.

x-Grandson of Steven Hockett, among the first to settle in Salem.

z-Grandsons of Aaron Street, founder of Salem, and great-grandsons of Aaron Street.

DAILY GATE CITY

DEDICATE STONE ON SALEM OLD SETTLERS' DAY

SEPT. 4, 1930

SALEM, Iowa, Sept. 4—The gala day of the year for Salem community is that of Old Settlers' day which came this year on Saturday, Aug. 30. The efforts of all business people is to make each year better than the preceding one and although rainy and cloudy early in the morning, before the day was half gone the park was filled with visitors and friends from various places.

With the dedication of th boulder, the relic and antique room and the Roosevelt exhibit, the day surpassed any of " kind for many years.

The boulder, a beautiful red granite, is placed in the center of the park, and although this movement was started only two weeks ago everything was completed by Saturday. The bronze plate bears this inscription:

1835
In Memory of
Our Pioneers
by
Salem Community
Aug. 30, 1930

The program started at 10:30 a. m., with the Salem Municipal band giving a concert and they proved to all their ability to furnish good music and plenty of it. Many complimentary remarks were given to the Salem band. The concert lasted until after noon. At 1:30 music was again furnished by the band, after which the program in charge of Rev. R. L. Brown, chairman of the program committee gave the invocation. The address of welcome was given by Rev. M. J. A. Dalrymple.

The speaker of the day was Rev. W. H. Upton of Genoa City, Wis., who used for his subject, "The Home Builders." Rev. Upton is a very forcible speaker who held the attention of his audience for fifteen minutes. While in college he won the national honors for oratory.

The mortuary list prepared by Albert Banta was read by Rev. Brown and is the longest list ever read. Following is the list of those who passed beyond since the last Old Settlers' meeting August 29, 1929:

September 2, at Salem, Sylvanus Connell, age 82.

September 19, at Salem, Barclay Cox, age 82.

September 24, at Cherokee, Iowa, Howard Beard, age 51.

October 25, at Salem, John Harshbarger, age 68.

October 28, at Stockport, Tunis Doan, age 82.

November 9, at Beech, N. D., Amy (Hunting) Hill, age 81.

December 1, at Salem, Alfred Davis, age 78.

December 12, at Salem, Lant Frazier, age 70.

December 16, at Sunnyside, Wash., Ada (Cowell) Wilson, age 49.

December 29, at Silvan Springs, Ark., Thomas Tomilson, age 78.

December 31, in Jackson township, Chas. Barker, age 56.

January 8, at Conway, Mo., John Dille, age 73.

January 10, at Garden City, Kan., Nathan Farlow Weeks, age 74.

January 18, at Salem, Iowa, Thomas B. Randolph, age 90.

February 29, at Mt. Pleasant, Benjamin Hallowell, age 87.

February 23, at Salem, Isaac Atkinson, age 66.

February 24, at St. Louis, Mo., Clara Cooper, age 65.

March 3, near Salem, John Savage, Sr., age 92.

March 7, at Indianola, Iowa, Emma (Maddox) Marshall, age 70.

March 23, at Salem, Fred Huxley, age 78.

April 5, at Salem, Patience (Tomilson) Garretson, age 87.

April 6, at Salem, Bruce Armor, age 72.

April 13, at Selma, Calif., Byron Dawson, age 74.

April 20, near Glasgow, Iowa, Mary France, age 69.

April 25, at Salem, Mary Collins, age 79.

April 28, at Salem, Frank Hodson, age 66.

May 27, near Lowell, Alelaid (Rappleyah) Smith, age 47.

June 14, at Barryville, Ark., Radella (Garretson) Steck, age 60.

June 24, at Los Angeles, Calif., John Hartley, age 83.

July 5, at Salem, J. D. McCabe, age 77.

July 8, at Keokuk, John Mitchell, age 88.

July 14, at Marshalltown, Louisa (Dow) Richardson, age 76.

July 31, at Salem, Ruth (Scarbough) Byers, age 82.

August 11, at Salem, Laura Knight, age 76.

August 14, at Whittier, Calif., Dillman C. Andrews, age 75.

Night of August 22, at Salem, Edward Pickard, age 84.

August 23, at Salem, Alice (Webster) Pickard, age 79.

August 23, at Salem, Mabel Goldsmith, age 39.

The reading was followed by the dedication of the boulder which to the older ones present was possibly the most enjoyable part of the day's event. J. T. Ingrim, a Civil war veteran, one of Salem's leading citizens and an old settler, opened this part of the program with prayer. The presentation of the pioneers who are very few, and several felt as though they were not able to speak, but Mrs. Elvira Ozburn of Indianola, who is 93 years old, gave a reading that would have been a credit to one many years younger. Mrs. Rachel Collins, who is 84 years old, then gave a very interesting talk, speaking of the significance of the boulder and this day, and of the way paved by our pioneers for the homes of Salem today.

History, "A Little Bit of Salem," was ably handled by Mrs. Belle Hartley, who began her subject with the first pioneer, Isaac Pidgeon, of 1835, and Aaron Street, who laid out the town, also naming various other pioneers.

The dedication address given by Rev. R. L. Brown paid a high tribute to our pioneers and old settlers. This program was concluded by all singing Auld Lang Syne. All viewed the relics, curios and Roosevelt exhibit which was on display in the W. T. Wilmeth room and were well pleased with these exhibitions.

In the baby contest held at the Rialto in the evening, Dorothy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grippen, won first honors. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bogue, second place, and Georgie, son of Mrs. Ruth Sizemore, third place.

Out of town guests for the day were: Mr. and Mrs. Will Hunnicutt, Mrs. Alfred Tomilson, Mrs. Lydia Davis, Mrs. Elvira Ozbunn, Indianola, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Beard and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carpenter and family, Rock Island, Ill.; George Dille of Milton; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Garretson of Hamilton, Ill.; Mrs. Cora Reeves of Keokuk; Mrs. Corliss Teeters, Mrs. Ida Lilton, Fairfield; Mrs. Lilly Calhoun and family, Ft. Madison; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Monson, Mrs. A. D. Monson, Trenton, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hutchinson, near Lowell; Mrs. Chas. Barker of New London; Mr. and Mrs. Jess King, Twin Falls, Idaho; Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hampton and daughter Irene, of Downs, Kan.; Mr. and Mrs. C. I. DeLashmutt of Fairfield; Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Sater and daughter Katherine, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wagner, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smutz and daughter, Mrs. Earnest Lamb and son, Burlington; Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Price, Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. W. Shepp and daughter, of Mt. Pleasant; Miss Mary Ratcliff, New London, Iowa; Merrill, John, and Fletcher Harshman, Jr., of Wiggins, Colo.; Max Kester and family, of Winfield; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Frary, Ft. Madison, and Ira Pierce of Iowa City.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
S. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Des Moines Sunday Register
Aug. 23, 1959
3

One of Iowa's oldest landmarks, the Henderson Lewelling house built in 1840 at Salem, has been purchased by local citizens and will be refurnished and preserved. Members of Mount Pleasant Business and Professional Women's club toured house last Thursday.—Staff Photos by Arnold Gore.

Salem Keeps Its Stately Old Houses

By George Shane
(Register Staff Writer)

SALEM, IA. — An Iowa town of unusual community spirit, which is preserving its past while building for the future, is Salem, a Henry county town of 475 population.

Established in 1835 by Quakers from North and South Carolina, Salem was the first Society of Friends settlement west of the Mississippi.

Many of its houses and buildings date from the earliest days.

House Project

Salem residents currently are engaged in an unusual historical monument project. They are restoring and refurnishing one of the city's oldest homes, the Henderson Lewelling home, built in 1840 and long known as one of the few remaining late colonial style architectural masterpieces in Iowa.

In pre-Civil War days it was a stop on the underground railway for runaway slaves.

As a public-spirit venture, four Henry county residents recently purchased the house and are now working with the community in the restoration project.

The house is a two-story stone residence purchased unfurnished from the Herbert Garretson estate. The Garretson family members were early day settlers. The purchase was made by Roy White, retired Salem farmer. Associated with him in the purchase are Elbert Brown, Howard Pittman, John Moxley, all of Salem, and Herman Elgar, Mount Pleasant attorney.

Already numerous items of household goods and furnishings are coming in from donors, and tours of the home already have begun.

Pittman, who has written a history of Salem, is conducting tours. Among the first visitors were members of the Business and Professional Womens Club of Mount Pleasant.

Salem will celebrate Old Settlers Day next Saturday.

"There is a great deal of interest in the traditions and past of Salem," Pittman said. "When we have a community project which will help the town the response is wonderful.

"For example, we cleaned up and landscaped the city square park and painted the fine old bandstand which stands in the middle of it. A good force of men and women turned out for the project.

Lodge Hall

"When one of our old but fine-appearing corner store buildings became empty, the Masonic Lodge bought it and used the upstairs for a hall.

It appeared that the first floor would rent only for a residence and the lodge preferred that it not be used for that purpose. So the lodge made the downstairs into a dining hall. It's a fine building and adds character to the city square."

On the northeast corner of the square stands the old Dr. Theodore Shriner home, built in 1849. A

In pre-Civil War days the house was an underground railway station for runaway slaves. Mrs. Arthur Mills (left) and Mrs. Irwin D. Munger, Mount Pleasant, look through trapdoor into tunnel where slaves hid.

large brick structure, it rivals the Lewelling home in colonial beauty. In this instance the school board bought the home and converted it into a kindergarten. Nothing was done to harm the outside early American charm.

On the city square also stands the 116-year-old "Beehive Building," whose red brick and worn white paint presents as fine a patina surface as any old home in New Orleans.

There are other homes in Salem — the 119-year-old Isaac Gibson house, now vacant and awaiting restoration.

Secret Tunnels

Both the Gibson and the Lewelling houses still have hidden compartments or tunnels in which Negro slaves were hidden during the days of the underground railway.

At the Lewelling house, visitors see the old trapdoor in the kitchen which led into a tunnel running the full length of the house. But equally interesting is the old backporch well and bucket, the ancient churn, fireplaces and green window shutters — believed to be as old as the dwelling itself.

Once Salem was the site of Whittier College, an accredited Quaker four-year college, founded in 1867.

The visitor may see a history of architecture in Salem. There is the colonial, the federal style, and graceful Victorian homes, and some of today's ranch type houses.

Salem is about 35 miles west of Burlington (over picturesque Skunk River valley roads) and 11 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant.

Salem residents are contributing antique household items to furnish the home. Mrs. Marjorie Cullinan of Winfield views old butter churn to be displayed in kitchen.

An open well and bucket provided water in early days. Mrs. Velma Whipple (left) and Wilma Obermann, Mount Pleasant, view well's wooden compartment, used as cooler.

196

197-

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY
THURSDAY, AUG. 22, 1935

CENTENNIAL OF SALEM OBSERVED THIS WEEK

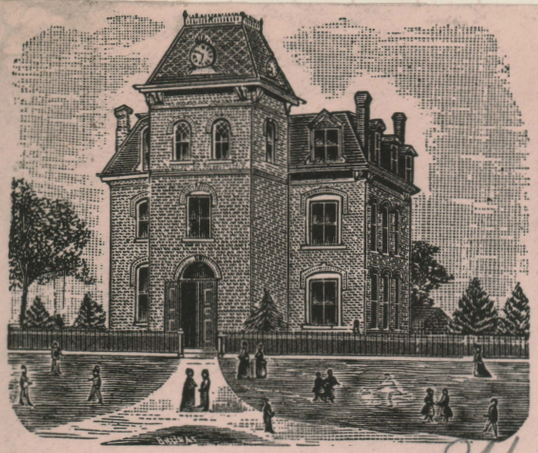
SALEM, Iowa, Aug. 22.—The following interesting history of Salem is to be given in connection with the centennial to be presented in the pageant, "Century of Progress of Salem," August 24.

Prior to 1832 the Indians reigned supreme in this section of the country but by the treaty with Black Hawk in 1832 at the close of the Black Hawk war, a portion of the territory now comprising the State of Iowa was thrown open for settlement. The county of Henry was a part of that territory acquired by that treaty and while this treaty was made in September, 1832, it did not go into operation until June 1, 1833. Thus we will see in the pageant, "The Century of Progress of Salem" to be given in commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of Salem, Saturday afternoon, August 24, the Indians leaving their forest homes and the pioneers taking their places. These pioneers came from many states of the union, having heard of the "Beautiful Land." The Issa Pigeon and Aaron Street, Jr., families coming to Illinois then onto Burlington, west to Mt. Pleasant and then south to what is now Salem. The Pidgeons built their home one mile south of town where they resided the rest of their lives. Aaron Street, Jr., is considered the prime mover in the enterprise to building up a community for the benefit of the Sociey of the Friends, where they might have a place to carry out their wishes in regard to their religion and also the slavery question, and he had made a trip previously to look after the land for this purpose. Issac Pidgeon and his wife, Phoebe (Kester) Pidgeon were from North Carolina, thus the community was settled by the society of Friends, to whom the slavery situation was so repulsive and so we find in 1835, Issac Pidgeon, Aaron Street and daughter, Cicely, and Peter Boyer conceived the idea of laying out the town of Salem. Street and Boyer having come from Salem, New Jersey, and laid out the towns of Salem, Ind., Salem, Ohio, and Salem, Ill., their next location was to be a Salem, Iowa. Other persons desiring to settle here of Quaker faith, came by the water route down the Ohio river to the junction of the Mississippi-Ohio, thence to Keokuk and Fort Madison then came overland with ox teams to this location. When starting to lay out the town, Street and Boyer found they had lost their surveyor's chain so a grape vine was used for the purpose. Salem was one of the first settled communities in Henry county and there is within the border of Salem township, two villages, Salem and Hillsboro. At the time of the first settlement of the county, the country was known as a portion of the Michigan territory. Two lears later, the territory of Wisconsin was organized and it became a portion of the Wisconsin Territory. then two years later the Territory of Iowa was formed and later admitted to the Union of the states. The history of Salem is outstanding among most of the settlements of the country. According to records, this tract was conveyed to Aaron Street, Jr., and Peter Boyer, with the following description: The W ½, NW ¼, Section 24. Township 70, Range 7 West, of 80 acres on certificate number 1038 for consideration of $100 and the character and date of instrument was November 24, 1838, and the patent issued on December 1, 1841. Then on March 30, 1839, James Snyder, a surveyor of Henry county acknowledged the streets and place in the plat of Salem as laid out by Street and Boyer, and appeared with a writing before John B. Lash, a justice of the peace of Henry county. The first scene of the pageant will be the leaving of the Indians and will be given by the Boy Scouts of Salem troop 22; the second will feature Aaron Street and Peter Boyer, in laying out the town of Salem and will be presented through the W. C. T. U. The third scene will be Quaker wedding, which is one of the outstanding events of Salem's early history. The first Quaker marriage west of the Mississippi was given out as follows, "On the first month of 1839, Stephen Hockett, son of Isaac Hockett, and Ruth Pidgeon, daughter of Isaac and Phoebe Pidgeon, proposed marriage." This is one of the most sacred scenes of the pageant and will be presented by members of the Salem Friend's church. This church is the oldest Friends church west of the Mississippi and the first meeting house was built in 1840 although soon after the settlement of Salem, meetings were held in homes of the Friends. The Methodist and Congregational churches combine the Civil war scenes for the fourth; the Methodists featuring the Underground Railroad, and the Congregationals a street scene in the rebellion. Among one of the outstanding places of Salem was Whittier College. The Friends always seeking to advance and educational advantages were always taken into consideration and soon after the settlements, schools were started, but not being contented with a common school education, they conceived the idea of something higher, thus they originated Whitier College, named after the poet Whittier, who later donated a set of books to the institution. It has been stated that scholars from all over the United States attended the Whittier College at Salem, due to the fact of the uplifting influences of the Friends the environment of the community. Thus on May 17, 1866, a college association was duly incorporated. The first term opened April 1868 in the upper story of the Friend's meeting house, which was later purchased by the College board of directors and the first graduation exercises were held in 1871. The Salem High Schol Alumni Association will have charge of this scene and will feature a graduation exercise of Whittier college. The grande finale will be presented in the last scene by the Salem's Women's club which will be changed from the final of the pageant given in 1933. The music for the occasion will be given under the direction of R. L. Tomlinson, of which suitable music precedes each scene. A first class public address system is to be used and the whole even promises to be one of the outstanding days of Salem's reunion. Among the spotlights of Salem's history is the Underground Railroad in which slaves were secreted that had escaped from their masters and later safely transported to Canada or other place of safety. Many of the homes had places used to conceal these slaves until it was safe for them to leave but the most outstanding one is a large stone structure built in 1840 and contained a well concealed trap door in the kitchen placed directly under the table. This house still stands, two blocks from the city square and is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garretson. Another one is located six miles southeast of Salem on the Garretson farm, and was built in 1845, by Joseph Hoag, a Quaker minister, a political leader of early days and also was a member of the commission which located the capital at Des Moines. Underneath the turn of the stairway, is a secret door opening into a dark room six feet square in which the slaves were hid. Salem was one of the most patriotic places during the Civil war. A recruiting station was established here and later men were transferred to Davenport. Troop wagons often passed through the town and the troops were fed by the citizens as they came here. Lewelling Nurseys was also outstanding in history as the first orchards started in Oregon was taken from the nursery of which a cherry tree was used. Many well known personages were in this community, including Harry Pidgeon, the lone navigator, who was the son of Isaac Pidgeon, the first white child born in this community. Dean Paul Packer of the Iowa State University was a Salem boy, and many others have made fine records coming from this little community.

Whittier Day, Friday August 23, will be a reunion for all who attended the school, whether a graduate or not. Prof. Gus Walters, a former instructor of Whittier College, will give the address of the day. He is at present an instructor in the State University at Cedar Falls.

On Sunday, August 25, the Iowa Homlinson Tribe will meet at Salem This will be the 14th annual gathering of the Iowa Tomlinson Tribe which will be held at the Congregational church. A huge cake is being prepared for the big basket dinner which is to celebrate 300 years of Tomlinsons in America and each person of the tribe is asked to bring a small candle to be used on the cake. Historical sketches are expected from various members in several other states and a good musical program will be given, and reading of tribal letters. Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Townsend of Salem will be the hosts. George Tomlinson of

198-



WHITTIER COLLEGE,
SALEM, IOWA.

SALEM IOWA. JUN 23

Miss Merta Mitchel
Greencastle
Ind.

Mt. Pleasant is the president, and Mrs. H. E. Renner of Des Moines the secretary.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

JUNE 20. 1889

WHITTIER COLLEGE.

The Quaker Institution Celebrates Its Second Commencement Since It Was Destroyed by Fire—Baccalaureate Sermon, Class and Graduating Exercises, and Alumni Meeting.

Salem, Ia., June 12 – (Special Correspondence of the GATE CITY.) The people of Salem and vicinity have this week been enjoying the commencement exercises of Whittier college, one of the oldest and best known institutions in this section of Iowa, and where your correspondent uses the word enjoying, he believes he understands the fitness of the word with due appreciation of its meaning.

The class of 1889 is the second to leave the institution since its re-organization after the fire that burned it to the ground in 1885. First came the baccalaureate sermon, on Sunday, given by the Rev. Dr. Tannan, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Mt. Pleasant, Ia. He took for his text Luke II. 28-30. The appropriateness of the text to the occasion was manifest to all. The doctor did in no wise belittle true and noble ambition. He is not one who would dwarf the intellect of the young by advising them not to grasp after the great things for fear of failure, and not only after those things that are easily and surely attainable. He impressed upon the minds of his hearers very vividly by means of illustrations that the dullest minds are capable of achieving great success through persistent effort. He taught that the young should aim high, that they should build the tower of life broad and commanding but cautioned them that they should count the cost and lay the foundation firmly lest the world should be able to say, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." He is not a believer in the old education that improved the mind at the expense of the body, nor on the other hand does he believed in building up the physical to the neglect of the mental powers, as seems to be the drift of some of our institutions of learning to-day. The only true and safe foundation upon which to build life's foundation is the Rock of Christ. His remarks to the graduating class were appropriate, encouraging and full of meaning.

Notwithstanding the disagreeableness of the day the college chapel was filled to its full seating capacity. Through the entire discourse, lasting over one hour, the speaker through his earnestness and wonderful power of speech held the undivided attention of every member of his audience.

On Monday evening occurred the freshman exhibition, in which the following program was carried out.

Music.. .....
Invocation.....Prof. V. W. Macy
Parody.....Maud Milner
The Death of our Thoughts
Recitation.....Eva Welpton
The Burning Ship.
Oration.....Anna Mickelwait
Lafayette.
Music.....
Recitation.....Frank Waldo
A Farmer Turned Soldier.
Medley.....Fannie Bartlett
Recitation.....Carrie Day
The Legend of the Organ Builder.
Prophecy.....Willis Shepherd
Class of '92.
Music.....

Class examinations, having closed Tuesday morning, the afternoon was spent by the students in decorating the college chapel. On the rostrum where in the forenoon was nothing save a plain teacher's desk, in the evening was found a nice parlor, profusely decorated with flowers, while just in front played a sparkling fountain. It was evident that each speaker thought she had something pretty good to say and wanted people to hear it. A good chance was given them to display their ability, for fully as large an audience greeted them as had greeted the freshman class on the previous evening.

At half past 8 o'clock the six young ladies of the two classes took their places on the rostrum. The following program was carried out without a break or flaw from beginning to end:

Music.....Miss Fannie Reeves
Invocation.....Rev. Levi Gregory
Theme.....Cora Cook
Habits.
Essay.....H. Max Evans
Women.
Trio—Serenade..... { Miss Clark, Miss Withrow, Mrs. Price.
Oration.....Birdie Lester
Be Yourself.
Oration.....Kate Pidgeon
Whittier and Tennyson.
Instrumental Duet....Mr. Price, Miss Reeves
Oration.....Winona Evans
Through Difficulties.
Oration.....Merta Mitchell
There is a Divinity that Shapes Our Ends, Rough Hew Them How we May.
Piano Duet.....
Miss Belle Knight and Miss Birdie Lester

Too much cannot be said in praise of the carefulness with which the productions were prepared, and of the excellence in delivery, which received the universal commendation of the audience.

Wednesday morning opened bright and cheerful and the class of '89 was sure of a good audience at their graduation exercises. Promptly at 10:30 a. m. the graduates, teachers and speakers took their places on the platform. It is needless to say to those acquainted with Mr. Price and the musical ability of Miss Reeves that the Magic Flute was enjoyed by all. Mr. Nickel's oration showed careful preparation, deep thought and marked him as an original thinker. He showed clearly and emphatically the neglect of and importance of the study of human nature.

The vocal duet by Mrs. Price and Miss Withrow was highly appreciated. "Will you stay on the beach or climb the cliff," by Miss Vic Evans, was considered by all as a remarkably fine production delivered in a free and natural manner that added much to its worth. Much was expected of Miss Evans, and to say she did not disappoint her friends is to speak in the highest praise of her portion of the exercises.

The address to the students by Rev. John B. Worrall, of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Keokuk, was one that would be a treat to any audience. He spoke fully upon the necessity and importance of education in order that our free institutions may stand. Mr. Worrall is a believer in

WHITTIER COLLEGE
THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. RICKEL KEOKUK IOWA

complete educations. He would give the blacksmith a classical education, because first it would have a tendency to make a better blacksmith out of him, and secondly he would be a better man. He showed clearly the fallacy of young men rushing in business early in life before they are prepared. It was an address which if brought continuously before our boys would no doubt work to their interests and the country's good.

The master's thesis - The Practical, by Rev. Levi Gregory, was listened to with interest. Very little time was given him in which to prepare, which necessitated some explanatory remarks, destroying much of its fine effect.

President Macy's remarks on the meaning of graduation were well recieved by the audience, and his address to the seniors contained words of advice and encouragement.

The annual meeting of the alumni association was held in college chapel Wednesday evening. A large audience was present, but as the orator and historian were absent the program was very short. So closes the school year of Whittier college. The year has been quite a successful one. The prospects for the coming year are flattering. As Miss Anna Packer's health has so improved as to enable her to assume her duties in the college success is assured.

June 20, 1889 - pg #2
(Whittier College)

199.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

No. 200.

UNITED STATES

vs.

No.

UNITED STATES

vs.

201-

Historic Sandusky Cemetery Will Have Arch At Entrance

SANDUSKY, Ia. — The Sandusky community and all who are interested in the Sandusky cemetery have completed plans to erect a beautiful arch at the northeast entrance this spring.

The search for addresses of former residents recalled many events leading to the breaking of ground for the first cemetery lots eighty nine years ago. It is so closely connected with the establishment of the New Light Christian church here and the beginning of the work on the canal that it all merges into interesting local history.

Church in 1858

The first church was organized in 1858 by Elder McMillan of Illinois. They held services in a basement on the lot where the present church stands, this plot was donated by Mr. Harvey Wilson who owned the farm later known as the Charles Carpenter home.

Elder McMillan found transportation across the river in winter so uncertain that he asked Rev. Elijah Williamson of Bonaparte to take charge in 1859.

Six years later the first coffer dam for the canal was begun at Nashville, now Galland. This brought several hundred people to the community as laborers. A large number were Norwegian, Swedish and Irish.

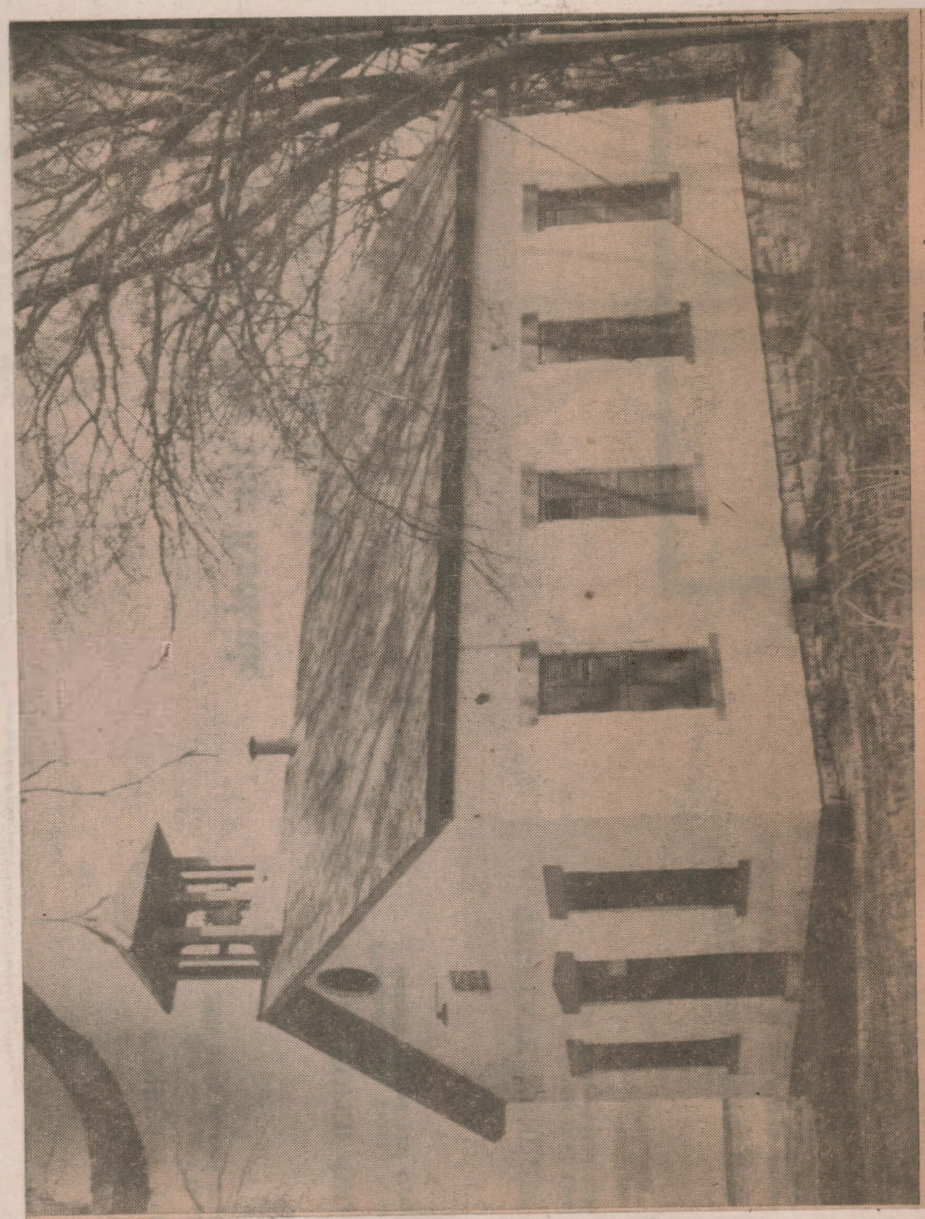
Many Epidemics

Poor living conditions invited various epidemics which resulted in many deaths and these people in a strange land were faced with the problems of finding a burial ground.

Harvey Wilson again came to the aid of his community and gave the land which is now the west portion of the present cemetery, deeding it to the church. It now became the duty of Rev. Elijah Williamson to lay out the lots and the people were permitted to choose without charge. As years passed, more land was needed and in 1923 the second addition was purchased.

In 1931 the church and the cemetery trustees decided to buy the remaining land which extends to the River road. This has been laid out with convenient driveways and a perpetual fund is provided for its maintenance. This was substantially increased recently by a gift of $1900.00 by the Bowden and Hendron families of Revere, Mo.

This lovely wrought iron arch will add much to the natural beauty of the historic Sandusky cemetery.



SANDUSKY SCHOOL in a richly studded grove of trees, built in 1871, was in use until a year or so ago. —Daily Gate City Photo

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

The Daily Gate City.

KEOKUK, IOWA: 1868

SUNDAY MORNING, FEB. 23.

SANDUSKY ITEMS.—"Beta" is an industrious news-gleaner, and from Sandusky he sends greeting thus:

You know a few months ago this place was composed of a Depot, Dodge & Ballinger's store, seven dwelling houses and two Churches. We have now, in addition, Tallon's large dry goods, grocery and provision store, and a small sized grocery store, on the south side of Similas creek. On the north side Dr. Jenkin's drug store, (and by the way he is a gentleman who understands well his profession.) next to the drug store is a boot and shoe store. As we travel north we come to the Depot, which is occupied by the family of our enterprising friend Thos. Jarvis, who lost his arms in the service of the Bell and Everett party a few years ago. The next building northward is the office of Wm. Hanegan & Co., the contractors on the Canal. As we again start on our line of march north we come to a passenger car set off the road. As we enter we find it occupied as a grocery, by Thos. Jarvis, in the north end of which he has two men working on boots and shoes. He deserves great credit for his enterprise, in making money and maintaining himself and family.

Just in the edge of Montrose township there is a large hotel or boarding house under way, and will soon be completed. It is about 50x25, two stories: that's pretentious for us. Then we have the boarding house and store of Mr. Bowers, which is just ready for occupancy. Next in line of march is the store of H. P. Doge. He has a good building and considerable trade. We find one more bording house, with a capacity for forty men. These are along the Railroad track. You see there is not one whisky saloon, but on the ridge we find Prass' saloon (the same man who was knocked down and robbed in his own saloon a few weeks ago). We have two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, and one paint shop, which have plenty of work. Judging from the appearances everything will be kept cool here this summer; five ice houses have been filled—two large ones, those of Stotts & Bro., and Dodge & Boyse. I had like to forget to tell you about that bell ringing the other night, with the accompaniment Auction! Auction! Such sounds are familiar in St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Keokuk. Yes we had a negro hung the other day over the shoulder of Mr. ——, but he let go the comfort too soon and he came to, so he lives to be hung again.

We boast of the *best* debating society in the State. It meets regularly Saturday night. What the programme will be to-day I cannot say, but of course it will be something appropriate to the occasion.

Now, Mr. Editor, what I want to know is if you don't think Keokuk had better move up to this place soon, before property takes to its upward flights? Yours,

BETA.

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 30, 1872.

SANDUSKY ITEMS.

A few weeks ago this place was alive with men, and Mr. Williams' four engines, followed by long trains of cars of dirt and rock, went puffing and roaring up and down the embankment of the canal, but now a change has come. The men are mostly gone and the few that remain go listless about the streets, "nothing to do," while but one engine, with generally no cars to back it, goes slowly from the engine house here, down toward your city and back, two or three times a day, as though it were looking for the time to come again, when it could rattle and thunder along with its thirty or forty car loads of freight. The shanties that went up so quick, are now coming down or waiting empty for Congress to send another appropriation.

Our former postmaster, Mr. Dodge has resigned and left us to work for the State of Illinois, in protecting its lands from the great Father of Waters, by building levees, and two aspirants are in the field for the honor of being the servant of the people, to handle the epistles that come and go with us, and every man, woman and child, I suppose, is called upon to say who he or she will have. The papers have been circulated and sent to higher authority, and now two anxious hearts are watching each mail to see who will be the one to be growled at, questioned and cross-questioned, cursed and charged with all the meanness that disappointed minds can invent for the next four years, more or less.

You know, or ought to know, that we built here the finest schoolhouse in the township, (Keokuk always excepted), but we had no bell to call the children in, and the board of directors had proclaimed that they had no money for so foolish a thing. The house was there, the children were here, and, if they would not come in, why let them stay out. But no, we must have a bell, so it was announced that an oyster supper and festival should be held, in response to which should come a bell. It was held and the neighborhood was begged for donations. K. was visited for a ring for the ring cake, toys for the grab bag, dishes to set the table, oysters, &c., to eat, and all was ready. The most pleasant night for two weeks greeted us; the crowd came, a small one, and eat up the grub that was donated and some of the oysters; grabbed up the toys and then fell to work voting a cake to the handsomest lady. I say work, for it was work. Four candidates were first in the field, but after some three hundred votes being cast for one, the others being so far in advance, all were dropped but two. You have seen the excitement on 'Change when some favorite stock was going up or down, or on a race course, when two favorites were "neck and neck;" but it was nothing to this. The excitement was so high that the managers concluded to stop it, so the announcement was given that in ten minutes the polls would be closed, and in that time about six hundred votes were polled, and hundreds more were offered, with the greenbacks to back them, but were unable to get in in the time. The cake was presented to Miss Ella Jarvis, by over eleven hundred votes, against a little over eight hundred for Miss Etta Whiting, the cake realizing over $100. So you see the country boys think as much of their girls and are willing to go as much or more on their beauty as your city gents will with their ladies. We add, as you may guess, a great many students from Riverside were there. So you see we are to have a bell, and we mean to have one that can be heard far over our hills and streams. Yours, B.

SHEET NO. 204.

NAME

ADDRESS

MADE BY BAKER-VAWTER CO. → ORDER BY FORM NUMBER C62C BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

DATE 19__		FOLIO	CK	CHARGES	DATE 19__		FOLIO	CK	CREDITS

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

205-

AN OLDTIME TRAGEDY AT WEST POINT

July 5, 1900

Recalled at Neola by the Son of One of the Chief Witnesses.

Dr. J. Lowrey, of Neola, Iowa, had a narrow escape from the bullet of a would-be assassin a few nights ago. His experiences prompted him to relate a story of crime which has been carefully guarded up to the present by the members of his family. The doctor's narrative told in his own interesting way to the Omaha World-Herald is as follows:

The special entertainment accorded me the other night when a lurking foe took a passing shot at me, or supposedly at some one else whom he was watching for, reminds me of a heinous crime committed in the then sprightly town of West Point, the primary county seat of Lee county, Iowa, away back in '54. This, of course, was before my advent into the world, but the older members of our family, and possibly others who resided at that date in that locality, remember quite vividly the events I shall relate.

West Point in its primitive days was a typical wild, woolly, western town, replete with all the comical features observable in a town of that description, and with very little effort could furnish abundance of real comedy and genuine tragedy of a quality that would satisfy the most fastidious.

Talk about your border warfare, the history of the empire county of this state is pretty picturesque reading. In the early days all the country lying east, southeast, south, southwest and west of the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers was a densely wooded section, and this region was infested by hordes of outlaws as desperate and unrelenting as ever terrorized a community.

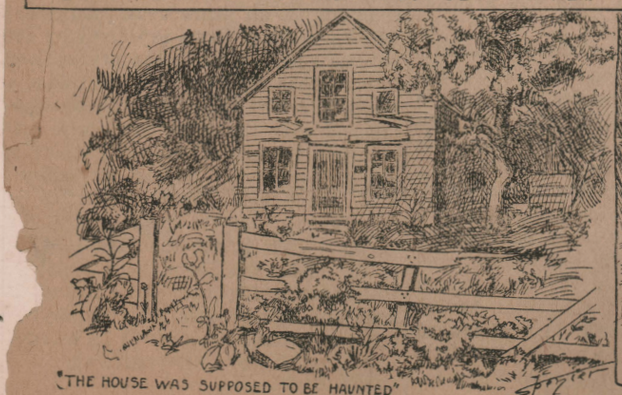
During the days of Mormon supremacy in Nauvoo, Ill., Lee county was the foraging ground for an organized band of marauders. Hundreds of questionable characters had affiliated with the Mormons for no other purpose than plunder. Nauvoo became the breeding place and a hotbed for outlaws of every description. Fugitives from justice from other places identified themselves with the church to escape prosecution; that they might ply their nefarious depredations with little danger of apprehension, knowing that the Mormons would be censured and blamed for their misdeeds. A great many most atocious murders were committed at that time, all for plunder. Robberies were committed in the boldest manner in broad daylight by masked men, who would ride up, dismount and take what they coveted. Vigilant committees and the courts in a measure weeded out this element, some of the ringleaders being hung, of whom the notorious Bill Hickman was the acknowledged principal.

POISONED HIS WIFE.

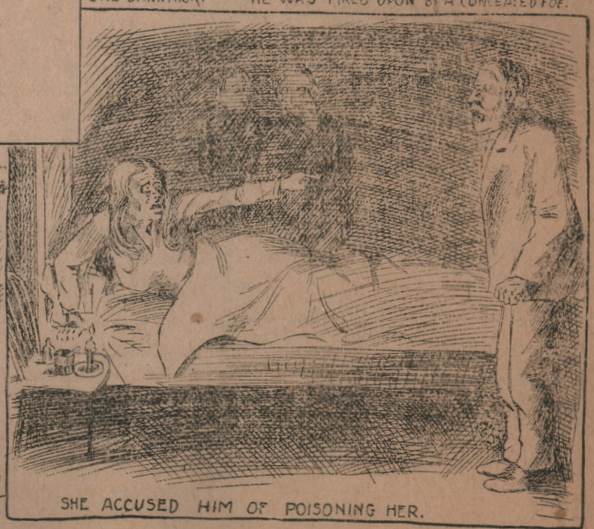
About the date mentioned there lived in West Point a man whom I shall call Vanderpool for very obvious reasons which will appear later in the narrative. It was alleged he had been at one time a member of the "Danite Band of Destroying Angels," and this appellation was not a misnomer either. When the remnant of this band drifted west he afterward came to West Point and married a lady whose relatives were particular friends of our family. It was not long after their marriage that woman No. 2 came upon the scene in the supposed capacity of servant, and soon Dame Rumor had it that all was not serene in the Vanderpool domicile—in fact, it was bruited about that Vanderpool was abusing his wife shamefully,

"DRAWING A KNIFE - HE MADE A LUNGE AT FATHER."

"ONE DARK NIGHT ---- HE WAS FIRED UPON BY A CONCEALED FOE."



"THE HOUSE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED"



SHE ACCUSED HIM OF POISONING HER.

and smashing her a la mode. The next intelligence was that she was ill, and finally one night came an urgent call for my father to come to their house as quickly as possible.

Arriving there he found a couple of neighbors doing all they could to alleviate the sufferings of the poor woman, who was in the throes of convulsions, with every indication of strychnine poisoning. The spasm subsided in a minute, just as her husband came in, and not having lost consciousness she accused him of having changed the medicine; that the powder given her by the woman No. 2 was poison. Spasms recurred in a few seconds and continued with increasing severity until her death in fifteen or twenty minutes.

Coming into the room Vanderpool simulated great surprise at the condition of affairs, manifesting a little spurious grief at her death. This man had a dangerous faction back of him, a genuine band of petty thieves, and my father, not courting trouble, said nothing for the time being, knowing sooner or later the facts would develop.

Gossip traveled loud and fast and told in graphic words of the awful tragedy. The current rumors soon reached Vanderpool's ears, and knowing that my father's testimony, coupled with the circumstantial evidence, would hang him he decided to kill father.

FIRED FROM AMBUSH.

So one dark night while making a call in the north part of town, he was fired upon by a concealed foe, whom he suspected was Vanderpool or one of his pals, but fortunately escaped uninjured. An assassin is the cowardliest of all craven creatures. This accounts for his invariably poor aim.

Just two days after this incident he met Vanderpool in a blacksmith shop who immediately accused him of having circulated the damaging reports mentioned. This father denied and agreed to confront the party saying he did. Reiterating the charge., he approached father menacingly, when father, indignant at the audicity of the man, accused him in unmistakable language of having murdered his wife, intimating that he would have the authorities take charge of him at once. Drawing a knife he made a lunge at father, who grabbed an iron bar for defense, but the blacksmith interfering, drove Vanderpool out of the shop. Swearing vengeance, he went home and hastily collecting a few essentials, loaded them, with woman No. 2, into his buggy, and in the early hours of that night "treked de veldt," as the Boers say.

There were no railroads, telephone or telegraph wires in those days. For twenty long years the destination and fate of Vanderpool was an oft discussed theme in our household and tears often came to our childish hearts that some night he might return and kill father, but the years passed and that monstrous crime had about faded from from memory when one day in June my mother, who is still living and remembers this episode well, was seen approaching the garden fence beyond which my father, brother John, and myself were working. in a hurried and excited manner. Calling father, she beckoned him to come quickly. Suspecting something unusual had happened, I accompanied him, and as we drew near mother said: "Vanderpool is in the house."

"Pshaw," ejaculated my father; impossible."

"Well, it is Vanderpool, and I knew his face at once," rejoined mother; "and I am afraid to have you go in."

"What are you afraid of? I asked.

"Why, he may kill him," she answered.

UNWARRANTED ALARM.

"If that's the game," I replied, "I'll have a hand in it," so I followed father to the house, and entering the dining room, I procured the double-barreled shot gun, loaded with buck shot, from behind the cupboard, and cocking both triggers, cautiously followed him through the hallway, stopping just outside the open door, entering to the sitting room, prepared for instant action if there was a threatening word, or a suspicious move. Sure enough, it was old Vanderpool, and rising to his feet, he grasped father' by the hand with every manifestation of friendship, expressing over and over again his delight at meeting him again after the lapse of so many years.

Seeing my services were not needed, I reversed arms and retreated. Briefly the old man told of his exodus west, the details of his overland journey to California, the hardships and privations he and his wife endured, of his experiences after reaching the Pacific slope; how he had prospered beyond his desserts, asserting that he was worth over $1,000,000. He had brought his family back with him, wife and six children. These he introduced the following day, and the couple of weeks ensuing visited us almost every day. They were a bright, intelligent, accomplished family, well trained, educated and refined. It was evident they had had excellent advantages.

The old man sought by every means in his power to make amends for his guilty conduct in the past. His motive was plain and for the sake of the little children, father said nothing concerning his identity. It would have done no good anyway, because all the other witnesses were dead.

Before returning to California he disinterred the remains of his wife and took them with him. Thus he removed the only other remaining vestige of his heartless crime. Since the day of his departure no tidings have come from him or his kin. If living now, he is ninety odd years old.

His wife, all remarked, was the most disconsolable creature they had ever seen. The days she visited us never a smile lighted up her sad, dejected countenance. A grievous burden weighed upon her mind, a settled melancholy blotted out all pleasure and the memory of an awful crime seemed to haunt her night and day.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

This narrative would not be complete without mentioning another incident pertaining thereto. The house in which the Vanderpools had lived, a rude, unpretentious two-story structure, for many years ws supposed to be haunted and ghosts of all kinds, it was alleged, were seen sprinting around the premises. All kinds of uncanny noises and rappings had been heard, "so they said," and the consequence was the house practically remained unoccupied for fifteen or twenty years. Families moved in, but soon were more anxious to move out than they had been to move in.

The ghost story, of course, was the product of a fervid imagination, but we children held the building in great awe, and in pssing would approach the windows timidly and peering in, really expected to see spooks hop out of almost any corner. A niece of the murdered lady, made us annual visits for many consecutive summers, and during one of these periodical sojourns the young lady mentioned, my two sisters and myself concluded to explore the Vanderpool residence and see if we could find any articles once the property of the murdered woman. I was about twelve or fourteen yers of age at that time. Arming myself with one of those old fashioned corn cutters, we all started for the house.

Entering the back kitchen door, I lead the procession, my large corn knife raised ready to slay the first spook that materialized. Ascending the rickety old stairway, musty with age and cobwebs, the girls timidly following, ready to run at the first ominous noise or wierd sight. We reached the first room, through which we passed into another room. in which we found an old chest, such as was used in early days for traveling purposes. It had been broken open and most of the goods abstracted or more aptly stolen. We found some things of no value, mildewed, among them two silk dresses, which were recognized as having been worn by the murdered woman, now well decayed and disintegrating. These the niece took with her. I never was inside the building after that. It was demolished some years later. Thus passes into history one of the unpunished crimes of Iowa.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1937

207-

Keokuk Pattersons Helped Found Century Old Church

Col. William and Eleanor Patterson Among Eleven Who Organized West Point Church, Century Old Next Thursday.

Keokuk Presbyterians have more than just a passing interest in the one hundredth anniversary of the church at West Point, which will be observed on June 24, for the reason that William and Eleanor Patterson, Keokuk people, were among the eleven founders of this old church.

For years the church has looked upon this one as the cradle of Presbyterianism in the state, but recent historians have spoiled this picture, because records show the Cumberland branch of the church to have organized two churches, one at Ion in Allamakee county in 1834 and one called Sugar Creek claimed by both Des Moines and Lee county, in 1836.

However, the West Point church is the first church of the old school connection in Iowa, Dr. J. F. Hinkhouse says in his history "One Hundred Years of the Iowa Presbyterian Church." It also participated in the organization of the first Presbytery and has functioned for an entire century.

Organized June 24.

"In response to petition the Presbyterian church of West Point was organized June 24, 1837, by the Revs. Samuel Wilson and Launcelot G. Bell, representatives of the Presbytery of Schuyler lying across the river," says one history of the church. While there were said to be eleven organizers, names of but ten are preserved to posterity, two of these being the Keokuk Pattersons. The others were Alexander H. Walker, Isabella Walker, Albrose Stone, David and Nancy Walker, Cyrus and Mary Poage and Malinda Taylor, Col. Patterson, Alexander Walker and Cyrus Poage were the first elders.

Quoting the Rev. William J. Harsha, in his story of Iowa, Dr. Hinkhouse gives a less prosaic touch to his description of the founding of the West Point church. "On a lovely day in June, viz., the 24th in the year 1837, two ministers assembled a little congregation at a place called West Point, in Lee county, Iowa. The people came together eagerly because it had been announced that a Presbyterian church would be organized at that place. On horse back, in ox carts, and farm wagons, on foot, they came, scores who braved the wilds of the unformed territory and who now rejoiced that organized life was to have a beginning. For this was the first Presbyterian church on the soil of Iowa. The ministers were Samuel Wilson and Launcelot G. Bell."

Dr. Stewart Leaves Story.

Another story of the West Point church comes from the memoirs of the Rev. George D. Stewart of Fort Madison, well known to older Keokukians in the church, and throughout the county as well. He came to Iowa in 1859 and visited West Point on his third Sunday in the state.

"My friends equipped me with a pony and saddle bags, and in this itinerant style I entered West Point, which with other points was to be the scene of my labors for the next four and one-half years, fording the Skunk river on my way, thither. There was no church building. There had been one at an earlier date, but it became unsafe and was taken down. The people worshipped in a brick building erected for a court house and which on removal of the county seat to Fort Madison had been given to the Presbyterians of the Synod for a college called Des Moines, which after a struggle of years is now defunct. Our first service was held on a week day night, a few candles served to make darkness visible, but the prospect did not seem to be very cheering. The next Sunday I preached at West Point to a good congregation; in the afternoon to a few people in Sharon church, nine miles distant, situated where LaCrew now is. The building stood then alone on a prairie with a few scattering farmhouses in sight."

The present church edifice nestling in trees will be the site of the centnnial next Thursday. A tablet marks the building and gives the date of its founding. Whatever history makes of it, the West Point church to Iowa Presbyterians will always be the first, and to Keokuk Presbyterians will be associated with the Pattersons.

We say it improves a man's moral character to shave every day.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

209-

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, APRIL 21. 1877

A TRIP TO WEST POINT AND FRANKLIN.

What a Constitution Reporter Saw and Heard in those Burgs.

FT. MADISON, April 19.—Your correspondent having been invited several times by friend A. J. Weber, the chief mogul of the West Point Appeal, to go out and spend Sunday with him in that burg, concluded to accept the invitation, and so started out on the 4 o'clock train last Saturday afternoon, accompanied by Messrs. Weber and Howard of the Appeal, who had been taking in Fort Madison that day. Mr. Sample of J. H. Schwartz's dry goods establishment of this city, was also on the train going home to spend Sunday.

An amusing incident happened just as the train was pulling out from the depot. A number of parties were in Joe Engle's saloon, half a block from the depot, when the bell rang, and the train started. A wide-awake member of the party had by this time discovered the situation of affairs and a ludicrous scramble ensued to reach the train. Some lively running was done, and all of the party succeeded in getting on the train, when Conductor McCormack with a "smile that was child like and bland," coolly informed them they were just going to switch on another car preparatory to starting. Of course this had a very soothing effect on members of the party who had left full glasses of beer—it may have been soda water—at Engle's, but who had to leave them without drinking. In fact, it is probable that Mr. McCormack would have been mobbed if they had not discovered the immense boil on the back of his neck which he has been nursing the greater part of the winter, but seeing which they took pity on him and forebore doing any violence to his person.

When near West Point the train stopped. Cause: drunken man with horses lying on the the track. Principal cause. too much "corn-juice" in man. The trainmen got off and, by the aid of two dozen men, more or less, the man and wagon were hauled from the track and we proceeded on our journey. The fellow was a farmer from St. Paul, Iowa, who had got drunk in West Point, and had taken the Fort Madison road for home.

Arriving at West Point, your correspondent proceeded to interview his friends among the business men. The roads are just beginning to get good and so business is not rushing. We talked with W. G. Pittman, of the Metroplitan Drug Store; William Forley, at the "Burlington Store," and Herman Brinck, at his establishment, and saw Charley Martin, too busy to talk to any one; also shook hands with the Madison boys at J. H. Schwartz's, of whom there is a good crowd, and interviewed Dr. Al. Trevitt. The next one we came across was Ben Kempker, the mayor, a prince of good fellows and also proprietor of a good sized clothing store and merchant tailoring establishment. During the evening we made the acquaintance of Ed. J. Salmon, a bright sprig of the law, who is very entertaining. The new city ordinances which have been drawn up by Mr. Salmon, and adopted by the city council are as good laws as those of any city in the state and reflect great credit on Mr. Salmon.

After leaving Kempkers's we proceeded to the Appeal office, which is now situated in the second story of a fine business block owned by Mr. A. J. Weber's father who occupies the first floor for a large harness establishment. Mr. Weber also owns a nice brick residence some distance from the store. On entering the Appeal office we were struck with the air of neatness and order which prevaded it and the handsome way in which it was fixed up, which would reflect much credit on a larger newspaper establishment. Messrs Weber and Howard have made it a bright, newsy, independent sheet. Its circulation is quite large, and is constantly increasing, over 100 copies being taken in Fort Madison The "devil" had been left in charge of things, and so everything was all right. The "devil" had tried to "set up" some "letter-heads" for Ed. Salmon, but in this he was slightly unsuccessful.

Sunday morning services were held in the Catholic and Presbyterian churches, but none in the Methodist or Baptist churches. Rev. Thomas Powell, of Keokuk, was to have preached in the latter church, but sent out word that he was unable to attend on account of illness.

A sick horse on the west part of the park Sunday morning attracted considerable attention and it required considerable medical notice.

In the afternoon Messrs. Weber, Howard, and your correspondent, got one of Homer Hall's best rigs and started for Franklin Center. The road in some places was good and in others very bad. In some parts of it there was snow. The arrival of three newspaper men in the city created considerable attention, judging by the looks of the populace. Franklin is a rather pretty little prairie town, with the usual park, around which is grouped the principal business houses. The trees in the park have been trimmed so closely that they will not give much shade this summer. The park is entered by steps on each corner which are surrounded by turn stiles.

Among the principal residences are those of Geo. Vogt, sr., whose son is in the hotel busines, Dr. H. C. Heiser, deputy treasurer at this place, Prof. Rohrbach, whose acquaintance we made, and Mr. Lange, who also has a large general store. We were very hospitably entertained by Mr. Lange and wife and his charming daughters, Misses Kate and Mary, and Mrs. Rohrbach, and did not leave until evening when we returned to West Point. We had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Dr. Newell and others in Franklin.

Monday morning, after calling on Prof. and Mrs. O. B. Howell at their music store, and also bidding the other West Pointers adieu, we returned home, having had a very pleasant trip. Coming home we had the honor of making the acquaintance of Representative Caldwell, who was coming to the city, and also saw Joe Dieman, former assistant cashier of the German American bank, who is now farming between here and West Point.

REX.

Constitution-Democrat.

NOVEMBER 5, 1903.

WAS HAUNT OF HODGES.

Historic Building Near West Point Which Was Burned.

The residence of Charles Yeske, three miles west of West Point, Iowa, was burned to the ground Saturday night of last week. The burning of this structure brings to memory a chapter in the annals of criminal history of this section long ago forgotten by the majority of citizens.

The house was erected in 1841, by a man known as "Mill" Walker, and while there was no positive evidence against the man, it was generally supposed that more than one traveler who sought lodging there was quietly murdered and relieved of the victim's personal belongings by Walker. It was nothing unusual to see lights in the cellar at night and the Hodges brothers, who were hung at Burlington for the murder of Leisy and Miller, were frequent visitors of this man. It was supposed at the time that he gave the Hodges information as to Leisy's and Miller's locating here and that they had money. At any rate he left here a short time before the tragedy and in Iowa was seen by J. D. Peebler in St. Louis, at a distance. A week later, when Mr. Peebler, boarded a boat for home, whom should he see but "Mill" Walker again, who denied his identity at first very strenuously, but finally admitted that it was himself, at the same time begging J. D. to say nothing to West Point people of having seen him.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1874.

WEST POINT WEDDINGS.

BY HAWKINS TAYLOR, WASHINGTON D. C.

[From the Annals of Iowa.]

Your account of a wedding on the frontier puts me in mind of one of my own experiences in splicing a couple—for you must know that I have been constable, justice of the peace, alderman, and mayor, but never president. In 1836, David Penrod came to Lee county and took a claim in the timber a mile south of West Point. He came from Johnson county, Illinois. His business in Illinois being that of a hunter, the game being deer, turkey, and hog. As the county settled up, hog hunting was most profitable, and his table was oftener served with pork than venison. Unfortunately, some meddlesome persons complained to the grand jury about his hog hunting. Some of his friends being on the jury, they posted him of the charge, which made him so indignant that he left the State, and left it without being particular in the manner of going. He brought with him to Iowa a dog, a gun, a wife and two daughters, and built on his claim a small log shanty, dirt floor, clap-board roof, no loft; he had two beds, supported on two poles, one end resting on a fork driven down into the ground and the other end in a crack between the logs; on top of these poles were cross-sticks for slats, running into a crack of the house; on these was some straw, a few deer skins, and an old quilt. The two beds covered nearly all of one end of the house. The only seats were three-legged stools, and the table was a puncheon. Fuge Martin courted one of the daughters with success, and I was employed to bind the bargain. About the middle of the afternoon I slipped out, hoping to get off without being seen, but some of the boys about town had heard of the wedding and were watching my movements, so that I hardly got through the ceremony before half a dozen came rushing in to see the fun. The bride was dressed in a copperas, home-spun dress, Tennessee stripe, and barefooted. Penrod and his wife were sitting, one in each corner, near the fire, on stools, and both looking savage. Neither spoke to me. Martin and his Grandfather Clark, with the Penrod family, made up the party, when I got there. Grandfather Clark was one of the early characters of the country. He never came to town without getting tight, and every other word with him was "Hello, Molly." Grandfather Clark, as soon as I went in, said: "Hello, Molly, they think my grandson not good enough for their gal; Hello Molly, I think it an even swap. Hello Molly, Fuge is no account, but Hello Molly, he is as good as the Penrods. Hello Molly, Fuge, bring out your gal."

About this time the crowd came out from town, when old Penrod got furious, but no one paid any attention to him. Fuge and his "gal" stood up, and I tied them, when the grandpap took from his pocket a flask of "forty-rod" whisky, approved brand, and said: "Hello Molly, let's have a drink." After taking a good swig he offered it to me, when I refused. "Hello Molly, never heard of the like before." He then gave the bride a suck, which she appeared to enjoy, then her sister, then the bridegroom, and after that he offered it to Penrod and wife, but they indignantly refused, probably the first time in their lives that they ever refused such a beverage. The old man then looked at his flask and the new arrivals but he saw that it would not go round, when he turned to the newly married pair and drank their health: "Hello Molly, here's to you, hoping that the first may be a gal and a boy; Hello Molly." So far as I know, the union was a happy one—it was at least a fruitful one in the increase of numbers.

A few weeks after this I married another nephew of Grandfather Clark, of his own name, a Miss Duke being the bride—a rather dashing-looking young lady, and fashionably dressed for that day among the timber settlers. Young Clark had only a couple of weeks' acquaintance with her, having met her at a "settlers' party." About four or five months after the wedding the old man Clark came dashing into the store at West Point, and the first words were: "Hello Molly, Frank's wife has got a little one, but Hello Molly, she is good enough for him if she'd had two." The incident created no unpleasantness in the family. Clark was a philosopher. My fees are still outstanding, but the splicing remained solid, without flaw. Probably it was more the result of the virtue of the people than the manner of the work on my part.

Those were happy days. No bloated aristocrats running their railroads at that day, or running their engines over peoples' dogs and cats. If a farmer living in Wappelo had wheat to sell he could haul it to Jimmy Death's mill in Keokuk, and get thirty-seven and a half cents in calico and ribbons. If he wanted to visit his friends in an adjoining county he could walk, and not be forced, as now, to go in a hurry. If he wanted to take his family, he could take his horses and cow, as Grant does when he goes to Long Branch, and be independent. But I do not believe that Iowa can be got back into the good old ways again; but there are places, although they are getting scarce, where you can get away from railroads and Grecian bends for a while; Arazona will do, and New Mexico will do for a good while yet. It seems that it would be worth while at least to try it, on the part of the good people that have been and are now ruined by railroads. I would at least advise them to send out a committee of explorers, to make a report at a future day.

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.

CONSTITUTION—Established 1847.
DEMOCRAT—Established 1883.
Consolidated March 26, 1888

FEB. 13. 1895

WEST POINT.

Early History of This Lee County Locality Briefly Reviewed.

West Point Bee: In the year 1834 a man by the name of Whiteaker, in looking over the beautiful prairies in and about West Point, was impressed with the place as a location for a town. His idea was that the town should be situated in the timber, or at least on the edge of the woodland. Mr. Whiteaker made the necessary steps to claim a large part, if not all the land upon which West Point is now built. In 1835 he sold his claim to John Howell and John L. Cotton, who proceeded to lay out a body of land south of our town plat. It was then called Cotton town, or Decatur. In 1836, these gentlemen again sold their claim to Abraham Hanzieker, by whom the present town was platted, and then the name of West Point was given the young city. Again the imaginary town was sold, Alex Walker, Wm. Patterson, Green Casey and Hawkins Taylor being the buyers.

The first house erected in the town still stands on the lots of Mrs. Christian Krouse, and is in use as a wood house. It was originally built at the northwest corner of the square and was built in 1835. The first brick building erected in the town, and in fact built in Lee county, was the Presbyterian church one block west of the northwest corner of the Public Square.

West Point was originally the county seat, but in the fall of 1845 it was removed to Fort Madison. Some persons are yet living in our place who are conversant with almost the entire history of West Point—I. L. McDonald, James McCardle, James D. Peebler, and perhaps others unknown to us, have been the witnesses of the inception and growth of the good city of West Point; and at some more convenient season we hope to take up the history of our town and township, that our children may know somewhat of the earlier history and struggles out of which grew all these good homes and pleasant surroundings that are seen on every hand.

210.

THE GATE CITY:

1880

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 1.

—West Point is well entitled to the first position among the historic cities of the state. It was here that the first sermon in Iowa was preached; here the first college was located; here General Dodge made his maiden political speech, the first political speech made in the state; and here the first agricultural fair was held, the first west of the Mississippi. Reference is made to these matters in the address of welcome, by R. W. Pittman, to the Old Settlers at Fort Madison, Thursday.— West Point *Appeal*.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 4, 1870.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA.

By A. W. Harlan.

James Alfrey and his wife—the two should be inseparable, having been husband and wife for more than fifty years. They are both of dark complexion and were from off the Big Sandy, in Kentucky, to Missouri, and from Missouri on to the Des Moines. There is nothing peculiar about either of them. They have raised thirteen children of their own. They had some ten or eleven children when they came here, and that is now going on thirty-five years. They have also had the care of several of their grand children. Mrs. Alfrey is still seemingly as smart as most women of only forty years of age, though she is sixty. Mr. Alfrey is now going on seventy-two years of age, and although somewhat nervous, his eye sight is pretty good. I called on him a few days ago and found him making an ax handle; went with him into his house and found his wife weaving carpet on a neat loom made by Mr. Alfrey himself only last year. Mr. Alfrey, like most men that were raised in that part of Kentucky, was considerably dissipated for more than twenty years. but certainly deserves all the more credit for having reformed most effectually, and has now been a sober man for near twenty years; and with his reform from drunkenness he became a professor of religion of a sect (though not a sect) known as Campbellites, who take the Bible for their guide His wife is also a member of the same church. The two old people together both having an abiding faith in their religion, are cheerfully awaiting the call to pass through the valley of the shadow of death, fearing no evil.

They let the world wag as it will,
Pray to God and do their duty still.

Mrs. Alfrey has always enjoyed remarkble health. The old gentleman is now enjoying much better health than he has done for some years, and thinks that it is much owing to his using water from the oil well which is near him.

William Nelson, better known as Old Baggy, was rather a small man of light complexion, raised in North Carolina, and obtained his nickname in the following manner: There was a merchant in that section of the country whose name was Baggy; he had been to Raleigh, North Carolina, for goods and bought for himself one palm leaf hat, the first that was ever seen in that section of country, and wore it some months as a curiosity. On his next trip to Raleigh, N. C., to replenish his stock of goods, he brought back for sale some half dozen palm leaf hats. William Nelson, then a boy of sixteen, bought the first one that he sold and wore it the next day to a Baptist Association. Some of the boys pretended to think that he was Mr. Baggy the merchant. A small fight ensued; hence the nickname Baggy stuck to him as long as he lived. He died in Missouri some eight or ten year ago, at the age of about sixty-six. The nickname having stuck to him about fifty years so tenaciously that but few persons knew that his name was William Nelson.

RICHARD M. JONES.

Richard M. Jones was also a North Carolinian; a tolarable fair specimen of a man rather above the medium height. He was a man of tolerable abilities, and was at one time Sheriff of some county in Missouri, Ralls, I believe, and in the discharge of his official duties, it was alleged by his political enemies that on several occasions, he stayed all night at a tavern kept by a widow woman, when if he had rode long enough, that he might have got home; hence, his name Trickey Dick, that always adhered to him. The last I knew of him he was living in Jefferson county, Iowa.

Abel Galland was a man about six feet high, of doubtful complexion, and had one of the smallest specimens of femininity for a wife that had ever been seen in this section of country. She bore a strong resemblance to a large Dutch doll, yet in some respects was a fit companion for him, for they were both in favor of doing every thing after the most primitive style—save and excepting their religious views that were always of the most recent fanaticism.

I once heard him say that he had changed his religious views some seven or eight times, and after that time I knew him to join the Mormons proper. He followed them as far as Council Bluffs. When they migrated his faith faltered and he retreated a few miles, and was the first settler at what was used to be called Galland's Grove. There he attached himself to the Strangers and migrated to Beaver Island, in Lake Michigan. Here a small schism occurred, and he went with the first party of Mormons to Grand Traverse, Michigan.

Now, I should say if the Lord has any design in making men he must have made Abel Galland for a pioneer. He served in the regular army of the United States five years in his youth, in Illinois and Missouri. He could not bear to live in the settlements, and firmly believed the good country was always a few miles further ahead. He would sell his improvements and move again. His wants were few. With an acre or two of corn, his rifle could supply him with meat. Then he was an excellent bee hunter, and with hominy, milk, venison and honey, why should a mortal want anything more here below—unless it was a suit of buckskin, and that he always had of the best.

He died some ten or twelve years ago somewhere near Beaver Island, in the northeast end of Michigan lake. At last he has found a resting place. Whether he ever found the good place, we have no report from him.

William Jordan was a Virginian by birth. He came West when quite a young man, engaged in mining about Galena, Ill., and afterwards engaged as a hand among the fur traders, before he settled on the Des Moines. He was, perhaps, a light-complexioned man, something less than six feet in height, of stout build and remarkably hairy all over, so much so that the Indians called him the hairy-breasted warrior; and to take him up one side and down the other, he was a pretty good kind of a man. But he, also, became a Mormon, and the last I ever saw of him, he was living on the Boyer, some distance back and above from Council Bluffs, in Iowa.

Perhaps it would be well here to say that this William Jordan was not any way related to the other Jordan that figured, also, as an Indian trader, and settled along the Des Moine river at an early day.

John Petri, I believe, is still living on his original claim, one of the old respectable citizens of Van Buren county, but, like many others, he wanted to see the great plains and the Rocky Mountains, so he, too, went to California for a summer frollic, so when he returned he could say that he had "seen the elephant," also. He then went to work quietly. I learn, on further inquiry, that he has been dead several years.

...DAY MORNING, FEB. 6, 1870

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA

By A. W. Harlan.

In order to make other sketches plain and easily comprehended, I am necessarsly compelled to give a short account of my own occupation and whereabouts.

I left the Beaver Des Moines with the number of settlers that I have already named in Van Buren county, and started for Galena or Dubuque. Reached Camp Des Moines, the quarters then being constracted by Government under the Superintendency of Lieut. G. H. Crossman, of the 6the U. S. infantry, and for the reception of three companies of the 1st U. S. dragoons. The place has for many years and is now known as Montrose, in Lee county, Iowa.

I reached that place about the 20th of September, 1834. The wind blew so hard for 48 hours that the ferry could not cross the river; the boat being at that time but a small frail affair. The Lieutenant was in want of hands, and persuaded me to turn out my horse with some other horses and engage at work on the garrison; with the rare privilege, voluntarily offered to me, of lodging with the quartermaster's clerk, a Mr. Tebiman, a Prussian by birth. But I was to board with Capt. James White, who at that time boarded most of the hands that were at work at the quarters. Although I was not a mechanic of any kind, I picked up a jack plane and made a hand with others. I worked for some six or seven weeks and done some of that rough framing of the first stables. At this place I made many acquaintances, some of whom I have never seen since; but amongst them there was Hazen,

Sweasey and William Bratten, that like myself, were amongst the first settlers of the valley of the Des Moines.

On the following Sabbath I went out to hunt up my horse and made the acquaintance of Giles Sullivan, then living near two miles below on the place known as the Burtis place.

This Giles Sullivan proved my evil genius, and if I could make some other things plain for my own credit and that of other persons, I should like to draw this narrative to a close.

However, let me proceed: Sullivan learned from me the price of my horse, and the following week, perhaps, some strangers, looking at the country, came along. One of their horses got kicked and lamed so he could not travel, and Sullivan swapped off my horse to them and got one of his own, and came to me offering me all the money he had, some $30. I told him that would not do, so he borrowed some more money and give to me, with his note for fifteen dollars, inviting me to come down and see him whenever I could make it convenient, saying he was poor but liberal. I made a good many enquiries about him, and here I must say he had many warm friends and about as many bitter enemies.

I looked at the surrounding country, calculated its future importance as a commercial point, concluded to locate on the bluff a little above Keokuk and follow boating or lighting on the rapids. The work on the garrison was finished; the boating season was almost over; I had some money, about ninety dollars; I knew some persons would sell whisky to the soldiers the coming winter, and argued with my conscience as others have done. Sullivan offered to rent me one of his cabins. (The evil genius prevailed.) I went to St. Louis and invested about my bottom dollar in liquors, brought them on and opened out a small grog shop about the first of December, 1834. My compunctions of conscience were not quieted.

My regrets soon followed. One morning I went up to the garrison and found several of my best customers tied up by their thumbs with their hands raised above their heads, as punishment for getting drunk on my whisky.

My trouble did not end here. A few days afterwards Sullivan and myself had been up to the settlers to grind our axes. In passing down, near Col. Kearney's quarters, he hailed me, made a few inquiries, and was answered promptly. He then made some threats. Sullivan told me to talk up to him. I did talk up, as it ultimately proved to my sorrow.

And to make the matter worse, Sullivan talked up some also. Told the Colonel that his hay was stacked rather too close to his quarters. Just at that time we had the best of the quarrel. But Colonel Kearney was an old soldier that knew how to deal with much older rascals than we were.

About one month previous to this time the laws of Michigan had been extended over us by proclamation; that was all. On the arrival of Col. Kearney with his three companies of dragoons, he reigned supreme in all the country north of the State of Missouri and west of the Mississippi.

Within a day or two I received a visit from Captain Brown and Lieut. Beguinn. Capt. Brown bought a half gallon of whisky of me, drank some, his dignity thawed somewhat, he became sociable, inquired of Sullivan about that little quarrel. Sullivan made it a little worse than it really was. I thought I could see through their sociability, but Sullivan, though an ald coon, did not. After a time Berquinn took me to one side, gave me the Col's. compliments and politely informed me that Colonel Kearney would expect me, within a few days, to leave that location. I had some time for cool reflection. I sold my stock of liquor to Ezra Overhall, and I emigrated to the Des Moines. The following week Col. Kearney sent down a small detachment and poured out the balance of the whisky. Alhough I have always been a sober man, whisky has been the bane of my life, because others got drunk. Whisky got me into several small scrapes in the Wabash country, in Indiana. Then it was the cause of a much more serious scrape, near Independence, Missouri, and yet some others afterwards on the Des Moines. So no wonder that I have adopted the Indian theory that "whisky is the devil."

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 23, 1870.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY.

By J. W. Harland.

Captain James White must have been one of the first settlers in Hancock county, Illinois; however, I found him, in September, 1834, where the town of Montrose now stands. He must have went there as early as 1833, for he had fenced and planted quite a large field in corn before Lieut. Crossman selected his place on which to build Camp Des Moines.

He was rather a heavy-set man, about five feet ten inches in height, had a loud, coarse voice, and from the run of his conversation must have been amongst the first keel boat captains on the Western waters. He still owned, in 1834, the keel boat "Bronthes." His keel boat and his big stone house just across the river were frequent topics of conversation with him; and when anything had to be done his favorite by-word was "Go it, or bust, by God!" I presume that I have heard him utter that single sentence twenty times a day.

Then I remember that Captain White had a lot of hogs, some forty in number, fifteen or twenty of which were very nice ones, besides some five or six were running around that Sullivan claimed.

On one occasion Sullivan and myself were invited to dine with a soldiers' mess. They complained of their fat pork. Sullivan inquired if they did not know how to get fresh pork. One Sheldon replied that hogs would occasionally squeal. Sullivan told him that he had a charm by which he could make a hog roll over in its bed without ever squealing, and lay still to be stuck. The dragoon was anxious to learn. Sullivan then communicated the secret, on condition that his shoats were to be spared. Fresh pork was plenty with some messes until Captain White's hogs were all gone, as well as Sullivan's shoats.

I have never tried the charm, and even if I had done so, and knew that it would work, I would not communicate the secret for fear that perhaps I might possibly lose some shoats, as Sullivan did in this case.

Captain White did considerable business. He could not keep his own accounts, and in addition many of those with whom he dealt were much more ignorant than the Captain.

The result was frequent disputes; occasionally the lie was given, and some times a knock-down followed. Sometimes the old Captain got the worst of a fight, but then he did not seem to take it to heart seriously Such a scene had happened one morning. I was fixing up some additional shelving in the Settler's Store. White came in, and shortly after, the man with whom he had the difficulty. Some one referred to the fight. The man said "that old Jim White was the biggest liar that he ever knew." White replied that "he was the most truthful man in the house." The other man, of course, after having made such an accusation would dispute the point. The Captain would make a slight change in the proposition, he would offer to bet a bottle of wine that there was more truth in him than any man in the house. The bet was generally taken. The Captain would then get his opponent to admit that at the birth of each and every person, they respectively contained an equal amount of truth. The old Captain would then enquire of all present if any of us had ever known him to tell the truth when a lie would possibly do. The testimony was always clear that the truth was pretty much all still left in the Captain. About this stage of the joke the stranger would begin to see the point and fork over.

I testified for him once, and helped drink the wine on two occasions; on both of which future friendship was pledged.

I had considerable dealings with Captain Jamer White, and found him always truthful and honest, but I kept a plain account. Some of his grand children are still on the waters, and are respectable and refined.

It is the times that develope men of a certain cast to suit the times, as the revolution of France developed Napoleon the First; as the late rebellion developed Grant.

The old Captain's stone house has had many different occupants since he passed off the stage of action.

About the 20th of December, 1834, I returned to the Des Moines. Samuel C.

April 23, 1870 - page #1

#212 - 3.1870

Reid had moved to his place just above what is now known as Reid's creek. John Slaughter, a single man, made his home with him. Jeff. Jordan was living on the opposite side of the river, though a little higher up. James Sanders was living in the next bottom above; that is to say, about one and a half miles below, where Bentonsport is now situated, on the opposite side of the river. Giles O'Sullivan, Henry Plummer, O. P. Thomas and A. W. Harlan struck camp just above where the business part of Bentonsport is now situated. Sullivan having previously made a claim, we cut logs, hauled them, and erected a double log house a little above where the mills now stand, close on the bank of the river. O. P. Thomas was the stone mason that built the fire place. The rest of us made boards, put on the roof, chinked the cracks and daubed them with mud, cold as the weather was, and was under shelter Christmas day, 1834. Sullivan's wife and family reached here, I believe, New Year's day, 1835, and within a day or two I purchased a claim of old Capt. Forquaen, about a mile above, and from that date should be considered one of the settlers, although I did not commence keeping batch until about the first of February, 1835, and for about four months was the frontier settler; that is, the highest up the river. James Powel moved in on the opposite side of the river, about two miles above, about the first of May, 1835. Dr. Isaac McCarty moved in next above him about the last days of May, 1835, nearly opposite the mouth of Rock creek.

Apnl 23, 1870 - page #2

APR. 23 1870 - 2

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 26, 1870.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

CONTINUED.

About the first week in June, 1835, Frank Anson, George Anson, Henry Anson and Seth Pratt, came and settled, or at least cleared a small patch and planted some corn, still above where McCarty lived. That is nearly opposite the mouth of Rock Creek, one of the last places that should be named.

There were several trading houses still higher up the river, but I have now mentioned the last corn patch planted in the spring of 1835.

Peter Gillis settled, in the fall of 1835, at the rapids on the south side of the Des Moines, nearly opposite where Kinnersly's mill now stands.

Elijah Purdom, Sr., arrived and settled a little above where Keosauqua is at this date. He had a large family, and, in addition thereto, there was three young men by the name of Vannoy come along with them who made claims. There was also one John Tilvers, an old bachelor, who made the first claim where Keosauqua is now situated.

David A. Ely and John Goodwin also come in and settled a little further up the bottom, having previously made their claims. The foregoing names include all the actual settlers up to January 1st, 1836, although there were many claims made still higher up the river. True there were several others moved in lower down the river.

A few persons had made claims out on the edge of the prairie, but up to January, 1836, no prairie-breaking had been done.

The future denizens of this prairie country may wonder at the fact of all the first settlements being made on the river amongst heavy timber, but they will please bear in mind that there was few of us able to own a prairie team, while with our axes we could cleara small patch.

Giles O'Sullivan was a character here in an early day. I believe he was born in Kentucky and raised about St. Louis, Mo. He was among the first settlers in almost every county on the Mississippi river from St. Louis up to Clark, though he left Clark some years before it was organized. He lived near two years about two miles below Montrose, and in December, 1834, was the first settler at Bentonsport, and up to this time had only been plain Giles Sullivan, but one evening while in camp he got to blarneying me a little, or, in other words, soft-soaping me. I paid back in the same coin, eulogized the O'Sullivans of Ireland, told him he had as good as been cheated out of his birth-right by taking the O out of the family name. That joke took with him. I learned him how to insert the O in spelling his name, and always calling him O'Sullivan. This was the christening. From that time he used the O. I might here assert that he is not the only man that I renamed or dubbed. At the time he came here he was about thirty-seven years of age, about five feet eight inches in height, and weighed 140 pounds; stood erect. In short, built up for endurance. His Indian name was Murscoot-i-paw, signifying red-whiskers. He had many good traits, and a good many traits that were not so very good. He always had his warm friends and bitter enemies; pretty equally divided in opinion. It seemed that he could not live without doing kind acts; and then, on the other hand, he could not enjoy life without an occasional quarrel. He delighted in seeing other men fight, and did not object to taking a hand occasionally himself. He had a great deal to say about dueling, encouraged the practice, and would, upon a pinch, do a little shooting himself. He was quite poor when he came here, and necessity compelled him to be rather sharp on small trades. Francis Church and Charles O. Sanford bought part of his claim in 1835 and laid out the town of Bentonsport in the spring of 1836. From that time for about two years Giles O'Sullivan prospered, so much so that he built him a new house and had left at one time three thousand dollars, all in silver. Then he bought part of his town back again, commenced making a farm out back from the town, and soon got into difficulties.

The early court records have a good deal to say about O'Sullivan and Ross, and Ross' "nigger," for be it known that there was an attempt made to establish slavery here, in spite of law and the people, but it was crushed out after almost ruining O'Sullivan and Ross.

Giles O'Sullivan then emigrated to Texas and commenced the world anew, after he was more than forty years of age, and after having some more ups and downs, it is said that he was thrown from his horse and killed.

Giles O'Sullivan at this time had his second wife, one amongst the good women of the world. She was the daughter of Thos. Willis, one among the early settlers of Hancock county, Illinois. He refused to let O'Sullivan have his daughter. She was not yet eighteen years old. License was necessary. O'Sullivan went to the Clerk's office, then at Montebello. The clerk flatly refused the license, but his office was not well arranged; his papers were all in an open box; O'Sullivan quietly took up a fire shovel full of coals and pointed to the papers, and peremptorily ordered him to issue the license. He knew the man he had to deal with; the license was issued without further objections.

Winnena O'Sullivan was perhaps about as good a wife ar any man was ever blessed with. She was a stout, robust woman, with black hair, and a large liquid black eye that has seldom been surpassed. Her education was limited, but her knowledge of house keeping and economy was hard to beat. Her disposition was almost angelic. She would often chide her husband mildly, and when he did not do right, in paying for work to different young men that he hired, she would sometimes make amends to them by making a shirt or two for them without charge, and in this way she had no enemies. I would not say that she has suffered much yet from hardships. Her life has been truly a romantic one. She left Bentonsport, Iowa, about 1839, and went with her husband to Texas and on to the frontier. Since that time she has went two or three trips from Iowa to the Green river country, in Kentucky, in settling up her father's estate. And also two trips to Texas and back in adjusting her husband's business. She also went to Califarnia, and remained about a year, and returned to Kentucky, and again went to California, and from thence to British Columbia, remained about a year, and then returned to Missouri, and was, in December. 1861, residing about two miles north of Lancaster, in Schuyler county, Missouri,

with her third husband, whose name is Newman. She still enjoyed tolerable health, although she said the breaking out of the war affected her memory. This was only two days after the first battle of Lancaster, that I paid her a visit at the risk of my life, and came near losing that, being waylaid by some bushwhackers.

Her children have all died. Her only son concluded to leave Texas about 1859; turned all of his property into cash and cattle and started for Iowa, and was robbed and murdered by his hired hand. Such is life on the frontier.

I would here suggest to any enterprising young man that would like to become an author, that the present Mrs. Newman could furnish him with abundant material without any coloring, and with only a sligh embelishment, a splendid novel might be manufactured.

But truth, plain truth, is stranger than fiction, and may as easily be used to point a moral or adorn a tale.

The Daily Gate City.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 3, 1870.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

(Continued.)

Samuel C. Reed was among the first Justices of the Peace made after the organization of Iowa, and may have been commissioned under Wisconsin rule and held over and re-appointed. He was a light-complexioned, bony man, near six feet in height, and, I think, the best description of his phiz that could be given, would be to borrow a description of him given by Morton Nelson, who was himself a remarkably homely boy of sixteen, and the son of a shoe-maker. They had a falling out. Reid told him of his ugly looks. He retorted by telling Reid that the skin of his face looked like it had been drawn on by a pair of shoe-makers' pinchers, and that his mouth was cut the wrong way of the leather.

Samuel C. Reid, Esq., had many faults. They were too numerous to mention. He had many redeeming qualities, and I shall try to recapitulate some of them. He was a tolerable judge of law; he kept a pretty fair-looking docket; he never interfered in his neighbors' difficulties until they got through fighting and settled the doctor bills, then he always urged them to appeal to law, so as to give lawyers and judges a chance for a livelihood. He never interfered in a quarrel; thought it best to let it come to a head the usual way. He did not believe in punishing criminals in the State prison, as that was expensive. He thought it a better plan to have lawyers to fleece the rogues out of all their stealings and let the county pay the costs. He believed in providing for his own household, and in so doing prove to the world that he was better than an infidel. His most shining virtue was, he had some fear of future punishment, and was long known by the nick-name of "Salty Sam."

Mr. Editor, you will perceive that I have given the dates of the first settlements of individuals as they settled, until I have reached a point above the present location of Keosauqua, but you will please bear in mind that there was some others moving in and settling along below. I will now proceed to give a sketch of some other individuals, and the date of their settlement, as near as I can.

Shapley P. Ross, with his family, arrived on the ground about the 20th of April, 1835, and settled adjoining Sullivan, above, on the river. He had made his claim in the fall of 1834. Mr. Ross was rather a fine-looking man, being something over six feet high, perfectly straight, well-muscled, of rather dark complexion, mouth perhaps rather large for beauty, and weighed near two hundred pounds. He was a cousin to Giles O'Sullivan. They were closely connected in nearly all their transactions, and finally went to Texas together. The last I heard of Ross he had a sub-agency among the Camanche Indians, and had become wealthy.

Willock also came in about the first of April, 1835, and settled next below James Sanders, or, in other words, on the bottom on the opposite side of the river, about 1½ miles above Bonaparte. He had a large family—I think twelve children. They raised an excellent garden and a small field of corn the first season. Their supply of bacon gave out in July, and the old man had no means of laying in any more, so they tried the experiment of living on garden vegetables, roasting ears, &c. The result was, the old people died and four of the children, all in a short time, while yet on the place, and I think one or two of them died after their uncle David Willock took them back to Palmyra, Missouri.

The above is the most fatal of the sickness known on the river.

Nowell—I have forgotten his given name and may have forgotten how to spell his sur name—came and settled near the ford on Indian Creek, in the fall of 1835 (I believe there is a Mr. Burner now living on the place.) Mr. Nowell was our first sheriff under the Wisconsin rule, and like all men that had held office, had his enemies as well as friends. But it is only some circumstances of frontier life that I shall relate in connection with his name.

He had a large family, eleven children I think. He had a parcel of hounds, seven in number. His cabin (he had but one) was sixteen feet square, with a linn puncheon floor, with large cracks between the puncheons. The foundation of his cabin was placed on some chunks so that there was more than a foot of open space between the puncheons and the ground, so that the wind had a fair sweep beneath.

I think it was in February, 1837, the first time that I ever went from near Keosauqua to mill, at Waterloo, Missouri. There had been a thaw that made the ground soft four or five inches deep. As for a road it scarcely could be called a road. There was not travel enough to make mud, as at that time from Waterloo through to Indian Creek there was but some five or six cabins in sight. My companion was Henry Plummer. Our grinding was done in the morning, and it was tolerably pleasant until near nine o'clock; but then the wind began to blow from the north-west and the ground began to freeze, and kept on freezing, and the harder the ground froze the harder the wagon pulled until near night. It had then frozen so as to bear up the wagon, and night now came on before we had reached Mr. Nowell's hospitable residence.

He cheerfully admitted us to his fire side—we had some provisions and blankets with us, as was the custom of the country at that time. This made fifteen persons in that one little room, and most of the time several dogs were in also, for by this time it had become so cold that I believe the dogs would have frozen if they had been shut out of doors. Mr. Nowell had no beds. I will not say that bed time came at last, but the time did come when all of us sought a horrizontal position for repose. Plummer and I spread our blankets before the fire on the open puncheon floor, pulled off our boots, put them under our heads for pillows, and tried to lie still. But as the wind would drive in under the house, it would force its way up through the cracks in the floor wonderfully, and cold at that. The dogs, seven in number, were lying around, whining from cold. At last, one of them came and crawled on to me. You may guess I threw him about six feet, slam on the floor.

Now, gentle reader, let me inform you that no man knows what he will do until it comes to the last pinch; however, I do assure you that I got mollified pretty fast that night. We revised our bed by putting our three blankets all on the under side, and then lay down again. Directly a dog came and crawled on me. I took that dog and pulled him under my head for a pillow, and held him there, Plummer having set the example—I do assure you a dog makes a pretty good pillow on a cold night. The dogs kept coming. We arranged them in the most convenient and systematic manner, and each of us obtained a comfortable nap, however, long before daylight, when Mr. Nowell called up one of his largest boys to make a fire. As I raised my head and took a view of my bed fellow I thought we formed pretty compact body of dogs.

June 3, 1870 - page #1

There are many similar instances that have occurred hereabouts, and I know of some that have fared much worse than we did.

Mr. Nowell lived at that place two or three winters without underpining or banking his house, and then concluded that this country was rather too cold for him. He then moved to the northern part of Texas, bordering on Red river, and I did hear that he has become wealthy.

There has been many a soldier in the late rebellion that would have been thankful for such privileges as we had, and your humble servant among that number.

June 3, 1870 - page #2

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23.

PUBLISHED BY THE

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION COMPANY.

MEMORIAL MENTION.

PEN PICTURES OF THE OLD SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY.

Reminiscences of the Hardy Pioneers of Early Days—Officers and Members of the Old Settlers' Association.

By W. A. Work, of Keosauqua.

It has been a part of the programme of those who have had in charge the Old Settlers' Association—a custom which I believe has been invariable—to have some one recall, every two years, the names of those who have died in the interval. To me has been assigned this important duty for this biennial year, and though I may have a longer list to read than any who have preceded me, it is due to myself to say that I have, doubtless, labored, in its preparation, under more difficulty than others have done in performing this task. It has been the custom of our former secretary, whose name will be found in my list of the departed, to furnish the data required; keeping, as he did, a brief history of the birth, nativity, marriage and death of each old settler with great care and completeness. When I accepted his invitation to occupy his place to-day he agreed to furnish me, as he had the others, this list. Since he has failed to fulfill that contract by reason of his untimely death, I fear that my utmost endeavors have failed to make the list which follows complete. Trusting that the future historian may be able to supply its defects and make it complete, I recall the following names with the facts I have been able to ascertain:

Isaac Fry died shortly after our meeting in 1879, on the 7th day of September. He was, as I am informed a native of Virginia; a man of great activity and determination; possessed largely of those characteristics of the pioneer.

Albert Dunn died at his residence in Harrisburg township, December 4th, 1879. Mr. Dunn was an old citizen and very much respected.

James McKibben died at the residence of John Duffield, west of Pittsburg, in Van Buren township, on the 14th day of December, 1879. He had been a citizen of this county since 1842 and was about 60 years old at the time of his death. He was born in Washington county, Penn., but spent his boyhood in Wayne county, Ohio.

Mrs. Helen M. Jamison died at her home in Dallas Center, Iowa, in the 40th year of her age. She wos the wife of W. S. Jamison.

Martha L, wife of L. W. Thornburg and daughter of Thomas and Jennie Miller, died at her home near Ottumwa, January 9, 1880. She was born near Moorfield Chapel, Clark county, Ohio, June 25th, 1825, and moved with her parents to this county in 1842.

Mrs. Nannie S. Fulton died October 5th, 1879, in Fort Madison. She was the wife of O. C. Fulton and daughter of A. N. and S. Stevens, who live near Bentonsport. Mrs. Fulton was born July 25, 1846.

E. F. Burton died at Keosauqua Nov. 2, 1879, aged 69 years. He came to Keosauqua in 1842 and was one of the oldest residents.

Cornelius Murphy died on the 27th day of November, 1879, at his home in Farmington township, aged 55 years. He had been a resident of this county for 40 years.

Edward Dehart died at his residence in Henry township, December 2, 1879. He was born in Canada February 14, 1835, and was brought by his parents, Eli and Hanah Dehart, to this country in the year 1839.

Aquilla Robertson died at his home in Jefferson county, Iowa, on the 9th day of March, 1880. He was born in Clark county, Indiana, August 17th, 1822. He settled in Lick Creek township and was one of the earlier settlers in that locality.

Margaret Bonner died on the 29th day of April, 1880, in Des Moines township. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1810. She was the wife and widow successively of two notable pioneers, Van Caldwell and Chappel H. Bonner.

Ida S. Hart died near Independent. I have not been able to ascertain the date. She was the wife of A. Hart, and daughter of J. T. and E. Stoops.

Mrs. Laura J. Warner, wife of Henry Warner, of Washington township, and daughter of Geo. and Sophia Lewis, was born in this county and married in 1857.

Charles M. Hardy died on the old homestead in Henry township, on the 18th day of May, 1880. He was a son of Dudley Hardy, deceased, one of the pioneers so well known to our people.

Hannah Benton was born in Washington county, Penn, in 1811. She came to Iowa in 1839, with her brother, Hon. George G. Wright. She died at the residence of her son-in-law, Hon. J. C. Knapp June 16, 1880.

Dr. Roger N. Cresap, lost on the steamer Golden Eagle, on the 30th day of May, 1880, was a native of Maryland.

Mrs. Elizabeth Reeves died at Bloomfield, Iowa, August 23, 1880. She was the wife of A. S. Reeves, and daughter of James Shepherd, deceased.

Mrs. Phoebe Downing died near Pittsburg, June 1, 1880. She was the wife of Levi Downing. She was born in Lucerne county, Penn., in 1807, and came to this county with her husband in 1842.

Elizabeth F, wife of William F. McCrary, died at her home in Baker City, Oregon, June 6, 1880. She was a daughter of James McCutchen, deceased, late of Van Buren county, and a sister of Robt. McCutchen.

Michael May, Jr., died at his home in Pittsburg March 18, 1880, in his 32d year.

Elizabeth, wife of James Smith, died March 31, 1880. She was born October 9, 1809, in Augusta county, Virginia, near Staunton. She was the daughter of the Rev. Solomon Garber.

Sarah F., wife of James H. Holmes, and daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth J. Wilson, died April 2, 1880.

Mary Harwood, wife of Thomas Harwood, died at her residence near Utica, February 7, 1880. She was born in Ross county, Ohio, November 18, 1821, and came to Iowa about 33 years ago.

Mrs. Fritzinger, wife of Jacob Fritzinger, died in Harrisburg township, February 12, 1880.

Mrs. Amelia Payton, died at Rocky Run, Ill, March 2, 1880, in the 50th year of her age. She was a settler in Keosauqua as early as 1838. She was a sister of our fellow townsman, W. S. Scott.

Alice, wife of Reese McIntosh, died March 21, 1880. She was a daughter of John Spencer.

Mrs. John A. Roush, died July 30, 1880, in Chequest township.

David J. Sample, died December 6, 1880.

David J. Stump died Sept. 29, 1879. He was born May 1, 1841.

Benj. J. Barker died January 23, 1880, at his residence near Keosauqua. He was born in Monongahela county, Virginia, in the year 1803. He removed to Indiana in 1818, and was sheriff of the county in which he lived. He moved to Iowa in 1841 and resided here ever since.

Dr. W. J. Clark died at Mt. Sterling, Iowa, on the 15th day of March, 1880. He was a graduate of the Keokuk Medical College, class of 1851, and later of the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. He was a son of the Rev. Samuel Clark, so well known to the early settlers of this county, and was a very popular and successful physician.

Christina, wife of Jonathan W. Nelson, died at her home near Independent, Iowa, January 19th, 1880. She with her husband was among the earliest settlers in that vicinity, where they settled in 1838, on what was then known as the Black Hawk Purchase.

James Shepherd died September 14, 1880, at his home in Keosauqua. He was born in Maryland, March 15, 1800. He came to Iowa in 1843 and made Keosauqua his permanent home. But few men are more fully identified with the history of the county. He had the distinction of having established the first newspaper published in the county.

Mrs. Margaretta Duffield, widow of James Duffield, Sr., died on the 23d of March, 1881, in the 86th year of her age. She was born in Franklin county, Penn., February 14, 1796. She was married to James Duffield in 1816, and they came to Iowa and settled west of Pittsburg in 1837.

Edwin Goddard, so long identified with the society under whose auspices we are assembled to-day, as its efficient secretary ever since its organization, died very sud-

denly at his home in Keosauqua on the 31st day of May, 1881. He was born in Ohio.

Joel Walker died at his home in Keosauqua August 1, 1881. He was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1815. He came to Iowa and Keosauqua in 1839, where he had resided ever since.

Mrs. Lyda A. Archer died at her home about two miles south of Birmingham in January, 1881. She was born in Morgan county, Ohio, Nov. 19, 1824, and was married to Jacob A. Archer, who survives her, March 16, 1843. That spring they came to Van Buren county, which has been their home ever since.

Deborah Kerns, wife of Jacob C. Albright, died Nov. 19, 1879, aged 69 years, 10 month and 1 day. Her home was near Business Corner.

Anna Barker, wife of Joseph Barker, died at the residence of her daughter near Doud's Station, Oct. 23, 1880. She was born June 26, 1809, in the state of New York, and was married to the husband who survives her March 31, 1825. They came to Iowa in a very early period of its history, and located on the farm they have lived on ever since, about two miles northeast of Summit, in what is now known as the Barker neighborhood.

Jacob Emerick died at his residence in Jackson township, Dec. 31, 1880, aged 49 years. He was born in Morgan county, Ill., but had lived in this county about 40 years. He was the son of William Emerick, near Lebanon.

John Russell died at his residence in Milton, April 17, 1881. He was in his 75th year; was a native of Sussex county, Delaware; came to Iowa in 1846, and made this county his home.

Mrs. Emerick, wife of William Emerick, died July 30, 1881. I think she made this county her home nearly forty years ago.

Mrs. Robinson, wife of James Robinson, died at her home about three miles south of Birmingham, very suddenly, of apoplexy, on the 8th day of this month. She and her husband were among the earliest settlers.

William Johnston died at his home near Mt. Zion on the 16th day of March, 1881, aged 74 years. He came to Iowa in 1844 and located in this county. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania; removed to Carroll county, Ohio, when a young man; there married Martha Forbes, who survives him.

Hannah Thomas, wife of James Thomas, died at her home in Farmington, Iowa, in the spring of 1881. She was born in Pennsylvania and was about 76 years old at the time of her death. She and her husband came to Iowa in the spring of 1839.

John Spencer, son of John Spencer, deceased, and brother to Thomas and Elbert Spencer, died at his home in Vernon township on the 9th day of April, 1881.

Thus we have given a few brief facts, as we have been able to ascertain them of old settlers (those who located in our county prior to the fall of 1846), who have died in the interval between our meeting in 1879 and the present time. Some may have escaped us, but we have already referred to the difficulties which we have had to encounter in the preparation of this list. The increased list, which we have presented, illustrates how rapidly the sweep of time is hurrying the generation which first brought civilization to the wilds west of the Mississippi, to that land across that other river, "from whose bourne no traveller returns." It is now thirty-five years since the latest comer entitled to the distinction of an old settler under the rules adopted by this association, settled in our midst, more than a generation, as estimated by human rules, has intervened and the children are rapidly taking the place of the fathers and mothers, who wrought so faithfully and have made the desert literally "to blossom as the rose."

I should have been happy to have given a more extended history of these early pioneers, such an one as their merits and struggles deserve, but this list has been too extended to do justice to any fair number whose lives and character were equally worthy to be mentioned. While my personal acquaintance with them has not been as extensive as many others, I recall with pleasure many of those friendly faces, who have crossed the tide; and remember that their lives were examples of great devotion to the highest interests of human living, and that in the minds of those within the circle of their influence, their memory will exist as a sweet fragrance ever to be cherished. Among those whom I had the pleasure of knowing I especially recall Margaretta Duffield, the mother of George, James, John, Harrison, and Henry, whose lives are standing monuments of that mother's influence. Forty-four years she was permitted to live in our midst, almost a lifetime in itself. I also recall the name of Aunt Ann Barker, whose influence must long be felt in the neighborhood where she resided, not only among the numerous members of the family she succeeded so well in raising, but among her neighbors and in the church, where her example ever stimulated to deeds of charity and brotherly kindness. Nor will I omit to mention that other mother in Israel, Aunty Benton, so familiarly known in this community. I know of no one whose life has shed a greater fragrance of kind words, deeds of charity, and generous sympathy; and yet so unconsciously, unostentatiously and humbly, that she doubtless accounted her life of but little worth. But why should I mention these? All! all have done their work faithfully and well, and "they rest from their labors."

TS

SHEET NO 216

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

CHARGES	DATE 19__		FOLIO	CK	CREDITS

THE GATE CITY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 12, 1870.

THE FIRST SETTLERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA.

By A. W. Harlan.

First impressions are apt to be most lasting.

The fourteenth day of September, 1834, I found Jonas F. Denny res ding where the house of Thomas Curin now stands, for many years known as Salubria, by others known as the residence of Abner Knealand.

Said Jonas F. Denny previously bought the claim of Crotongton Ferguson, the great claim speculator.

A Mr. Fretwell was then living near the spot on which the brick building now stands belonging to the heirs of Silas Smith.

Said Fretwell jumped a claim made previously by Mr. James Alfroy, in the fall of 1833.

Ezekiel McCarty was living near the spot on which those large apple trees now stand, for many years known as the Flood place.

William Nelson, much better known as Baggy Nelson, was at that time living just where Mr. James Alfroy's garden is at present, but at that time had sold his claim to James Alfroy, who moved into the place the same fall of 1834, the two families living in adjoining cabins that winter.

Samuel Maxwell was living in the lower port of Farmington, near the spot on which the widow Graber now resides.

There was a Mr. Lowery came there, and I think bought out Maxwell. However, Lowery died, and Henry Bateman became the next comer—all in a short time.

Abel Galland was living not far from where the Des Moines House stands at present, in a cabin built by himself, having previously occupied a trading house that Phelps had left standing in the spring of 1832, at the time of the great ice freshet. Galland moved onto the place in 1833.

Richard M. Jones, much better known as Trickey Dick Jones, was building him a house along side of the island chute, above Farmington, near where Palmen's brick building now stands. Part or all of his family were with him in a small camp. They got water from a beautiful spring, part of the way down the bank of the river. It is now but a poor substitute for a spring.

It was in this house that the first Gospel sermon was preached by Mr. Jones himself, with old Samuel C. Reed to conclude by prayer. The meeting, however, did not occur until in the spring of 1835.

Your humble servant attended that meeting, and may at some future time give some further particulars.

William Jordan, with his young wife, was then living just about where the lock now joins on to the bank, at what is sometimes called Lawrence. Just above this place I forded the river and went up past where James Jordan was building a trading house; then crossed back over again, and, of course, was then in the lower end of the bottom in which the town of Bonaparte is now situated.

Roger N. Cresap, a Mr. Blackburn, and a Mr. Courts, were all together building cabins Blackburn's claim was below Cresap's claim, and Courts' claim was up near the mouth of a creek, and is now the most thickly settled portion of the town of Bonaparte.

Roger N. Cresap is still on hand, ready to answer roll call always

James Alfroy is still on the same place John Petrie is on his old claim. I have since learned that he died at home several years ago. Those, I believe, are the only three that have not at any time moved since their first location.

I will now return down to the Missouri line and go up on the opposite side of the river, starting with Lloyd Rollins, who was, with his family, sheltering in Harnson's old trading house, just at the line, and engaged building about one mile below in Missouri, on land that had been surveyed and offered for sale many years previous to this time.

On the 14th day of September, 1834, James Smith and old John Webb were living on the bank of the Des Moines, some three or four hundred yards from where the iron post now stands.

There was a claim about a-half mile above but no one living on it. In December following, Abington Johnson settled a little back of said claim and rather higher up the river. The place is now owned by Stephen Weekly.

John Maxwell was living on the next claim. The land is now owned by a Mr. Waggoner.

Cutington Forqurean was living just below the mouth of Indian creek, but had, only the evening before, sold his claim to Charles Davis. All the early settlers know old Charly Davis. At that time there was a considerable tow head, or small island, just below the mouth of Indian creek, it has long since disappeared. Mr. Dible now owns the place. (Sept. 14th, 1834.)

Henry Lisle and John Petrie were living just about where old Jesse Wright's house now stands. I believe they were brothers-in-law, Petrie being a single man at the time, and had a claim out back where he now resides. There was once a town laid off on that place, I think, before Jesse Wright bought the place.

Now let us pass the island in the Des Moines; it is now more than half washed away and has a desolate appearance.

Newport and Reed both had claims about half a mile above the head of the island. Newport had a roof on his cabin, and they were living together; their wagons were not yet unloaded.

There was several claims made further up the river at that time, but not a solitary house finished, or family on the ground on the whole South side of the Des Moines.

I will now try to give you a short sketch of some of the individuals just named. (Sept. 14th, 1834.)

James F. Denny was a light complexioned man a little over six feet in hight, stood erect, his eyes were rather small but remarkably blue and clear. His voice was coarse and loud, indicating an excellent set of lungs. He was a man of mark in almost any crowd.

He was industrious and sober, and inclined to piety. He on one occasion sent a Bible to me, poor as he was, and it was many years before I learned who was the donor.

Although a pious man he was anxious to accumulate property, and worked hard to do so, but fortune seemed to be against him. He is still living near Clarksville, Missouri, and must be about seventy years of age. He raised a large family—has several granddaughters married, and several great grand children. I believe his children are most of them pious, and may his great grand children be blest.

Fretwell only lived on the Des Moines a few moths and then went back to Palmyra, Missouri, and run a *roullette*—a kind of gambling machine—and I soon lost the run of him. I believe he died many years ago.

Ezekiel McCarty lived only some four or five years, and died near to where the village of Croton is now situated.

Samuel Maxwell lived only three or four years, and died up Indian Creek, about two miles from Farmington.

I believe that John Maxwell moved down near Palmyra, Missouri, and died within a few years. He had no distinguishing traits of character worth noting.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1883

HISTORY OF FARMINGTON CHURCHES.

The Farmington public schools have the pupils write practical about what they see or read about local matters. Minnie Neff wrote a history of the churches which has some historical value. She is in error in thinking that the preacher of the first Methodist sermon there was the celebrated Peter Cartwright. It was not, but a Cartwright whose name was Daniel or Samuel, we forget which now, and who had in charge the mission work of the Rock River conference of Illinois on the Iowa side when then the first settlements were made this side of the river. Miss Neff's paper is as follows:

The Baptist church was built in 1851. The first person that preached in it was Rev. W. H. Turton. This church's history was not very eventful, although it has been marked by its ups and downs. When the last pastor preached here twenty-one members had been added to the church. Six of them have gone to their reward and one has been granted a letter of dismissal. The present membership is recorded as seventy-one. The church seems to have entered a new era of prosperity. It stands before the community as an exponent of orthodoxy and zealous defender of the faith.

The Methodist church was built in 1876. The first Methodist sermon was preached in 1836 or 1837 in a blacksmith shop in the rear of Mr. Goodin's store, by the famous Peter Cartwright.

But one or two of the original class of six members remain until the present time. The first class worshipped in the old frame school house which stood where our school house now stands. until 1848 they built the two story brick across the street from Mrs. Ringer's. Rev. John Hare, pastor. About 1868 or 1870 this building became unsafe so they abandoned it and worshipped in the Baptist and M. E. churches until in 1876 they had their present building ready to occupy. Rev. J. Craig was pastor at the time. The ministers who have been in charge of the building were S. S. Freeland, Jas. Hunter, C. Z. Tenant and J. F. Barnett, the present pastor, under whose charge the church is prospering, and the society is in a flourishing condition.

The Congregational church was built in 1848. The congregationalists organized at the house of Mr. Britton, June 4, 1840. The society flourished and took the lead in the community until some years ago when it fell through with. The Baptists now occupy their church.

German M. E. church—In 1843 Rev. Jacob Haas began to preach here. The circuit was eighty miles long and fifty miles broad. In 1852 this was made a separate circuit and Rev. H. Ellerbeck was the first minister who lived here, preaching in the cabinet shop of Reckmyer & Whitlock, now Reckmyer & Mueller. The society was organized at that time and Mr. Reckmyer and Mr. Whitlock were the first members. Mr. Reckmyer still resides here and is president of the church trustees. In 1845 Mr. Zuppan built this church and Mr. Kuhl dedicated it. M. Kuhl now lives in Burlington. In 1866 the church was removed to its present location and entirely rebuilt by Rev. P. Martin. The church and parsonage property is valued at $2,500. The Farmington circuit includes Warren, Indian Creek and West Point. There are seventy-five members and 121 children in the Sunday school.

Latter Day Saints' Church—This society was organized by Elder Alexander Struthers of Montrose, March, 1867, and the church was built about 1876. The circuit is under charge Elder James McKiernan located at Farmington, who is also elder of that branch. George R. Lambert of Adrian, Illinois, is secretary of the district. The circuit is called the String Prairie and Nauvoo district. E. H. Roberts and William Warnock are elders, Robert Roberts teacher.

Catholic Church—This church was built in 1863-4. Father Hayes was the first pastor, and was succeeded by three or four others up to the time of Rev. Father Quinn, present pastor. The pastorate extends over a large territory and is very strong.

St. John German—This society was organized in 1854, by Rev. Kern at the residence of Mr. Nordbaum. It commenced with thirteen members. The first minister was Rev. O. Merbitz. The church was built in 1861 and this continued headquarters of the society until the church at Primrose was built and a strong society organized which took the preacher out there. The church here held its own. They have fifteen members. The pastor is Rev. J. Brunenkane.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

DAILY GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1874.

[Correspondence of the Gate City.]

TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN VAN BUREN COUNTY.

CANTRIL.

This is certainly the liveliest, most really wide-awake point in this part of the county. Less than four years ago the site where Cantril now stands was an open prairie, uncultivated and drear. Mr. L. W. Cantril, an old citizen of Van Buren county, conceived the idea of building a town here. The B. & S. W. R. R. was in process of construction: the idea of a new town on a new railroad was thoroughly American—truly Yankee, if you choose.

Mr. Cantril went out there, laid out a town plat, built himself a splendid residence and extensive store building and wareroom, and, apparently the more fully to identify himself with the destiny of the place, generously bestowed upon it his own name—Cantril. Carefully choosing his friends, he called around him kindred spirits, men brimfull of enterprise, men who were willing to risk all in an effort to make a mark, to carve a name, to achieve a position of eminence.

The town of Cantril is a success. What wonder, the citizens there are trying to make it a success. The writer was in Mr. Cantril's new store when the village was in its infancy, when outsiders denominated the place as Nickelville. A young man jumped off the train and entered the store. He was traveling westward seeking a home and a fortune. "Do you know of anything to do here in my line, sir; I am a painter." "I do not, sir, at the present moment," said Cantril, "my buildings are all painted, but go no further sir; stay with us a day or two; we will get you a job; we intend sir to paint things up here, I assure you." Thus live working men are liberally encouraged.

Yet there is not much that is ornamental or superfluous to be seen here, practical beneficial results seem to be aimed at. The dwellings all seem to be well built, comfortable houses; the business houses are arranged strictly for business, well lighted and commodious. The lots are, as a rule, tastefully and substantially fenced; the streets are wide, and are being lined with young maple and other forest trees. Sidewalks, of pine lumber, are put down, and a general air of tidiness seems to pervade the place. Cantril is about seven miles west of Mt. Sterling, and two and a-half from the Missouri State line. It is on an elevated rolling prairie divide between the big and little Fox rivers. Lying in the heart of as fertile a region as is to be found in the West, it is not surprising that the grain and stock shipments from this point are very extensive. The Grange fraternity have an agent here, Mr. Hall, through whose hands they consign their produce to Eastern markets. Mr. George Smith is engaged in buying and shipping cattle and hogs, and, from a long experience in this line, he manages this thing generally with success. The buying and handling of grain is exclusively in the hands of Mr. A. F. Holder, except the small amounts shipped by the Grangers, through their agent. Mr. Holder has an extensive and intimate acquaintance with the farmers in this part of the county, and, being the railroad station agent, easily retains the trade. One of the best stocked lumber yards to be found west of Keokuk is in charge of Mr. Hosick, who sells lumber to everybody at Grange prices.

Mr. John E. Rhineinghaus, Messrs. Powell and Reed, and Mr. L. W. Cantril, keep well selected and quite heavy stocks of both dry goods and groceries. The Messrs. Holder and Price are engaged in the drug trade, they keep their stock up and their prices down, and receive a liberal share of patronage. Agricultural implements, stoves, hardware and tinware are handled by Geo. Smith, furniture by Mr. Gray. Two millinery stores grace and adorn the place, but being naturally diffident, modest and retiring, yours truly could not summon courage to invade those sacred precincts and enquire who the ladies were that we noticed through the shop windows so gracefully and artistically handling goods in this line. Captain Nagle runs the Nagle House to a demonstration, and this hotel like everything else in Cantril is a success. Mr. Isenhour presides over the rival hotel, the Eagle House, and gives very general satisfaction. There is a good steam saw mill here, owned by Mr. J. W. Cantril; a saloon by Josiah Woods; a boot and shoe store by Mr. Lansley; a blacksmith shop, &c. The respective shingles, containing the names of five professed followers of Esculapius may be counted here, the inevitable "M. D.," immediately succeeding each name. No lawyer, no minister, no church of any kind at Cantril, but it is quite safe here when you meet a stranger on the street to accost him with, "How are you, doctor?" A good family grocery, in which grocery goods were made a speciality, and handled exclusively, would undoubtedly pay well here; an opening is presented for a jeweler's establishment, a tailor's shop, a butcher shop, a wagon maker, brick maker, and in fact to anybody that has any "get up," and will work.

Among the farmers in this vicinity mention may be made of George Yeager, Mr. Sparks, George Smith, A. Cassiday and Nelson Norris, while Messrs. Ed. Manning and Joel Walker, of Keosauqua, own several large farms near here, which they rent to practical farmers. R. and I. Meek, of Bonaparte own a very large farm two or three miles west of Cantril, known as the Meeks Ranche, a large portion of which is in meadow and pasture, and which they devote to the raising of sheep. The farms here are all strictly first-class prairie farms, generally well cultivated and improved, though no really elegant or costly farm residences appear. These farms can be bought at from $20 to $30 per acre. The St. Louis, Keosauqua & St. Paul Railroad is in process of construction, and it is presumed that it will cross the B. & S. W. here. A steam flouring mill is in contemplation, and it is to be hoped that a church edifice or two, and a suitable school building will be erected at an early day. A large public hall has been built here this Spring by Mr. J. E. Rheininghaus. We notice other buildings and improvements being made, but must pass on to chat with and interview Keosauqua in our next letter. ESSEX.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 21, 1874

Correspondence of Gate City.

Towns and Villages in Van Buren County.

UPTON.

Upton, lying immediately upon the State line between Iowa and Missouri, is a small village, but a point of considerable local importance. A part of the town is in Van Buren county, Iowa, and a part in Scotland county, Missouri. The natal day of Upton dates back to about 1850, one John Upton laying out a town plat and starting a country store here at about that time. The project seemed to promise success and town lots sold readily at fifty dollars each. The Stern Bros, an enterprising firm of Israelitish merchants, invested here, built, and did an immense amount of business, wholesaleing goods to traders and country merchants farther west. A steam mill and various mechanical establishments seemed to have secured a permanency to the growth and interests of the town. In about 1858, however, a check to the rising importance of the town was caused by the failure of some of its business establishments, the Stern Bros., who may be said to have made the town, seeking a richer field for the investment of both enterprise and capital left here, and the value of town property went rapidly down, and then the war came on and consequent stagnation of business, until in 1865 the commercial importance of Upton amounted to nearly nothing. Since that date, however, the business of the place has been steadily on the increase, yet the failure of, and extensive swindle perpetrated by, Jacob Casseler here in 1867, was another drawback to the prosperity of the place; and again in 1870 the building of the B. & S. W. R. R, which runs within one and a half miles of here, was quite inimical to the interests of our little hero city. Greater tenacity of life and firmness of resolve was never exhibited in the settlement of a Western town, than that

evinced by some of the old settlers here, despite the various backsets and reverses of fortune that have attended the growth of Upton, yet a few old veterans have steadily adhered to the fortunes and destiny of the place, and are now reaping the reward which nine times out of ten is reserved by the decrees of fate to those who independently choose their course and fearlessly pursue it, an unsullied reputation and all the blessings of wealth. In the history of Upton some fearfully tragical scenes should not be omitted. In 1856, while two of the citizens were engaged in felling a tree just in the suburbs of the village, they were attacked by a demom in human guise, named Charlie Carter, who brutally murdered both of them, employing a rifle, a tomahawk and knife, in the execution of the deed of blood; and again in 1866, a loathsome coward named Dikeman, deliberately walked into a neighbor's house and shot the ocupant, Mrs. Ballard, through the heart, and then with diabolical maliciousness cut her throat, nearly severing the head; but even the memory of such scenes of brutal horrors are disgusting, so we will pass on, not stopping to relate the particulars of the murder of Tom Holden here in 1857.

Upton is now strictly a temperance town, there not being a drop of the ardent to be had for love or money, for medicinal, mechanical or bachinalian purposes, within the sacred precincts; yet inebriating intoxicants are obtainable at Cantril Station on the B. & S. W., and our benzinists are not despondent; indeed the Station magnanimously proposes to furnish us with one of her supernumerary dispensers of tonics, and the probabilities are that in a few days from this present writing, whisky by the gallon, agreeable to statute law of Missouri, will be at the command of the thirsty hereabouts.

Upton now boasts of two No. 1 dry goods and Grocery stores, Ellis Searight running one, on the small margin principle, and consequently making immense sales yearly, while the genial face, courteous manners, and accommodating disposition of Mr. A. J. Teter, secures him lots of customers. Dr. Cane is an old citizen, and the sick of this vicinity feel safe under his skilled hand. No other physician has been able to secure a permanent location here since he first threw out his shingle and offered us his professional services. John Guy, the boot maker par excellence of this county, offers you a tip top boot, real French calf if you say so. The best blacksmith and wagon shop in Van Buren county is successfully managed by D. W. Kittle. Our old and reliable drug store is, just now, retired from active service, locked up, if you please, the present owner "not knowin' the price o' things you know" feeling ill prepared to assume the responsibilities &c. The country around Upton is thickly settled with prosperous farmers, and will liberally support good mechanics; there is in Van Buren county no better point in which to engage in merchandising; and a hotel is a thing much needed; while the healthy location of the place, and consequent immunity from sickness should not be overlooked by those seeking a home, or location for business. ESSEX.

THE GATE CITY:

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 22 1877

Early Times in Van Buren County.

(From a sketch by Mrs. Judge Townsend.)

The

FIRST SOCIETY OF METHODISTS

was organized in the fall of 1842, at the cabin of Dr. Elbert. Rev. Henry Somers, of Rock River Conference, first presiding elder in Iowa, was present. Arrangements were made for Sunday school also, and the necessary writing was done on the head of a barrel, for table, there was none. One of the most talented and hon ored men was

REV. SAMUEL CLARK.

Original and somewhat eccentric, he was always a valiant defender of the truth; always ready upon short notice with a clear sermon or exhortation. With al he was a cultivated, high-toned, genial gentleman. The names of Bonner, Vinson, Hitt and Spencer are well known as strong, zealous supporters of the church.

THE OLD-FASHIONED CAMP-MEETING,

The camp-meetings were a distinctive feature of those times. They are favored indeed who retain a picture in their minds of an old-fashioned camp-meeting, for they cannot be produced. There was the grove, one of God's first temples, in the center of which was the hollow square of made tents; the campfires in the rear, the tall waving trees with their restless shadows and sighing winds; there was the night scene, when to the solemn beauty of the moon and stars were added the flickering lights that flashed down upon the host of listening people and the multitude swayed to and fro under the earnest appeal of the preacher. There were spirit stirring songs of happy christians, the sorrowful cries of penitent sinners and the glad shout of the new convert; there was the altar, the pulpit and the preachers tent, looked upon with reverent deference. Oh! it has all passed away with the simple times that produced it. In addition to the great good that was done, there was a general promotion of sociability and good fellowship. Of

COURTING AND FLIRTING

there was no small amount. Alas! for weak human nature. Not the stern glance of Uncle Sammy Clark, nor the solemn visage of Malachi Vinson, that terror to evil doers; nor yet the frigid dignity of Chapel Bonner could prevent this or make the giddy young people reflect upon the dangers that beset their never dying souls.

LEMUEL'S BED.

Many laughable things would happen, and there are those living who will recall how Mr. Cantril was at one of those meetings with a large tent, as usual, so free to all that every day the table was many times cleared of its load of eatables, and every night the tent was crowded with weary people. On this particular occasion the straw covered floor was literally covered with beds, and at midnight Mrs. Cantril had all her guests provided for, except one small boy, her own son, who stood forlornly at the tent door and said, "Mother there is not a foot of ground left in the tent for me to sleep on." The dear lady glanced over the dimly lighted scene, and perceiving a white object on a box by the door, replied: "My son, there is a sheet I think on that box; take it and do the best you can." Whereupon, Lemuel took the table cloth, and wrapping it about him, laid down on the provision chest and slept the sleep of innocence. But ever and anon came from a remote corner of the tent the half smothered sound of a suppressed giggle from some undignified girls, who should have put that table cloth in the proper place.

This sketch of Indian Prairie will not be complete without a mention of

DR. ELBERT.

His success as a physician and surgeon secured him an honored position among the medical men of the State. He was a man of marked characteristics; loved his friends devotedly and hated his enemies; was a marvel of energy, enterprise, and withal full of generous impulses. Many will recall how like a locomotive he used to go flying over the prairie in his nondescript conveyance always an unfailing source of surprise.

The Daily Gate City.

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 13 1875

A RELIC OF EARLY DAYS.—The Van Buren *Democrat* has this notice of a relic of early days:

Mr. Niles Holcombe, living at Portland, this county, has in his possession a cane which, though of not much intrinsic worth, or of very great utility, is valued very highly from its historic associations. It was presented to the old Indian chief Keokuk by Henry Clay, on the occasion of the great chief's visit to Washington at the close of the Black Hawk war. Keokuk was mainly instrumental in bringing the war to a conclusion on terms highly advantageous to the whites and honorable to the Indians. On his visit to the Great Father, the President, he received, as marks of appreciation for his services, many presents from the hands of several distinguished Americans, including this cane. It is of crab-apple wood, made by twisting two switches or sprouts and allowing them to grow until they were united and were of sufficient thickness. The head is of buck horn, on the top of which there was formerly a silver plate, on which there was inscribed the name of the old chief and the name of the donor. This plate was removed (the fastenings having worn loose) by a Dr. Musson, now of Urbanna, Ohio, to whom the cane was presented by Keokuk in his last illness for his services in attending his —Keokuk's—family. The Doctor presented it to Hon. Stephen Holcombe, one of the first settlers of the Des Moines Valley, now deceased, with the request that it be transmitted to the oldest male member of the Holcombe family. As Mr. Niles Holcombe has that distinction, the title to possession vests in him at present.

R CRIMPED LEAF
EDITS
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

The Daily Gate City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1969

2216

Van Buren co. D.A.R. marks patriot's grave Sunday

BONAPARTE — The Van Buren county chapter of the D.A.R. dedicated a memorial stone in the Bonaparte cemetery for Thomas Rhodes, Revolutionary soldier, on Sunday afternoon.

The white monument was placed near the flag pole.

Mrs. F. S. Elliott of Keosauqua, regent of the Van Buren county chapter of the D.A.R., read the biography. Others taking part were Mrs. Harold McLain and Mrs. H. H. Stafford of Donnellson, state registrar; and Mrs. Stanley Shepherd of Farmington, who was in charge of the research.

Assisting in the ceremony were the Keosauqua American Legion Post color guard — H. W. Spurgeon, Cecil Zollers, Kendall Roberts and Ivan Bishop; and the firing squad, Waldo Smutz, David King, Ralph Doud and Vern Downard. The bugler was Fred Ovrom.

VAN BUREN CO. CHAPTER OF D.A.R. dedicates a memorial stone to Thomas Rhodes, Revolutionary War soldier who died near Bonaparte in 1848.

Thomas Rhodes was born July 4, 1756 in London Co., Va. He died Oct. 16, 1848, near Bonaparte, Van Buren Co., Iowa. He was on the Revolutionary War Pension roll as No. S17045.

On Aug. 24, 1841, George G. Wright of Keosauqua, wrote the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D.C. asking for the transfer of the pension of Thomas Rhodes to Van Buren county. On March 30, 1839, Thomas Rhodes had appeared before Wm. Griffey, Justice of the Peace, Des Moines Co., and stated that he had moved there from Virginia where he first applied for his pension and was living with his daughter. John L. Hennys attested to the truth of this statement. John L. Hennys very likely was the son-in-law of Thomas Rhodes. On Oct. 8, 1832 in Tyler Co., Virginia, Thomas Rhodes first applied for a Revolutionary War pension. He stated that he enlisted in the United States Army on Feb. 8, 1777 under Capt. Windsor Brown, in the Regt. of Maj. James Allison and Col. George Gibson. The Brigade was commanded by Peter Muhlenberg. He enlisted at the town of Leesburg, London county, Va. from which place his company was marched to the town of Alexandria, at which place they joined the regiment and marched to the town of Williamsburg.

From thence the regiment marched from Virginia to the state of Pennsylvania to a place called The Trap on Perkiomen Creek, within a few miles of Germantown and joined the army under General Washington; two days after the battle of Germantown.

They then marched to and lay at an encampment that had been occupied by the army immediately before the battle of Germantown, thence they marched to the White Marsh Hills where they engaged with the British under Lord Cornwallis.

Then they marched to Valley Forge where they went into winter quarters. From there they marched to and were in the battle of Monmouth, in which battle he was shot through the calf of his left leg. From there they marched to Newark, N.J. and from there to winter quarters in New York, about 15 miles from New York City.

The next spring and summer his company detailed with a detachment under command of Gen. Wayne to take Stony Point which they did. They went to Fish Kill, N.Y. where they stayed the balance of the summer. The following winter they were marched back to Leesburg, Virginia, where he was discharged about the 5th of February, 1780. He received a regular discharge which has since been lost.

Thomas Rhodes lived in London County, Va. for several years after the war. From there he moved to Brooke county, Va. and then to Ohio before coming to Iowa. His obituary appeared in the Iowa Democrat, Keosauqua, and gives proof of the time and place of his death.

The Van Buren Chapter of DAR obtained permission from the Bonaparte Cemetery association to place a monument near the flag pole in the Bonaparte cemetery. A government marker was ordered.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

223-

Six Reach Century Mark This Year—

EIGHT VAN BUREN COUNTY TOWNS ARE NOW 100 YEARS OLD

JULY 12, 1939

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

(Gate City Tri-State News)

BONAPARTE, Iowa, July 12.—If the first hundred years are the hardest, eight Van Buren county towns should be able to take deep breaths and relax from now on.

Six towns in the county pass the century mark this year. They are Keosauqua, Farmington, Birmingham, Bentonsport, Kilbourne and Pittsburg.

Two others, Vernon and Bonaparte, are now 102 years old.

Keosauqua and Bentonsport are both planning big celebrations marking their centennials. The other towns, so far, have announced no plans and apparently are not excited about the event.

Up at Keosauqua, the county seat, they're making the male residents grow whiskers and let their hair become bushy. Violators of the mayor's ordinance to this effect are ducked in the Des Moines river, clothes and all.

Keosauqua will also celebrate another big event in her history in connection with the centennial. The program also includes plans for the dedication of the new highway bridge recently completed and opened to traffic over the Des Moines river.

Bentonsport, located on the road between here and the county seat, is planning a program which its residents hope will be one of the most entertaining and enjoyable occasions ever staged in which was once one of Van Buren county's biggest and best known industrial towns. Dates of the Bentonsport celebration, just announced this week, will be August 17, 18 and 19.

Former Bentonsport people in all parts of the country are planning to return to help celebrate the hundredth birthday of their "old home town." The program will feature good speakers, plenty of music, exhibits of natural resources and home art, as well as one of the best displays of antiques ever shown in this vicinity.

Bentonsport, at one time, had a paper mill, woolen mill, flour mill, a creamery and some of the finest homes in southern Iowa.

Van Buren county boasts several native sons who have become famous in American history. They include:

William A. Clark, copper king and United States senator from Montana;

William E. Mason, who became a senator from Illinois and who also founded the Mason house in Bentonsport which was a famous hotel in the pioneer days; and

George W. McCrary, who was elected to congress and became a member of the Hayes-Tilden electoral committee which decided the contest in favor of Hayes. McCrary became secretary of war under Hayes, a judge on the U. S. supreme court bench and chief counsel for the Santa Fe railroad.

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

Centenarians-Plus

VAN BUREN COUNTY HAS SIX TOWNS MORE THAN HUNDRED YEARS OLD

(Gate City Tri-State News)

KEOSAUQUA, Iowa, Jan. 23—Van Buren county may have no large cities, but it does boast of having within its boundaries six towns which are centenarians-plus.

Farmington, Keosauqua, Birmingham, Bentonsport, Kilbourn and Pittsburg all have celebrated their 100th anniversiaries. Farmington is generally considered the oldest town in the county along with Keosauqua, dating back to 1835.

Other old towns in the county were platted out in this order: Mt. Sterling, 1840; Milton, 1851; Utica, 1857; Douds, 1866, and Cantril, 1871.

MONDAY, JAN. 23, 1939

The Daily Gate City.

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 2 187[illegible]

CANTRIL, Van Buren county, Iowa, is situated on the Burlington and Southwestern Railroad, about twenty miles from Farmington. It was laid out by Mr. Cantril, from whom it gets its name. The first house was built in February last. It is one of the best locations for a town on the road, and is destined to make a splendid business point. It has now two dry goods and grocery stores, one drug store, two lumber yards, one furniture store, one blacksmith shop and two hotels. There are also two parties in the grain and produce business—Mr. Barry of Keokuk, and Mr. James House of Athens, Mo. The latter has now a large hay press in operation and will undoubtedly do a splendid business. We take pleasure in recommending both of these gentlemen to the people of Van Buren and Clark counties. We understand that Mr. Holder of Upton, Mo., will shortly locate at this place and go into the mercantile business. Mr. John E. Reininghaus, formerly of Bentonsport, has taken up his residence there and engaged in the lumber business. He will build a dwelling house this summer.

1872

The Weekly Gate City

SEPTEMBER 23, 1886.

EXTRACT FROM OLD SETTLERS' POEM.

Ye People of Van Buren County.

BY HON. DANIEL F. MILLER.

Van Buren county will not rhyme,
With any county in the state,
And in her territorial age,
Was held for land but second rate.

But what she lost in rate of land,
Was made in character of mind,
Of which she had a double share,
Of clerical and legal kind,
And mercantile none less behind.

Her Clark was famous in his day.
As preacher, gifted, learn'd and good;
Whose heart was in the words he spake,
And with the world in favor stood.*

Her Knapp, and Hall, and Nourse, and Wright,
Distinguished were in legal lore;
And Wright, chief justice of the court,
Call'd the supreme of last resort,
In worth and fame, none went before.†

And Manning Ed., and Richards Seth,
Were merchant princes in their day,
And with their stores in stations wide,
Frequent in village side by side,
All others led in wealth display.

But though her land was not the best,
(At least so thought the outer world,)
Her farming population stood,
With all the world supremely good.

*Rev. Samuel Clark, of the Methodist Episcopal church, a pioneer clergyman of Iowa, who died in Van Buren county, in 1857, in the 58th year of his age.

†J. C. Knapp, A. Hall, C. C. Nourse, G. G. Wright.

224-

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

Copy of Invitation to Memorial Day Service Here in '83 Found

FEB. 26, 1931

Farmington Masons Have Document Announcing That Gen. Belknap Was to Speak.

An interesting old invitation to Masons to attend Memorial Day services in Keokuk in 1883, has come to light in the archives of the Farmington lodge, and a copy of the old document is given here:

Keokuk, Iowa.
May 11, 1883.

To Worshipful Master of
Mt. Moriah Lodge 27,
Farmington, Iowa:

Your lodge is cordially invited to unite with the citizens of Keokuk in the observance of Decoration Day, May 30, 1883.

The program is not yet perfected, but this much is known: That Gen'l. W. W. Belknap will make the oration; that there will be a Military Band; a Brass Band and a Chorus of Voices; that nearly all of the details of the occasion have been arranged.

The G. A. R. will have charge of the Decoration of the Graves of over eight hundred soldiers buried here.

The National Cemetery is a beautiful place and the other cemeteries adjoining it are equally so, and here repose the remains of the men who have given Iowa a high name and place among her sister states.

Reduced Fares Offered.

It is understood that the railroads centering here will give reduced rates, timely notice of which will doubtless appear in the newspapers.

It is further understood that every proper effort will be made to furnish provisions for those who may come, at reasonable rates.

Decoration Day is not only a National but a State Holiday, and you are cordially invited to participate in its celebration.

It is hoped that all who intend to join the procession will, if not inconvenient, bring their regalia with them.

Respectfully,
EDWARD JOHNSTONE,
SAM'L KLEIN.
M. HOWARD.
J. B. BLACKBURN.
A. J. HARDIN.
Committee.

P. S.: Be kind enough to inform by letter, Dr. J. M. Shaffer and D. A. Kerr, Esq., Keokuk, Iowa, whether you will be present on the 30th inst., and how many members of your organization will come.

COMMITTEE.

DAILY GATE CITY

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1932

RELIC OF EARLY DAYS FOUND ON A TROUT LINE

FARMINGTON, Iowa, May 6—Sam Birchmier, while examining a trout line on the river bank Tuesday, found a relic of early days. It was a part of the notary seal which had once belonged to one of Farmington's oldest citizens, Dr. Rickey D. Barton. It was made of solid brass and bore the inscription, "Notary Public, Iowa Territory, Van Buren County, Rickey D. Barton, 1841." It was found below the cinder pile, within two feet of the water line of the Des Moines river. Dr. Barton was the first postmaster of Farmington, and it is said he carried the mail in his plug hat. He was the father of Mrs. Kate Perry, now living in San Diego, Calif., with her daughter, Miss Lotta Perry, who is supervisor of art there. The family lived on Front street a quarter of a mile down stream from where the relic was found.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

225-SH

The Daily Gate City.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 8, 1870.

SKETCHES OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

Wm. Meek, the founder and proprietor of Bonaparte, in Van Buren county, Iowa, came on to the place in July, 1837. His son, Robert Meek, was with him, he having come to Sand Prairie in November, 1836. The old Judge, as Wm. Meek, Sr., was generally termed, was from the State of Michigan; was of medium hight, rather heavy set, with a clear blue eye, pleasant countenance, and at all times easy of approach, and at the time he came here, about sixty-four years of age. He purchased the claim of Robert Moffatt, who lived near where Thomas Charlton resides at this date. That includes the possession of the Meek's above the creek. John Moffatt, the father of said Robert Moffatt, was living on the lower side of the creek, occupying the original Courts claim, which included the present town plat of Bonaparte, and extending back up the creek, covering most of the farm at present occupied by Robert Meek. One purchase included both claims. Judge Meek bought those places for the express purpose of building mills and manufactories, he having previously been engaged in milling in Michigan. He immediately began preparations for building a saw and grist mill—putting his mill houses pretty well out into the river, with a wooden lock for the purpose of passing steamboats. He got his mills in operation in the fall of 1838. There is but little, if anything, remaining at present of the first set of mills or lock.

Wm. Meek had his two sons, Robert and William, who were of age, as partners from the beginning. Isaiah and Joseph were boys under age. The name of the firm was Wm. Meek & Sons. It is now Meek & Brothers.

The firm of Wm. Meek & Sons soon after beginning their mills acquired a reputation for industry, energy and prompt payment of all their contracts, and must have paid to laborers the two first years more than twenty thousand dollars. Although not so successful as he anticipated, still it was a success such as few persons seemed to enjoy.

The old Judge, I believe, was not a professor of religion, but encouraged any religion that inculcated morality. He was always active in the support of common schools, and himself one of the most temperate of men. His example in one other respect is worthy of note. He had lost his wife in about 1849. His children were all grown and had families of their own. The old Judge felt lonesome and almost helpless. As he was now about seventy-five years of age, he concluded to get married. Most people would say it was a foolish notion. Let us see. His mills, farms and everything were in successful operation, Most of it was partnership or family property. The old Judge settled with all his children, giving each one their portion, adjusted everything satisfactorily, reserving to himself only a homestead and a certain amount of money already loaned out. Thus it might be said that Judge Meek administered on his own estate previous to getting married. He made a judicious selection of a stout, hearty widow lady, about fifty-five years of age, with a small family. I saw him but once after his second marriage. He thought he had done well in getting married. He said his new wife was a stout woman, and that she took good care of him. He had a kind wife to soothe him in his last days. He did in 1853, aged 80 years.

The foregoing sketch is but an imperfect one, and I hope some one else may give some additional particulars, as the origin and progress of so prosperous a place as Bonaparte should be noted particularly; neither can the real advantages to community be correctly estimated. The quality of woolen goods at present manufactured at Bonaparte are of the best; the amount is also considerable, paying a handsome revenue to Government, and all resulting from the fact that Wm. Meek, Sen., located at that place and persevered to the end.

The old Judge had managed so judiciously, in family matters as well as mills and manufactory, that all of them moved on without any jar or lawing, and still they continue to run.

Isham Keith, with quite a large family of both boys and girls, emigrated from McMinn county, State of Tennessee, and arrived on the bank of the Des Moines, near where Bonaparte is situated, on the 9th of May, 1836, and settled out on the ridge at the edge of the prairie, a mile or two north of Bonaparte, he being the first settler in that locality.

He was a man of medium size, with a gray eye and quite a gray head. His gray hair attracted attention, as there were but comparatively few old men amongst us at that time. He was a man of stern integrity, quite intelligent, and as most of us had heard the proverb, "Old men for council, and young men for war," we elected Isham Keith to the Council of the first Territorial Legislature of Iowa. His son Thomas Keith was the first Assessor of Van Buren county.

The old gentleman died about 1845, and his four sons also died not far from the same time. Thomas and Charles died in Oregon. Alexander at Keokuk, Iowa. Jas. Keith died at Napoleon, in Arkansas. His daughters, four in number, are still living.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 20, 1870.

SKETCHES OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

[CONTINUED.]

Thomas Blankenshep bought James Sanders' claim on the opposite side of the Des Moines from Bonaparte, and moved on in the fall of 1835. He was a man of medium size, and at that time about 53 years of age. There was a large amount of gas and bombast about old Tom. as he was called. He had served in the U. S. army and again as a volunteer in Missouri during the Black-Hawk war.

In the spring of 1826, the Methodist church sent one of their circuit riders to the Des Moines. Blankenshep's house was one of his stopping points. Old Tom. was generally full of piety while the preacher was about, and then when he got where there was whisky, he generally got tolerably full of whisky, and at such times was full of fun.

During the summer of 1836, there was several young men came along; some of them stopped to work about Bentonsporte. Some of them were somewhat green. Old Blankenshep could pick out a greenone as quick any man that I ever saw, and for the purpose of sport was always their big friend. When he wanted sport he would treat a young fellow, and be sure to treat himself more liberally, then commence admiring the stranger. He could throw himself into more attitudes than any Kentucky horse jockey, pat the stranger on the shoulders, and sometimes elsewhere, and then step back and admire his muscular developments, exclaiming frequently, "ain't he a beauty!" then walk round the young man again saying, "ain't he to my notion," and again, "he is just to my notion." Sometimes it raised a fuss, but that was just to his liking.

He staid here about two years, sold out and went back to Missouri. In time of our Mexican war, although he must have been over sixty, he managed to go to Mexico as a volunteer, and was killed at the battle of Monterey. He had a daughter, only moderately good looking, but she had the most splendid voice for singing that I ever heard. Her voice in some places would have been fortune to her.

The following little incident I see I have inadvertently omitted in the proper place, and it is only a little dog story at best:

By some means Giles O'Sullivan had got possession of a stray dog that was good for running wolves. Blankenship took a fancy to that dog, petted him, and coaxed the dog home with him. This proceeding O'Sullivan objected to. Blankenship contended that he had as good a right to the dog as O'Sullivan, and meant to keep him. One evening O'Sullivan took his rifle gun and went for his dog, and had started away with him. Blankenship followed. The result was they exchanged some two or three shots each by moonlight, each trying to kill. Each charged the other with shooting first,

and all for a stray dog. They agreed in one thing, however, that they were both of them tolerable shots by moonlight. O'Sullivan kept the dog.

Charles Gaston was the first occupant of the claim on which Doctor Bailey at present resides. He came in the fall of 1835. There was also another man by the name of Gaston that made a claim near the same time, some miles above where Keosauqua is at present; but I think that it was Charles that kept *arch* near Vernon. The two Gastons did not claim kin, however. I have not heard of either of them for more than thirty years.

Joseph Perkins came on to his present location in 1836. A Mr. Samuel Maxwell had previously had a claim near the same place. He may have bought out Maxwell. At least Jo. Maxwell is one amongst the old settlers still on hand at this date, and able to answer for himself.

Isaac Reid, I believe, moved in December 1835, however I am not sure of the time, as I did not become acquainted with him until the Fall of 1836, at which time he was already flourishing like a green bay tree. He was of light complexion, near six feet in hight, stout build, mouth rather large, indeed rather coarse all over; he held his head erect, or, as it was often said, he had his eye cocked for the ten o'clock sun, and but seldom looked low enough to discover the beauties of the setting sun.

He was the original proprietor of the once famous town of Lexington, on the river Des Moines, about one mile above where the present town of Bonaparte is situated. During 1837 he sold several lots to individuals, and also joint interests to some others, and for a year or eighteen months considered himself wealthy, and I do not think that he would have taken ten thousand dollars for his possessions.

I also heard him say, on another occasion, that he was sure that in less than five years his town would be more populous than Lexington, in Kentucky. During 1837-8 I had the mail contract, and made Lexington a stopping point one night every week, consequently had excellent opportunities for observation.

I have old Ike Reid still in my eye, as he used to walk out with some stranger, with his cane in hand, after having exhibited his town plat in the house. He would commence marking on the ground with his cane, and if he could find dust or sand, he would soon make a complete plat of Lexington, with its several squares, school houses, and places for churches of different denominations.

He had in his mind's eye a most emphatic vision of the future greatness of his town. I once had the temerity to intimate to him that he might possibly be a little oversighted. I soon learned that any man had better strike him with a club than to doubt the future greatness of Lexington.

He looked on that as a fixed fact, but had no objection to other *little* places prospering. That Farmington might grow to be a considerable village he went to Farmington in the spring of 1835, just after a big rain, to invest some of his surplus capital in a few lots.

Now in an early day there was some places a little wet in the spring. Reid called on Henry Bateman, the then proprietor, was shown round very politely, and was urged to buy a lot or two on Front street. He finally selected some lots back a considerable distance, where at that time the water was about six inches deep. Mr. Bateman enquired why he chose those lots, and Reid replied that he wanted a location to establish a ferry. There was no trade made that day between those two town proprietors. Not far from the same time Isaac Reid came in control, with Giles O'Sullivan, the proprietor resident of Bentonsport. In eulogizing their respective town sites Isaac was decidedly first best. They then locked horns and gave the crowd a display of pugilistical science interspersed at intervals with ground and lofty tumbling, in which Isaac came out second best only.

The years 1837 and 1838 were glorious years with Isaac Reid. In 1840 Bonaparte began to grow a little. Isaac began to doubt, but still, as he said himself, Isaac kept a stiff upper lip.

In 1842 and 1843 Lexington began to grow smaller by degrees and beautifully less, but the corn field and potatoe patches grew larger, just in the same proportion. In 1850 the once famous city of Lexington had become a corn field, and has now remained so for almost twenty years.

The reader will perceive that I have given Reid rather a lengthy notice. If he was living himself he would not have been satisfied with a shorter one, and the above sketch with a few alterations would answer for several other towns that had only a mushroom existence, or still less, only existed in imagination.

And perhaps it would be well to bear in mind at that time, when a lot of 100 by 150 feet was supposed by some to be worth from $100 to $500, here on the Des Moines, that more than half of the States of Illinois and Missouri had been surveyed and offered for sale, and at that time the government title could be had at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, without any restriction as to the amount a man might buy.

Isaac Bird was a candidate for Representative in the first Legislature of the Territory of Iowa. Though unsuccessful, some of his speeches were rare specimens of *oratory*. He was a public spirited man, and liberal when he had means. The last time that I ever saw him was in 1846, and he must have died when I was in California, in 1850 or 1851, and at the time of his death must have been over fifty years of age. Several members of his family have since died, and the remaining portion have all went to California.

The Daily Gate City.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 27, 1870.

SKETCHES OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

[CONTINUED.]

William Fallis was one of the first merchants of the town of Lexington. He was originally from Virginia, but had made a great many moves in his time, and at every move he got rather poorer. His wife was always willing to move with him, and believed that the good place was still ahead. On one occasion she said she believed there was some place where *flitters growed on trees* and dropped off into a pond of molasses, and that she was willing to keep moving on until they found that place. They remained here but a short time and moved to Texas, but I have never heard whether they ever found the place where *flitters* growed on trees or not.

James Blankenship came on to the Des Moines with his uncle, Thomas Blankenship. He was a tolerable good looking, light complected young man, of something more than medium size. He was, as he said, a kind of rough carpenter, could saw wood and burn coal. He was remarkably fond of a good song, and could do some singing himself. He was a remarkable mimic, loved a good joke, but unfortunately he loved bad whisky.

There was a time in Bentonsport, when a large crowd had collected and they got up a grand display of fisticuffs and other gymnastic exercsies. After the ball had fairly opened Jim rolled up his sleeves and exclaimed that he was a little the prettiest child his mother ever raised, and pitched in. He soon ran against one Bill Helm, that soon battered his physiognomy so that on the next day he was not considered so handsome.

The foregoing amusing incident occurred in the spring of 1837, and about the same time there arrived from Massachusetts a little freckled face lawyer, whose name was Buckland. He wanted a case of law bad, so he managed to get him bound over to appear at court, hoping to get a fee in some way or on some side, and he did not care which.

James Blankenship was bound over for rioting, appeared, and, strange to say, the Grand Jury found a bill of indictment, and it was not very strange either. That Grand Jury was a set of good looking old fogies. Most of them had been Justices of the Peace in other States, and had not learned to appreciate our sources of amusement in

July 27, 1870 - pg 1

DES MOINES VALLEY - 2

the Territory of Iowa. The case was tried at the first term of court held by Chief Justice Charles Mason, at Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa. The Petit Jury was empanneled and sworn; the prosecuting attorney read a long rigmarole, in which the words "malice prepence," and "contrary to the peace and dignity of the Territory of Iowa," occurred several times, and James Blankenship was put on trial for rioting. Many particulars are omitted, but it was proven by James Sanders, that said James Blankenship was rather the best looking young man of the whole family. The result was that Blankenship was cleared, and as soon as the verdict was read by the Clerk, Blankenship with hat in hand appeared, and in a loud voice thanked the jury, at the same time bowing quite low and giving his right foot a heavy scrape on the floor. The whole audience was immediately in a roar of laughter, even Judge Mason did smile audible himself.

The following particulars of his life is given as a warning to young men and as facts for temperance lecturers. Now let me preface this narrative by saying that I have been intimately acquainted with Blankenship for more than a third of a century. He had a wonderful memory thirty years ago, with a capacity to mimic that has seldom been excelled by our best actors; as a general thing he could repeat all the prominent points of some three or four stump speeches, all heard in one day, and sometimes make important and appropriate improvements. Some of these stump speeches were uniqus specimens of oratory, and I hope some specimens may have been preserved. In 1839, 1840 and 1841, he was about Bonaparte. Most of the old settlers will still remember him as a handy man at almost anything; could sing a song or tell an anecdote equal to any man. He was fond of liquor, but up to this time, at which he must have been thirty-one or thirty-two years of age, had control over his appetite for liquor. I had occasion to caution him a few times, but he replied he could always quit when he pleased.

In 1843 he moved into Lee county, Iowa, near Croton, and near the same time I moved to Sweet Home, Clark county, Missouri. Of course we were near neighbors again. About this time he used to go occasionally to Farmington for a spree.

His wife, Becky, was a great hand for pickled cucumbers, and prepared what was called whisky pickles. I believe they generally use about one gallon of whisky in making a barrel of pickles, but in Blankenship's family it generally took from five to seven gallons to make one barrel of pickels.

In 1845 the habit of drinking had grown on him so much that he reluctantly acknowledged to me that he could not always quit whenever he pleased, and in the fall of that year he had his first spell of delirium tremens. His sufferings were terrible.

About the year 1846 he moved over into Missouri, some five miles from Athens, near Tom Caldwell's. His appetite for bad whisky by this time had almost complete control over him; so much so that he had several spells of delirium tremens, and his sufferings were pitiable to behold. He not only had snakes in his boots, but they were all around and over him in his imagination coiling themselves all around him, occasionally taking two or three turns around his neck and choking him. Then legions of small devils would come, and with their tails throw darts into him, as porcupines are said to shoot their quills.

He suffered frequently in this way until about 1850, when he had a terrible spell, and was thought to have been dead by his friends, and in his own imagination Old Lucifer came for him in his own proper person, but by some miraculous interference he was not allowed to take Jim at the time, but the devil removed a kind of vail from his face and gave him a full view of his physiognomy, but it was his glowing eyes that fascinated Jim; he looked so long and earnestly waiting for the time that he might carry off James Blankenship bodily, that after he recovered he picked up his little effects, and moved away up on Soap Creek, in Appanoose county, Iowa. That scare sobered Jim; he joined the Methodist Church, and remained perfectly sober for some four or five years, in which time he prayed regularly in his family, and gave frequent exhortations publicly.

Then he again moved back near Athens into the same cabin in which he lived when the devil came for him, but so long as Blankenship remained duly sober, the devil has not so much as called to see him.

Now I should like to know who will presume to say that whiskey is not the devil?

After Blankenship had remained sober about six years, he came to solicit me to join the church, saying that my advice to him had been the means of reclaiming him, and now he wanted to be instrumental in my salvation. He admitted that the snakes and small devils might have been from liquor, but contended that the visit of Old Lucifer himself was no hallucination; that with him it was a fixed fact, incontrovertible. I thought it might as well remain so with him, and ceased to ague the point.

About 1859 he moved to the State of Mississippi, near Natchez, took the care of some old people, and was inclined to be a reb. during the war. He came into this neighborhood again in 1865, and the last that I knew of him he was living on the Missouri river not far from Arrow Rock, and I am afraid that he may yet commence drinking again.

Neither have I entire confidence in any man's religion that is scared into any church by an imaginary devil.

James Blakenship might have made a fortune on the theatre, or he might have made an eminent minister of the Gospel. As it is; he has only been drunken Jim Blankenship most of his life.

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 20, 1870.

SKETCHES OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

[CONTINUED.]

It was in the fall of 1834, and while at work building camp Des Moines, since known as Montrose, that I made the acquaintance of

WILLIAM BRATTEN.

He was quite young at that time, perhaps not over twenty years of age; rather spare built, with a keen black eye, always kept his face, hands and clothing neater than most other laborers, and could take a violin in hands quite gracefully, and play a tune called Roanin'river tolerable well.

From inquiry I learned that he lived somewhere below Warsaw, Ill.; was poor and had been raised an orphan; although he had an uncle, Wm. Bratten, though his uncle had no means, if he had any disposition, to help him in any way.

William Bratten came on to the Des Moines in the fall of 1835, and in the summer of 1836, worked as a hand keel boating or anything else he could find to do. I saw him frequently. He was gentlemanly in his demeanor; kept sober amongst a boats crew that dissipated considerably, and still kept his person uncommonly neat for one of his occupation.

He married rather young, and had a claim back in the suburbs of Farmington, lived very quietly, and took to reading history.

About December 1837, in passing through Farmington I hed occasion to stay over night. There was a meeting of the debating club that night, and as usual, I took a part, and in order to gain a point. I made some quotations from history rather carelessly or at random. William Bratten, in following me, used me up most completely, rectifying the quotations that I had made, and gave some arguments that surprised me; in short, he literally annihilated me. I felt my defeat keenly, but had the grace to admire the industry and perseverance of my competitor in acquiring knowledge under difficulties.

I heard that he had moved up into Jefferson county, Iowa, and for some years lost the run of him, until about the year 1856, I received from Mr Brawley, of Georgetown or Big Mound, an invitation to come

NAME

up and hear Mr. Britten. Universalist who was going to preach in that vicinity. On further enquiry I learned that it was my old friend. Now if I was writing biographies I would just have reached the interesting part, but as I am only writing sketches of early settlers on the Des Moines from my own knowledge, I must hold on, simply adding a word of encouragement to young men.

The reader will please bear in mind that Wm. Bratten was raised an orphan boy on the extreme frontier of Illinois, was poor, had scarcely any opportunity for education, worked amongst about as rough a set of fellows as was ever on any frontier, yet he sustained himself honorably, and is this day called the *eloquent and learned Divine* with all the more honor for having overcome such formidable difficulties.

Let young men that are dispondent look at his success, take courage and do likewise.

And also, let the young man that finds himself the principle actor in scenes of hilirity and dissipation take warning by the result in the case of James Blankenshep.

JAMES JORDAN.

In the spring of 1835 James Jordan, an Indian trader, that had the previous winter occupied a trading house not far from the present location of Kilbourne on the D. V. Railroad, moved down on to a claim previously occupied by his brother Jeff. Jordan on the opposite side of the Des Moines, from where the town of Bonaparts is now situated, about a mile and a half below the place, at this date, is owned by William Perkins, and I think he remained there until in 1838, he then moved to Iowa Falls, where he still resides and is, I believe, still able to answer roll call.

MR. PATCHETT

settled in the spring of 1836, and afterwards became proprietor, with others, of the village of Philadelphia, another one of the almost extinct villages, being succeeded by the R. R. station called Kilbourne.

Mr. Patchett had a small corn patch in 1836, which I believe was the highest up the river of any settler, though the Indians had the same year considerable cornfields at Iowaville, and also back of Independence.

The last time I ever saw Mr. Patchett was in 1851, in the city of Sacramento, California. He said he took his whole family with him and expected to remain.

JAMES JENKINS,

A single man and a cooper by trade, made a claim some distance above Patchett in 1836. Although he kept Batchelor's Hall, I do not think that he raised any corn that season. This Mr. James Jenkins was the first treasurer of Van Buren county, and for a year or two carried the treasury in his bell crowned hat.

He afterwards moved on the Fox River in Clark county, Missouri, where he remained some 5 or 6 years and then moved down on to the Mississippi bottom near Alexandria and must have died about the year 1846.

The Daily Gate City.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1870.

SKETCHES OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DES MOINES VALLEY.

BY A. W. HARLAN.

[CONTINUED.]

Edward L. Longwell came into the bend of the Des Moines river back from Keosauqua in 1837. He was a young man, with dark complexion, black hair and eyes, about five feet nine inches in hight, stood erect, and was remarkably well muscled; in short, built up for endurance and action.

It was a custom with many of the first settlers in this section of country to take what they called a bee hunt in the Fall. Some four, five or six persons would associate together, take some breadstuffs, some feed, and four or five empty barrels, and go out west near the Indian lands in quest of honey. It was no uncommon occurrence to return within ten or twelve days with a full wagon load of honey.

During those bee hunts I have heard of the Indians ordering some few of the hunters off from their lands, but do not remember of their ever harming any one.

A party for a bee hunt was got up in Van Buren, now Keosauqua. It was composed of Measha k Sigler, Samuel Ragsdale, the Traveler Bill Smith, E. L. Longwell, and some others. This party, besides the empty barrels, took with them a two gallon jug full of American brandy, and went up the "Divide," as it was called at that time, and turned to the left, into Fox river timber, some five miles west of Troy, at present in Davis county.

There was no one of this company that was an experienced bee hunter, and the weather was unfavorable, yet while the liquor lasted they all kept in spirits, but when the liquor gave out they began to despond.

Measha k Sigler and Samuel Ragsdale were fond of fun, as well as liquor. They managed to get Longwell and Smith and some one else to examine a tree on a certain place to see if there were any bees at work in the morning.

Bill Smith had his rifle. Longwell had no gun with him, while the other two were looking for bees where there were none. Sigler and Ragsdale disguised themselves as Indians and fired on them, not with a view to hurt them, but only to frighten them. The traveler, Bill Smith, jumped down a steep bank, running the muzzle of his gun into the mud about two feet, and left it sticking there whilst he crept into a tree top that was lying near by and hid himself like a young quail.

Longwell started to run for the camp. Sigler and Ragsdale, with blankets on, like Indians, run to head him off, when some one else, dressed as an Indian, appeared between them and the camp and fired off a gun. Longwell, supposing the whole party would be killed, struck a bee-line for Keosauqua, and all hands testify that they had never, before or since, seen his speed exceled excepting by the race horse or Aldrew McComb's dog. A very tall, yellow dog was with him at the start, trying to keep up, yelping occasionally and gradually falling behind, unable to keep up.

It was about 8 o'clock in the morning when Longwell started. About 10 o'clock he reached the place where Ellis & Musseter were building their mill. He reported the rest of the party all killed, and he alone was left to bear the news to the settlements, having run about fourteen miles in two hours, most of the way over broken, brushy ground in north of Troy and down Chequest timber.

At Ellis & Musseter's mills he slackened his pace and reached Keosauqua a little after twelve. Here he again reported all the party as killed, he alone being left.

John Sigler fully believed the report and walked up and down the river bank boohooing, just where Manning's store now stands, saying "Brother Mish is killed."

Longwell, after resting a few minutes, came on down to where Duncan and Wetherbee were building a mill; just where Kennedy's mill now stands, at this place the writer hereof heard all the particulars from Longwell himself and am satisfied that he fully believed what he stated.

And I will now give the story just as he related it; after the firing as heretofore stated and seeing himself cut off from camp, he broke for the settlements; running his best licks for about three miles, he would hear McComb's dog behind yelping, he halted with a view of killing the dog to stop his noise, fearing that the Indians would follow him by hearing the dog; on second thought, fearing delay might be dangerous, he kept on some two miles further, and running over a smooth piece of prairie, he looked back some distance, but could not see any Indians. The dog was still in sight yelping; he drew his knife from his belt with the intention of cutting his throat, but as the dog came up, he saw that his tongue was hanging out of his mouth six inches. He knew that dog could not follow much further, so he spared him, and

Sept 6, 1870 - page #1

SHEET NO. 227-

turning again he took his course at his best speed; in jumping ravines, he said, he could light just where he pleased; he also said in running rather down hill in Chequest brush he suddenly came on to a big Buck that started to run the course he wanted to go; that he placed his hand on his rump and rested himself a little while running, that the Buck did not go quite fast enough to suit him, neither did the Buck keep the exact course, so he just pushed him to one side and took the lead himself.

When he had finished his narrative, I told him that it was some of Meashack Sigler's devilment.

In a little while William McBride came down to see what had best be done about the matter. I told him I was satisfied it was only some of Sigler's mischief. He was of the same opinion. But Sigler's wife was somewhat uneasy, and McBride and Elisha Buett run a few bullets, wiped up their rifles and started for the scene of the imaginary massacre, and just about where the little village of Lebanon now stands met the whole party coming home; and on enquiry, why they had acted so strangely, Sigler said the liquor give out and they felt a little dry and wanted a little amusement before starting for home. They all reached home a little after dusk.

A few words in explanation may be necessary. It is a well known fact among frontier settlers that some men, under the influence of a big scare, can perform wonderful feats of strength and agility, whilst others are unnerved and utterly powerless.

In this case Longwell experienced no farther inconvenience than having a wonderful appetite for a few days; and it might be as well to say the party that morning, at the time of the alarm, were five miles into the Indian's country, the boundary line being about half a mile above Troy at that date, September, 1838.

Sept 6, 1870 - page #2

Article by Mrs. Thomas Oakley

GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT OCT. 13, 1954

Farmington School System Can Be Traced Back to 1834 and 1835

(By MABEL FERRIS)

FARMINGTON, Ia.—The territory of Iowa was organized by Act of Congress in 1838, and by 1840 it had a total population of 43,112. After the close of the Black Hawk War in 1833 settlers of the old Anglo-Saxon stock from Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee began to move into southeastern Iowa, and a group are settlement at Farmington. A little later a few families of a contigent of sturdy, liberty loving Germans came up the Mississippi from New Orleans and St. Louis and chose Farmington as their new home. A number of these had been reared and educated in Germany. Their deep-rooted appreciation of education led to the establishment of schools in Farmington and later establishment of the Farmington high school.

Linden Log School

The early records of the schools in Farmington have been lost. It is fortunate that the "Farmington Bee" published on Nov. 20, 1880, an historical sketch of the earliest school activities in Farmington, The "Bee" said that "about the years 1934-35 there was a school building, five logs high, erected of linden logs, a short distance from what is known as the "Oil Well". A Mr. Pratt taught the first school at this building. Mr. Pratt was the grandfather of Rev. J. H. Krenmyre who is now pastor of the M. E. church at Montezuma, Iowa. A few years later this building was moved to the place where the Rodman Lewis grove stood, and in 1840 A. Stoddard rented a part of his residence to a Miss Gill for school purposes. (Stoddard residence is now the residence and business of Forrest Simmons).

In the settlement of Salubria at the same time there was a rural public school which became known as the Calubria school. Mr. Henry Knott attended this school for several years. Later the schools were moved up into the present town limits of Farmington. In the legislative records of the Council and the House of Representatives of the territory of Iowa, under the date of January 27, 1844, is found a bill incorporating the first academy or high school ever instituted in Van Buren county, under the name of "Farmington Academy and High School". Festut Dunning, Russell Snith, O. Town, and H. G. Stewart were designated as trustees in 1845 the school directors rented the basement of the old two story brick Methodist church for school purposes and also rented a room for the primary grades some three blocks way. Mr. Gus Noske states that he went to school in this building, and that Lizzie Walker was his teacher. It is related that a Mr. Gilley used the basement of this building as a machine shop. This was then one of the best equipped machine shops in the country outside of St. Louis for those days and a part of that equipment is still in use in the machine shop of Mr. Eugene Jenkins (1935). In 1851 a two room frame building was constructed near the present site of the Burlington Station. It served as the center of school activities for the next 19 years. Some of the teachers at this period were Lizzie Walker, Mrs. Ostrender, Anna Walker, Mr. Ludwick, Mr. Wallace, J. Wesley Wolf, Mary W. S. Morse, Kate Barton, A. B. Hardy, S. H. Stutsman, Abba Slaughter, Etta Hollowell, Bart Ludwig, Robert Warnock, H. C. Owsley, E. B. Murdock, Mrs. Jennie Gableman but the exact dates or terms of service are confused.

10 Mills on Dollar

The following resolution was adopted on March 15, 1869: "That ten mills on the dollar on all taxable property in the District be levied for the purpose of building a school house." The old building was sold, cut into two parts and removed to different parts of the town.

On September 14, 1869 the School Board authorized a contract for the purchase of 150,000 brick, and at a meeting of the School Board held on April 5, 1870 the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the town of Farmington were petitioned to call an election of the voters of the town to "ascertain whether they are willing to grant to the Independent District the right to build a school house on the public square." At the May 1, 1871 meeting it was voted "that the new school house be located on the public square." At the same time it was ordered that notice be given for an election to be held "for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Board shall or shall not be authorized to issue bonds as provided by law." On May 18th proposals for bids for a new school house were ordered published in the Keosauqua Republican and The Keokuk Gate City. On June 16, 1871 the contract for the new building was awarded to John Baker at $7,533, and John Dickey, S. B. Tuttle and Jacob Wagner of the school board were designated as the building committee. In August a proposition for $1,800 additional bonds was submitted to the voters and carried. Figures taken from the books of Secretary W. H. Coulter gave the total cost of the three story brick structure with furniture and out buildings as $11,555.

In the meantime the town had prospered and the population had increased, and the school rooms on State and Sixth streets became overcrowded. In the fall of 1869 Miss Walker and her contingent of pupils were removed to the old Christian Church and later to the Latter Day Saints church building which was just across the street from the residence of Abram Risser, and on 7th street between Olive and Tremont streets.

On December 13, 1866 Rev. Harvey Adams, pastor of the Congregational Church, and then president of the board, tended his resignation because of his removal from Farmington, and D. Merritt was appointed his successor. Rev. Harvey Adams was a member of the famous "Iowa Band" and the founder of the Congregational church of Farmington. His service as pastor, the Iowa Band's vigorous opposition to the teachings of Abner Kneeland of Salubria, and his service as a member of the local school board left a last-

VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

CREDITS

ing influence on the educational history of the Farmington schools.

Rebecca Smith

During this early period of the history another remarkable character came into the picture, and exerted an important influence on the instruction in the primary grades, an influence that extended far beyond Farmington. Rebecca Harington Smith was born in Allegheny City, Pa. in 1831. She married Oliver Taylor at Farmington in 1858 and moved to Burlington. After the death of Mr. Taylor she returned to Farmington and devoted her time to teaching elementary pupils in private classes. In 1862 she married James Pollard but continued her teaching. In her private schools at Farmington. Ft. Madison, and Keokuk, Mrs. Pollard developed unique methods of instructing small children. Out of her varied and resourceful experiences she developed a definite method for teaching Reading and Spelling in the primary grades. This method was incorporated in a series of Readers, Spellers, stencil pictures, and a teacher's manual which included the famous "Johnny story."

Mr. C. E. Winters served as Principal during the year of the construction of the new three story brick. It was in the spring of 1872 that the teachers and pupils moved into the new building, but the exact date is lost. The records show that Mr. L. W. Moores became Principal in the spring of 1872, and it seems likely that he was in charge at the time of moving in. A considerable portion of the furniture installed in the new building came from the Burlington factory owned and operated by the father of Dr. C. L. Paisley who related that he had worked at the bench with his father. Associated with Mr. Moores that year were Lizzie Walker, Mrs. C. E. Moores, and William Wallace. Mr. R. B. Tremlin taught a part of that year, also, C. W. Turton. Mr. Moores withdrew and founded the "Farmington Gazette" in 1873.

In September of 1873 school opened up with Wm. Kennedy in charge as Principal and Geo. Lewis, R. B. Tremlin, Mrs. C. B. Moores, and Lizzie Walker as subordinate teachers.

Start Private School

A curious episode of those days was a factional contention that arose over the administration of Principal Evans who served from 1875 to 1878. This became so acute that W. A. Packer and Miss Annie E. Packer of Salem leased the third floor and conducted a large and successful private school there while at the same time the public schools were in session on the first and second floors. Miss Parker subsequently served several years as County Superintendent of Henry County, and as a supply teacher in the Farmington school during the spring of 1916.

A marked improvement in the management and organization of the schools began with the school election in the spring of 1878, and from this time to 1886 the schools enjoyed a period of marked prosperity. Mr. J. J. Fegtly was placed in charge with Anna Creswell, Mary McQuillen and Lizzie Walker as his assistants. This was the last year of a long and happy period of service for Miss Walker, a fine old veteran teacher. The first record of her work indicates that she began teaching in Farmington, in 1848. This [illegible] give her [illegible] end of thirty-nine years of continuous service in Farmington. It is not known just how many children learned their a-b-c's and the art of reading under her tutelage during these pioneer years of the community life, but it's certain that the seed she planted grew and bore fruit abundantly in the minds and hearts of those who were to build a larger and better community life in Farmington. The editor of the Farmington - News Republican, Mr. W. H. Knott (1935) and perhaps others of the class of 1884 were among her former pupils.

During Principal Fegtly's first year he undertook a reorganization of the schools, and on July 21, 1879 the Board approved a change of textbooks. Many of the older people have a kindly remembrance and appreciation of the literary contents of the old Appleton Readers then introduced. For the year beginning September 1880 the corps was: J. J. Feftly, Principal, Mary McQuillen, Grammar grades, Anna Blair, Intermediate, and Pheobe Z. Swan, Primary. In January Miss Lizzie Wilson of Keosauqua was added to the corps. For the next year, W. R. Holloway was elected Principal, but resigned before the school opened, E. G. Glenn was elected and served one year.

Principal Dofflemyer

Mr. A. E. Townsend who had served in the teaching corps from 1875 to 1878 was elected president of the board at the March 21, 1881 meeting. President Townsend and the board showed excellent judgment in selecting as Principal James J. Dofflemyer who was one of the outstanding school men in the history of the Farmington schools, and finally finished a very successful career as Superintendent of the schools of Marion, Iowa. He was noted for his red head, the weight of his paddle, the affection and confidence he inspired in his pupils, and his marked ability as a scholar and as instructor. The two years of his administration, 1882 to 1884, were vigorous and fruitful. The first year his assistants were Ella Bishop, Carrie King, Jennie Benson and Phoebe Swan, and for the second year Ella Bishop, Carrie King, Alcene Early, and Mary Derr. Mr. Dofflemyer declined a re-election here and accepted the Principalship of the First Ward school in Keokuk at a substantial increase in salary.

In the election of county officers in 1879, the choice of a County Superintendent of schools for Van Buren county turned upon the vote of the Green back party in Farmington township. Mr. John W. Rowley of Keosauqua and Mr. William Hastings of Utica were the contending candidates. As the candidate of the Republican party, Mr. Rowley lost this vote of the Greenbackers, and Mr. Hastings was elected. Mr. Hastings submitted the question of where the next county institute should be held, and the teachers chose Farmington. The Institute Faculty of the county institute held in Farmington in the late summer of 1880 included Supt. Oscar Weyer of Bentonsport, Supt. John H. Landes of Keosauqua, Supt. J. J. Fegtly of Farmington, and a gentleman from York, Nebraska by the name of A. W. Harlan. It was held in Bonaparte in the summer of 1881 and 1882, and came back to Farmington in the summer of 1883. These Institutes were of three or four weeks duration, and largely tok the place of the modern summer school. They were of real value in establishing the social solidarity of the county schools. Mr. Rowley, soon after his defeat at the polls, purchased a half interest in the Keosauqua Republican and continued in this work till his death.

May 2, 1884 is memorable in the annals of the educational history of Van Buren county and Farmington. It was on this date that the first high school class was graduated from a high school in this county. The class of 1884, composed of eleven members, received their diplomas of graduation at the hands of Prof. Dofflemyer. The membership of this class included F. D. Carr, J. E. Carr, W. H. Knott, E. J. Glover, E. B. Spurgeon, Maggie Boler, Carrie O. Westcott, Lou E. Knott, Inez Goodin, Nellie Reckmyer, and Augusta Schaefer. The class agreed to finance the costs of the graduation exercises and the school board agreed to grant to the class the money secured from admissions to the exercise.

ET NO. 230-

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LEAF

LIO | CK | CREDITS

IOWA TOWNS NOTEBOOK
Index

Abbott, Thomas 147 (see also Red Bird)
Abel, Henry & Jacob 117
Abell, C.S. 47
Abraham, John 193
Adams, Rev. Harvey 57, 229
Adamson, Jane 193
Agnew, R. (Mr. & Mrs.) 86
Albright, Mr. 45
Albright, Jacob 95, 116
Albright, Jacob C. & Deborah 216
Albright, Rachel Wilson 115-116
Aldrich, Capt. E.J. (or E.T.) 133, 143
Aleander, Rev. J.A. 165
Alex, Robert 99, 102, 107-109
Alexandria, Mo. 46-47
Alfey (or Alfoy), James (Mr. & Mrs.) 211, 217
Alford, Capt. 153
Allcott, Bill 155
Alleman, Father 159
Allen, Brig. General 35
Allen, Charles & Robert 163
Allen, Capt. James 165, 168
Allison, Major James 221
Almond, J.H. 193
Alton, Jas. 26
Alvis, Henry 42
Alvis, Hiram 135
Aman, Jacob 83
American Fur Co. 1-2, 28-29
Ames, Joel & Kate 25
Amidon, Kate 169
Amish 83
Anders, Ida 193
Anderson, Mr. 119
Anderson, Adrian 102, 109
Anderson, Anna 157 (see also Sawyer, Mrs. Frank)
Anderson, B.F. 166
Anderson, Israel 27
Anderson, Dr. J.M. 133, 137, 144, 166
Anderson, Jim 2
Anderson, Mary & Sadie 170
Andrews, Dillman C. 194
Annals of Iowa 1
Anschutz Brewery 2
Anson, Frank, George & Henry 213
Anwater, Mr. 113
Appleton, Mr. A. 53
Archer, Jacob A. & Lyda A. 216
Argyle 23, 25, 42
Armknecht, Katie (Mrs. F. Lang) 9
Armor, Bruce 194
Arrowsmith, John 119
Arthur, President 9
Arthur Family 160
Artis, Jacob 191
Ashburn, Joseph 115
Ashland House 53
Athens, Mo. 51, 67
Atkinson, Isaac R. 31
Atlee's Mill 96
Atwater, Caleb 28-30
Austin, Commodore 52
Austin, Judge Henry S. 165
Avery, Peter 11

Bailey, A.C. 123
Bailey, Noah 31
Baker, Mrs. Edith Meek 71, 77
Baker, John 229
Baker, Kirk and Marshall 77
Baldwin Locomotive Works 112
Ball, Mary 10
Ballard, Mrs. 220
Ballinger, Judge 21
Ballinger, Clingham 169
Ballou, Harry 170
Ballou, J.N. 143
Ballou, May 135
Banst, George 86
Banta, Albert 194
Banta, Mrs. Florence 193
Banta, Mrs. Martha 193
Baptist Church (Keokuk) 4
Barber, Blanche 170
Barker, Benj. J. 215
Barker, Charles 194
Barker, Mrs. Charles 194
Barker, Joseph & Anna 216
Barker, Mark 129
Barnes, Hugh, Harry, James, Kate & Emma 2
Barnes, Margaret 2
Barnett, J.F. 218
Barney, W.A. 193
Barry, Mr. 223

Iowa Towns Index

Bartholomew, Miss Mickey Kay 55
Bartlett, Fannie 198
Bartlett, Mrs. Henry D. 7
Barton, Mrs. Eugena 193
Barton, Kate 229
Barton, Dr. Rickey D. 224
Basinger, Elmer 85
Bateman, Henry 217, 226
Bates, John C. 138
Bauder, G.E. & C.C. 191-192
Baumler, Father Jas. 159
Baust, George 87
Beacom, Mr. 189, 191
Beaman, Mrs. Amelia 165
Bean, Margaret 102
Bean, Dr. Wm. B. 102
Beard, Mrs. Clare 170
Beard, Howard 194
Beard, W.B. Family 194
Beaver Island (Mormon) 211
Beecham, Rev. A.G. 165
Beecher, Mr. 8
Beckley, A.A. 133
Beckley, Solomon 165
Bedell, John (Mr. & Mrs.) 51-52
Bedelle (early settler) 11
Beeler, Isaac 42
Beguinn (or Berquinn), Lt. 212
Beitz, Ruth S. 89-93
Belknap, Gen. W.W. 224
Bell, Clyde 38
Bell, John 21
Bell, Rev. Launcelot 207
Bell, Robert 193
Bell, Sam'l 191
Belt, W.H. 38-39
Belville, Rev. C.H. 144
Belville, Rev. S.R. 165
Bending John 65-66
Benjamin, Wm., Rosa, Louis & Jacob 192
Benjamin, Mrs. W.T. 85
Bennet, George 119
Benson, Jennie 230
Benthin, Rev. Paul 86
Benton, Hannah 215-216
Benton, Senator Thomas Hart & Jessie 22, 60, 69
Bentonsport 34, 53-70, 123-124, 213, 223
Bentonsport Academy 54, 57, 65, 69
Bentzinger, Harlan 88
Bentzinger, June 88
Beoman, Rev. G.C. 165
Berges, J.D. 190
Berker, C.A. 123
Berry, George 24, 118
Bertram, E.T. 170
Best, Mrs. H. E. 88
Best, John 42
Betterton, F.G. 119
Beuey, Andrew 4
Beuthin, Rev. Paul 87-88
Bickel, R.J. 160
Big Mound 2, 192
Billings, John 7
Billion, Mrs. Frances 143
Bins, Leo 15
Birchmier, Sam 224
Bird, Isaac 226
Bird Family 8
Birmingham 223
Bishop, Dennis 56
Bishop, Mrs. Fidelia 165
Bishop, Ivan 221
Bishop, Lloyd (Mr. & Mrs.) 56
Bishop, Mrs. Mary 55
Bisping, Rev. A.H. 88
Bissell, Lt. Col. Daniel 92
Black Hawk (chief) 12, 30, 40, 43, 90-93, 95, 98-99, 103-105, 109-110, 128, 147
Black Hawk Purchase 1, 81, 168, 197
Black Hawk War 1, 12, 138, 197
Blackburn, J.B. 217, 224
Blackford, P.A. 19-20
Blair, Anna 230
Blair, Charles 2
Blakely, Dr. 42
Blankenshep, Thomas & James 225-227
Blankenship, Becky 227
Blaufuss, Rev. Theophil 87
Bleakmore, J.B. 123
Bleakmore, M.M. 123
Bliss, Rev. J.T. 165
Blondeau, Maurice 1, 31
Blondeau, Philip 29
Blue Grass Trail 19-20
Bluff Park 43, 137, 149, 155, 166
Boggs, Gov. L.W. 34-35
Bogue, Lawrence (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Boler, Maggie 230
Bonaparte, Iowa 49-50, 71-80, 123, 223, 225-226
Bonaporte Academy 73
Bonar, S.S. 163
Bond, Mrs. Alice 193
Bond, S.B. 42

Iowa Towns Index

Bonnell, Mrs. 149
Bonnell, Mrs. Elizabeth 193
Bonnell, Sylvanus 194
Bonner, Chappel H. & Margaret 215, 220
Bonney; Josiah H. 132
Boone, Daniel & Jemima 140, 167
Boone, Capt. Nathaniel & Daniel 31, 146, 167-168
Bouler, David 165
Boundary War 14, 34, (see also Honey War)
Bowden Family 201
Bowen, Mrs. Lena L. 158
Bowen, P.W. 163
Bower, W.H. 47-48
Bowers, Mr. 203
Box, John 42
Box, William M. 97
Boyer, Dr. 123
Boyer, Peter 197
Boyle Family 160
Boyles, Ben 193
Boyles, Bernard 97
Boyles, Mrs. J.W. 193
Brackett, Reuben 42
Braden, J. 26
Brady, William/Thomas 173, 176
Bragg, W.N. 54, 57
Branson, Mr. 38
Brant, William 59-63
Bratten, William 212, 227-228
Brattle, Mr. 165
Breckenridge, Mr. 7
Breese, Timothy 99
Breheny, John 37
Breitenstein, Mrs. Lawrence 190
Bremington, T. 119
Brewington, T. 119
Bridgemier, T. 2
Bridges, Mrs. Virginia 146
Brierly, Samuel & James 1, 22
Briggs, John Ely 81-82, 165
Briggs, M.S. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Briggs, Minerva 10
Brigham, David 28
Brinck, Herman 209
Brisby, Allie 174, 177
Brishnell, Ed 7
Britton, Mr. 218
Britton, Essie M. 1
Broaddus, Rev. Andrew 35
Brockman, Anna P. 9
Brodt, William 189
Brombaugh, B.S. 193
Brombaugh, George 189
Brooks, Oliver 42
Brown, Capt. 212
Brown, A. 7-8
Brown, Alex 123
Brown, Calvin 54, 57
Brown, Elbert 195
Brown, Eli 193
Brown, G. A. 193
Brown,James A. 54, 57, 65
Brown (or Browne), General Jesse B. 22, 31, 167-168
Brown, Joel 123
Brown, John 123
Brown, John Mason 140
Brown, Mrs. Mae 193
Brown, N.G. 53
Brown, Ora 193
Brown, Rev. R.L. 194
Brown, Mrs. Sarah 165
Brown, W.C. 164
Brown, Capt. Windsor 221
Brown, Keck & Bro. 53
Brown & Moore 57, 64-66
Bruenkane, Rev. J. 218
Buck, Dr. E.C. 170
Buckland, Lawyer 226
Buehler, Mrs. Carl (Rachel) 115
Buena Vista Ferry 46, 48
Buescher, Rev. J.H. 88
Buett, Elisha 229
Bullard, Charles 120
Bullard, Theophilus 192
Bunker, Mrs. Rosa 193
Burchel, Mr. 113
Burgess, Rev. R. 144, 165
Burkholder, Mrs. Jane 165
Burleigh, Fred 163
Burlington (1833) 96
Burner, Mr. 214
Burt, William A. 97
Burtis, Mr. 212
Burton, E.F. 215
Burton,,Martha Virginia 66
Buschmann, Rev. 86-87
Buss, Marcia 142, 181-182
Bussey, Lt. Cyrus 67
Butler, Henry 27
Byers, Ruth Scarbough 194
Byers, General S.H. 138

Iowa Towns Index

Cahalan, W.J. 175-176
Caldwell, Representative 209
Caldwell, H.C. 127
Caldwell, Margaret & Van 215
Caldwell, Tom 227
Calhoun, Mrs. Lilly 194
Callaway, Col. Richard, Betsy & Frances 140
Calvert, Leo (Mr. & Mrs.) 58
Calvert, W.C. 147, 170
Cameron's Stable 113
Cammack, Nellie 193
Camp Des Moines (Montrose) 40, 45, 211-212, 227
Campbell, Austin 164
Campbell, Henry J. 7
Campbell, Isaac R. 1-2, 11-12, 31, 75, 168
Campbell, J.G. 37
Campbell, Capt. James W. 1,12
Campbellites (religious group) 211
Canady, J.C. 193
Cane, Dr. 220
Cantril 219, 223 Cantril, L.W. 219-220, 223
Carleton, Will 12
Carnegie, Andrew 46
Carnes, John 127
Carpenter, C.C. 121
Carpenter, Charles 201
Carpenter, Frank 41
Carpenter, Roy 194
Carr, F.D. & J.E. 230
Carr, Malissa 25
Carrell, Dale E. 47-48
Carroll, Gov. 106
Carroll, John 163
Carter, Charlie 220
Cartwright, Rev. 22, 217
Casbourn, E.S. (Mrs. Tom Ward) 9
Case, Mr. 38
Casey, Green 210
Casey, Mrs. J.M. 14, 99
Cass, Sec. of War (1834) 167
Casseler, Jacob 219
Cassiday, A. 219
Cassidy, Mr. 155
Catlin, George & Clara 164
Cattell, J.W. 187
Cedar Valley Seminary 82
Chambers, Gov. 22, 140
Chaney, Richard 31, 95, 98
Chapline, J.A. 187
Chapman, H.C. 176
Chapman, Marshal 9
Charleston 3, 13, 24, 44, 86
Charlton, Thomas 225
Chatfield, A.B. 169, 178
Chatfield, Ruth 39
Chester, Mary 193
Chittenden, A.B. 7-8
Chittenden & McGavic 7
Choulet, Joe 170
Chouteau, Auguste 147
Christensen, Arthur H. 37-38
Church, F.W. 193, 213
Church, Mrs. Mary 193
Church, Mrs. Molly L. 193
Churches (early Keokuk) 32
Civil War 2, 197
Claggett, Judge 123
Clark, Miss 198
Clark, Mr. 210
Clark, Bernard 60-63
Clark, Bill 7
Clark, Capt. Ezra G. 135
Clark, Dr. O.T. 36, 38
Clark, Rev. Samuel 215, 220
Clark, Sam M. 123
Clark, Thomas E./William A. 54, 57, 69, 223
Clark, Dr. W.J. 215
Clark, W.R. 4
Clark Co. Missouri 14, 46-47
Clarke, S.J. Publishing Co. 10
Clausing, Rev. Vernon & Kay 16-18
Clawson, James B. 193
Claypoole, Mrs. Elizabeth 115 (see also Ross, Betsy)
Clayton, Samuel 128
Clements, Walt H. 175
Clendenin, Henry W. 11
Coates, Robert 71
Coffindaffer, Mr. 2
Coffman, Don Ferdinand 132
Coffman, J.F. & Co. 11
Cole, Cyrenus 168
Coleman, Alexander 19-20
Coleman, William 27, 32
Coleman family 163
Colfax, Schuyler 121
Collatt, Mrs. Nellie 193
Collins, Mr. 2
Collins, E.H. 193
Collins, Mary 194 Collins, Rachel 194
Commerce (later Nauvoo) 5, 22, 95, 98, 165
Congregational Church 16-18

Iowa Towns Index

Conn & Brown 27
Connable, A.L. 4
Connelly, Mr. 38
Conrad, Mrs. Alice 193
Cook, C.H. 193
Cook, Mrs. Cliff 193
Cook, Cliff (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Cook, Cora 198
Cook, M..Clifton 176
Coolidge, Charles H. 123
Coolidge, Henry 80
Cooney, J.K. 192
Cooper, Mr. 133
Cooper, Mrs. Bert 193
Cooper, Charles 193
Cooper, Charles 193
Cooper, Clara 194
Cooper, E. 149, 157
Cooper, H.C. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Cooper, Mrs. Raymond 55
Coovert, Virgil 37
Coriell, William W. 95, 98
Corkhill, Dr. 149
Cornwall, Rev. 51-52
Corry, F.M. 60-63
Corry Machine & Tool Co. 74
Cosey, Robert S. 106
Cotton, Anna 193
Cotton, John L. 32, 210
Cotton Town or Decatur (later West Point) 210
Cottonwood (or Russelville) 20
Coulter, Dr. 38
Coulter, W.H. 229
Courtright, Mrs. Nellie 38
Courts family 225
Courville, John M. 138
Covard, Mariah 191
Covert, Rev. A.S. 165
Cowles, Dr. C. (or D.W.) 54, 57
Cox, Barclay 194
Cox, J.M. 123
Cox, Nellie 170
Coyne family 143
Craig, Rev. 144, 218
Craig, J.H. 42
Cramlet, Ross 126
Crandel, Alonzo 163
Crane, J.T. 133
Crane, Ralph 193
Creely, Theresa 148, 170
Creighton (or Crayton), Jesse 11, 32, 169
Cresap, Jonathan 123
Cresap, R.T. 75-76
Cresap, Dr. Roger N. 71, 80, 215, 217
Cresswell, Robert 76
Creswell, Anna 230
Creswell, M.O. 54, 57
Creswell, Rev. W.J. 165
Crossman, Lt. George H. 31, 167, 211-212
Croton, 51, 67
Crouse, H.M. 143
Crow-Grant Feud 8
Cruickshank, Alex 31, 117 148
Cruckshank (or Cruickshank), C.W. 193
Cruikshank, J.P. 147, 170
Cubbage, George 95, 98
Cullinan, Mrs. Marjorie 196
Cummings, Katie Rigby 193
Cummings, Levi 79
Cummins, Gov. 138
Curin, Thomas 217
Curis, Lucretia 169
Curtis, Charles H. 165
Curtis, E.T. 165
Curtis, F.W. 43
Curtis, George 170
Curtis, Robert (Mr. & Mrs.) 147
Curtis, Sam R. 187
Cutler, Elisha 127
Cutler, Jacob 31

D.A.R. (Ft. Madison) 106
Dahl, Rev. 86-87
Dahms, Mrs. E.J. 88
Dahms, Edward J. 86
Dahms, Hubert 88
Dlaey, Father John 159
Dalrymple, Rev. M.J.A. 194
Daniel, W.B. 72
Danite Band (Mormon) 205
Daubenbiss, Florence 52
Daubenbiss, John 51-52
Daughrity, J.F. 123
Davidson, Mrs. E. 193
Davidson, Frank 193
Davidson, Mrs. Iowa 193
Davidson, Mrs. Ora E. 193
Davis, Alfred 194
Davis, Charles 217
Davis, Clara B. 4
Davis, George & Press 163
Davis, James 14, 34-35, 130
Davis, Jefferson 12, 31, 51, 168
Davis, Mrs. Lydia 194

Iowa Towns Index

Davis, Lydia Ozbun 193
Dawson, Byron 194
Day, Carrie 198
Dearborn, General Henry 89
Death, Jimmy 192, 210
DeCally, Father 159
Dedham, Col. 35
Dedman family 1
Dedman & Bledsoe 5-6
Deerfield, Lewis 185
Dehart, Edward, Eli & Hanah 215
DeHaven, Lt. E.J. 52
Delashmutt, C.I. 193
Delashmutt, C.I. 194
DeLisle, Mr. 153
Deming, A.L. 45
Denmark 16-18, 81-82
Denmark Academy 17, 26, 42, 81-82
Denning, Jonathan Douds 123
Dennison, George B. 148
Denny, Joseph & James F. 217
DeRosear, William H. 192
Derr, Mary 230
Des Moines Land Co. 165
Des Moines River & Bridge 36, 43, 46-48
Des Moines Valley 5, 11, 168
Detrick, Ira D. 193
Detroit (1812) 105
Devil Creek 40
Dewey, Howard M. 9
Dible, Mr. 217
Dickey, Barbara Lindemuth & Edmund A. 10
Dickey, John 229
Dickinson, Grimsley & Co. 64
Dieman, Joe 209
Dikeman, Mr. 220
Dille, Mrs. E.S. 193
Dille, George 194
Dille, George 193
Dille, John 194
Dillon, Clavin 22
Dillon family 160
Dinsmore, w.J. 193
Doan, M.H. 193
Doan, Mary A. (Mrs. Middaugh) 9
Doan, Stark 193
Doan, Tunis 194
Dobson, Joe 38
Dodge, Mr. 203
Dodge, General A.C. 6, 210
Dodge, General Henry 12
Dodge & Ballinger 203
Dodge & Boyse 203
Doerr, Charlie 9-10, 47
Dofflemeyer, James J. 157, 230
Doge, H.P. 203
Doherty, John 25
Donaldson, Mr. 144
Donaldson, Sam F. 193
Donnell, Thomas, John E. & Geo.W. 85
Donnell (or Donnel), W.A. 85, 187
Donnellson 83-88
Donner Party 51-52
Dorothy, James A. 132
Doud, Mary A. 123
Doud, Ralph 221
Douds (town) 128, 223
Doud's Station 216
Doud's Stone Inc. 126
Douglas, John H., Archibald & J.H. 26
Douglas, Joseph S. 31
Douglas, T.O. 17
Dousman, H.L. 12
Dowell, P.C. 60-63, 70
Downard, Vern 221
Downing, George (Mr. & Mrs.) 54, 57
Downing, Levi & Phoebe 215
Dragoons (1835-1836) 21-22, 146, 165-168, 211
Drake, John A. 3, 13, 31, 44
Drayer, John B. 121
Drayton, Sam 155
Dressel, Rev. Theodore 86-87
Druewell, Mary T. 193
Dubuque, Julian 30, 148, 169
Duffield, George C. 128
Duffield, James, Margaretta, George, John, Henry, and Harrison 215-216
Dugan Family 160
Duke, Miss 210
Duncan, William 127
Duncan, Wetherbee 228
Dundee, William 133
Dunn, Father 159
Dunn, Albert 215
Dunn, E.C. 177
Dunn, John 193
Dunning Festut 229
Dupont, Eleuthere & Irene 173, 185
DuPont, Lammont & Francis 176, 181
Dupont Powder Factory 171-185
Durkee, Chauncy 35
DuShann, Paul
Dustin, Mrs. Effie Seward 54, 58

Iowa Towns Index

Early, Alcene 230
Eason, E.W. 64
Eastburn, J.J. 193
Easter, J.H. 64
Echelmeier, Rev. W. 86-87
Ecker,.Mr. 134
Edwards, Elizabeth 193
Edwards, Frank J. 193
Edwards & McCabe 113
Eggert, Miss Louise 133-134
Egley, George W. 36
Eich, Jacob 123
Einspanger, Mr. 113
Eis, Rev. Richard 53
Elbert, Dr. 220
Eldon, Iowa (town) 120
Elericle, James 123
Elgar, Herman 195
Elkin, Rev. Robert 190
Ellenberger, Henry 83-86
Ellenborough (German Colony) 6, 21-22
Ellerbeck, Rev. H. 218
Elliott, Mrs. Beatrice Tyler 58
Elliott, Mrs. F.S. 221
Elliott, Mrs. Finley 54
Elliott, John A. 121
Ellis, Francis 17
Ellis & Mussetter 228
Ely, David 213
Emerick, Jacob & William 216
Emerick, William (Mr. & Mrs.) 216
Engelhardt, George 4
Engle, Joe 209
Eno, Henry 96, 98
Epps, Lewis 42
Erickson, Engbert 177
Estes, J.M. 123
Evans, Principal 230
Evans, H. Max 198
Evans, Winona 198
Everhart, Rev. 22
Ewing, A. 42
Eyman, Jacob 84

Fairfield 67
Fairman, John J. 127
Fallis, William 226
Fallon Family 160
Farmington 4, 25, 34, 51-52, 55, 188, 223, 226, 229-230
Farr, James & Tommy 55
Farrell Family 160
Farris, Charles 170
Fascinato, Prof. L.G. 47-48
Faulkner, Jennie T. 193
Fauth, Rev. Karl 86-87
Fedler, Katie (Mrs. O. Fritzjunker) 9
Fegtly, J.J. 230
Feldman, Henry 86-87
Felt (or Fett), George B. 138-139, 153-154
Female Eclectic Institute (Davenport) 82
Fenn, Milo (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Ferguson, Crotongton 217
Fett, Arthur 88
Fett, Mrs. Arthur 86, 88
Fickel, Lulu (see Hedden, Mrs. John)
Fickey, Mr. 119
Field, Isaac 42
Fincastle, Kentucky 140
Finger, S.E. 193
Fink, Mike 138
Finkhouse (or Hinkhouse), Dr. J.F. 207
Finnerty family 160
Fischer, Mr. W.J. 144, 163
Fish, Ernest 170
Fisher, Garret 157
Fisher, J.C. 193
Fisher, Mrs. J.C. 193
Fisher, Mrs. Lucindia S. 165
Fisher, Rev. W.E. 165
Fisher, W.J. 133, 143
Fitch, Dr. 132
Fitzgerald, J.W. 123
Flake, Brig & Rheta 54
Flake, Marshall 58
Flanagan family 160
Flansburg, James 59-63
Fleckstein, Dick 97
Flickinger, Frank 132
Floyd, Capt. John 140
Foley family 160
Forley, William 209
Forquaen, Capt. 213
Forqurean, Cutington 217
Forrest, John M. 31
Forshort, Pat 135, 139, 164
Fort Armstrong (Rock Island) 93

Iowa Towns Index

Fort Atkinson 168
Fort Belle Vue (later Ft. Madison) 105
Fort Des Moines (later Montrose) 21, 31, 95, 137-138, 146-147, 148, 165-166
Fort Edwards (Warsaw, Illinois) 1, 28, 31
Fort Gibson 167
Fort Leavenworth 31, 138, 146, 165, 168
Fort Madison 3, 12-13, 21, 26, 30-31, 44-45, 89-116, 138
Fort Pike (St. Francisville, Mo.) 2
Fort Sanford 163
Fosnot, L.C. 123
Foss, J.W. 193
Foster, Charles & Mary Welch 193
Fowler, Jas. A. 123
Fowler, Mildred & Minnie 170
Fox, Benjamin 31
Fox, Timothy 42
Frailey, J.R. 19
France, Mary 194
Franklin (town) 3, 10, 13, 32, 44, 83, 85-87, 117-118, 209
Franklin Flour Mill 10, 47
Frary, Ed (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Frazer, A.H. 193
Frazer, Burtis 22
Frazer, E.H. 193
Frazey, A.V. 193
Frazey, Mrs. Lizzie 193
Frazier, Lant 194
Freeland, S.S. 218
Freeman, Emma 193
Fremont, General 51-52, 60
French, Rev. C.R. 165
French, Ozro 69
Fretwell, Mr. 217
Friend, Charles 193
Friesen, Adolph 85
Frink & Walker's Mail Coach 188
Fritzinger, Jacob 215
Fritzjunker, Otto 9
Fruechte, Rev. A.W. 87
Fruehling, Florence 170
Fry, Isaac 215
Fry, John C. 48
Fulson, Mr. 7
Fulton, Rev. John Mark 42, 45
Fulton, O.C. & Nannie S. 215
Gableman, Mrs. Jennie 229
Gaines, Mrs. 7
Gaines, John 11, 75-76
Galbaith, W.H, 45
Galena, Illinois 96
Galespie, Isabel 102 (Mrs. Peter Miller, Sr.)
Gallagher family 160
Galland, Abel 211, 217
Galland, Eleanor 1, 31
Galland, Dr. Isaac 1, 5-7, 12, 22, 31, 76, 138, 165-166
Galland, Capt. Washington 41, 166
Galland (town-formerly Nashville) 41, 169, 20
Galle, Jacob 84
Galloway, James 177
Gambell, Rev. 86
Gamble, Mr. 5
Garber, Rev. Solomon 215
Gardner, Casper 192
Gardner, Lydia 7
Garmoe, Mrs. Nellie 193
Garrett, J. 135
Garretson, Fred (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Garretson, Fred 193
Garretson, Herbert 195, 197
Garretson, J.H. 42
Garretson, Mamie 193
Garretson, Max 193
Garretson, Patience Tomilson 194
Garretson, Radella 194
Garrison, Ray 160
Garverich, Mr. 42
Garvick, Squire 8
Garwood, Darrell 120
Gaston, Charles 226
Gaston, Keith 54
Gate City Book & Job Rooms 11
Gay, Ross 47-48
Gehrke, Rev. 86-87
Geiger, Mr. & Mrs. 27
Gelatt, J.M. 64
George, W.A . 123
Gerboth, H. 135
Giard, Trader 148
Gibson, Allen Hiatt 193
Gibson, Isaac 196
Gilbert, George 135
Gill, Miss 229
Gillespie, Charles 4
Gillespie, James W. 159
Gilley, Mr. 229
Gillis, Peter 213
Gilmer, Campbell 42

Giuline, Ed 191
Givens, Mrs. Nancy 143
Glancey, Mrs. Fletcher 170
Glasgow, S.L. 121
Glenn, E.G. 230
Glover, Mr. 51-52
Glover, E.J. 230
Goddard, Edwin 215-216
God's Portion Day 16-18
Goetzman, Rev. Albert R. 15
Goffey, Father 159
Golden Eagle Steamship 215
Goldsmith, Mabel 194
Goldsmith, Mrs. Mary 193
Goode, J.C. 22
Goodin, Mr. 217
Goodin, Inez 230
Goodrell, Representative 27
Goodwin, John 213
"Goose Pond" (Clark Co., Mo.) 46
Gordon, Capt. William 21
Gore, Martha (Mrs. Jos. Hemingway) 9
Graber, Martin 88
Graber, Widow 217
Grace Episcopal Church (Clinton) 183
Grady's Circus 135
Graham, Mr. 91-92
Graham, Rev. Gerald 182
Graham, Gillie G. 4
Graham, Johnny 7
Grant, Mrs. & Kate 8
Grant, Ulysses S. 121, 123
Graves, H.P. 65-66
Graves, R.A. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Gray, Mr. 219
Greef, H.F. & Bro. 53-54, 57, 64-65
Green, Mr. 119
Green, Fred 163
Green, G. & J. 53-54, 57 , 64-65
Green, General Martin 67
Green, Bragg & Co. 64-65
Gregg, Charles 156
Gregg, John 31
Gregg, Thomas 138
Gregory, Rev. Levi 198-199
Gregory, O.H. 193
Gregory, Uriah S. 34-35, 131
Greyson, Frank 53
Griffey, William 221
Griffith, A.W. 161
Grim, David 193
Grimes, Robert 165
Grimes & Starr 6, 22
Grinnell College 16
Grippen, Fred (Mr. & Mrs.) & Dorothy 194
Griswold Family 143
Groene, Bernard 142
Grubb, Mrs. J.W. 193
Guerdon, Henri 133-134
Gumbell, Rev. 87
Guy, John 220

Haas, Jacob 218
Hackett, Mrs. Ken 174
Haeffner, Mrs. Pora 88
Hagan, Euna McMillan 193
Hagan, William W. 193
Haines, E.R. 193
Hale, William 121
Hales, Charles E. 97
Half-Breed Tract 2, 4-5, 21-22, 28-29, 45, 95, 97-98, 138, 146, 165, 168
Hall, Mr. 219
Hall, Homer 209
Hall, James 127
Hall, Capt. James (Bentonsport) 65
Hallam, David 66
Hallowell, Benjamin 194
Hamilton, Bob 22
Hamilton, Garven, G.G. & J.D. 163
Hamilton, Lt. Thomas 91-92, 105-106, 110
Hamlet, E.J. 163
Hamlin, Hannibal 187
Hampton, Janet 109
Hampton, Mrs. Mary 193
Hampton, S.R. Family 194
Hancock, Capt. F. 64
Hancock, Mrs. Russell 137, 141, 143, 149, 153, 166, 169, 170
Hancock County, Illinois 12
Handell, Mrs. L.H. 193
Hanegan, William 203
Hansen, Fred 38
Hanson, Rev. W.P. 165
Hapkirk, Mr. 170
Hardin, A.J. 224
Hardin, Mrs. E.H. 149
Harding, Col. 92-93
Hardy, A.B. 229
Hardy, Charles M. & Dudley 215
Hardy, Mrs. Clarence 174
Hare, Rev. John 218

Iowa Towns Index

Harlan, A.W. 31, 127, 211-217, 225-230
Harlan, Edgar R. 139, 147, 170
Harlan, James 123, 187
Harlan, M.E. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Harness, John 123
Harney, General William 168
Harnson's Trading House 217
Harrington, Kate 95-96, 116
Harris, Capt. D.S. 12
Harris, Frank G. 33-34, 47-48
Harrison, William 11
Harrison, William Henry 103
Harryman, W.H. 123
Harsha, Rev. William J. 207
Harshbarger, John 194
Harshman, Fletcher Jr. 194
Hart, A. & Ida S. 215
Hart, Robert H. & Sherman 38, 175
Hart, William 53
Hartey, Mrs. A. 193
Hartley, Mrs. Belle 194
Hartley, D.A. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Hartley, John 194
Hartson, William 123
Harvey, Warden 176
Harwood, Thomas & Mary 215
Hassett, Joe 173
Hastings, William 230
Hatton family 160
Hatton, Frank 123
Haubert, Pete 163
Hayes, Father 218
Hayes, E.A. 51
Hayes, Ralph L. 15, 159
Hayes, Rutherford B. 69, 127
Haynie, Mr. 41
Hazen, Mr. 211
Head, John 170
Healey, B.B. 138
Healey, Felt & White Mill 138-139
Heaton, Eli 2
Heaton & Reed 2
Hebard, Alfred 6
Hedden, J. T. & Nancy 175
Hedden, Jesse V. 175
Hedden, John 175, 177, 185
Hedden, Thelma, Veda, Mildred, Robert & Roberta 175
Hedge, Congressman 12
Hedrick & Warden 123
Heffleman, Henry 34-35
Heiser, Dr. H.C. 209
Helm, Bill 226
Helman, Henry 31
Hemingway, Joseph 9
Hemmings, Archie 2
Hemmings, Bill 102
Hemmings, William Sr. 2
Henderson, Samuel 140
Hendron family 201
Hennies, Sophia 190
Hennys, John 221
Henry, George A. 123
Henry, Thomas P. 53
Henry County 197
Herr, Father 159
Herrick, Prof. R.S. 147, 170
Herring, Gov. 33
Herron, Jim 8
Hertzler, Dr. 83
Hesse, Bernard 93, 103, 107, 109-110
Hesse, Mary (Mrs. Karhaff) 9
Hickey family 160
Hickman, Bill 205
Hickory Grove School 25
Hightshoe, Rev. A.B. 2
Hilch, Mary A. 193
Hiles, George & John 26
Hill, Albert & John 4
Hill, Amy Hunting 194
Hillsboro 19-20
Hilty, Rev. P.P. 85
Hinchman, J.B. 193
Hine, Dan 161
Hiner, John 28
Hines, C. 64
Hirschler, David T. 86
Hirschler, Mrs. David 88
History of Lee County 10-11, 148
Hitchcock & Nobel 66
Hitt Family 220
Hixson, A.B. 193
Hoag, Joseph 197
Hockett, Isaac 197
Hockett, Steven D. & James C. 193, 197
Hockett, M.S. 193
Hockett, Rachel 193
Hodge Brothers 83, 209
Hodson,A.D. & R.L. 193
Hodson, Frank 194
Hodson, Fred 193
Hodson, G.W. 193
Hodson, George 193
Hodson, Mrs. Hannah 193
Hogate, Charles 193

Iowa Towns Index

Hogatt, W.L. 193
Hohl, Lloyd 54, 58
Holcombe, Mr. 123
Holcombe, Niles 220
Holcombe, R.I. 123
Holdefer, John 86-87
Holden, Tom 220
Holder, A.F. 219, 223
Holder, Capt. John 140
Holder & Price 219
Holland, J.C. 123
Holland, John 69
Holliday, Capt. Bill 7
Hollingsworth, Dr. Ike 144
Holloway, W.R. 230
Hollowell, Etta 229
Holmes, James H..& Sarah F. 215
Holt, Rev. E.D. 165
Holtkamp, Father Karl 15
Honey War (Iowa-Missouri Boundary) 129-131
Honori, Louis 169 (see also Tesson)
Hood, Louisa 7-8, 11
Hopkins, Prof. 42
Horton, Augustus 31
Hosick, Mr. 219
Hough, Nellie Williamson 170
Hough, Thomas B. 144, 163
Houghton, Dave 163
Houghton (town) 15, 20, 118
Hourihan, Owen 193
House, James 223
Howard, Benjamin 105
Howard, Joseph 42
Howard, M. 224
Howard, Sam 66
Howe, Mrs. J.M. 193
Howell, James 119, 123
Howell, John 210
Howell, Prof. O.B. 209
Howell & Delaplain 79
Howe's Academy (Mt. Pleasant) 82
Hoyer, Mrs. Martha 193
Hubbell, Charles 4
Hughes, Rev. Louis T. 165
Hughes, Ross B. 7
Hull, John A.T. 138
Hulsebus, Irene 86
Huner, Jacob 165
Hunnicutt, Will (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Hunt, Bessie Parker 170
Hunt, George 104-105
Hunter, Jas. 218
Huntington, Senator 21
Hunziker (or Hunsicker), Abraham 32, 42, 210
Hurley, Mr. 170
Hurley, Lulu 170
Huston, Milo B. 193
Hutchinson, Capt. Abe 11
Hutchinson, Charles (Mr. & Mrs.) 194
Hutchinson, Charles 193
Hutchinson, Jas. 164
Huxley, Fred 194

Independence, Mo. 51-52
Indians 1-2, 4, 10-11, 21-22, 28-31, 40, 43-45, 90-95, 98, 103-106, 140, 165
Ingalls (or Ingels), Cynthia A. (Mrs. Isaiah Meeks) 76
Ingersoll, Anna 84
Ingraham, Hank 142
Ingram, W.J. Jr. 178-179, 182, 184
Ingrim, J.T. 193-194
Ingrim, Mrs. Leanna 193
Inman, Morris 4
Iowa (History) 11, 21-22, 126-130, 147, 192, 197
Iowa Band of Ministers (1843) 16, 229
Iowa City Academies 82
Iowa Historical Society 147, 168
Iowa Horticulture Society 147, 170
Iowa Journal of History & Politics 147
Iowa State Fish & Game Commission 176
Iowa State Insurance Company 27, 37, 113
Iowa Territory 97, 229
Irwin-Phillips Co. 7
Isenhour, Mr. 219

Jack, G.W. 53, 64
Jackson, President 28, 51
Jackson, Prof. Donald 109
Jackson, F. 170
Jackson, Solomon 42
Jackson, T.C. 123
Jaeske, Charles 118
James, Stephen E. 22
Jamison, Helen M. & W.S. 215
Jaques, W.H. 120
Jardine, Rev. Clyde 182
Jarvis, Ella 203
Jarvis, Thomas 203
Jefferson, Beverly 54
Jemison, O.N. 132
Jenkins, Dr. 203
Jenkins, Eugene 229

Iowa Towns Index

Jenkins, James 228
Jenks, Capt. 11
Jenner, John 123
Jennings, Berryman 1, 12, 32, 169
Jensen, James 109
Jerome, Jeannette 80
Jewett, A.H. 4
Johnson, Abington 217
Johnson, Finley 157
Johnson, Col. John W. 90, 92, 104, 109
Johnson, Lyman E. 7
Johnson, Mays 35
Johnson, R.N. 99
Johnson, Thomas 109
Johnson & Son 146
Johnston, A.R. 170
Johnston, Francis 123
Johnston, Russell 123
Johnston, William & Martha Forbes 216
Johnstone, Edward 1, 22, 28, 224
Jolleyville (town) 40
Jones, Chas. A. 164
Jones, Clara 193
Jones, George W. 21-22
Jones, Gideon 120
Jones, J.W. 187
Jones, John 193
Jones, Orlando 123
Jones, Richard M. (Tricky Dick) 211, 217
Jones, Rev. Sam 155-156
Jordan, James 11
Jordan, James 217, 228
Jordan, Jeff 213, 228
Jordan, Mother 161
Jordan, Dr. Phillip D. 69
Jordan, William 211, 217
Judy, George 102, 109
Junkin, Mr. 123

Kagy, Jacob 84
Kalowequois 147
Kammerer, Mr. 113
Kamphenkel, Rev. Wm. F. 86, 88
Kannauth, Otto 101
Karhoff, Joseph 9
Kastens, Charley 113
Kaufman, John E. 85
Kearney, Lt. Col. Stephen W. 21, 31, 146, 165-168, 212
Keck, Mary Hancock 66
Keil, John 154
Keith, Isham & Thomas 225
Keith, Mary S. 80 (Mrs. Roger Cresap)
Keller, Mrs. Emma J. 193
Kellogg, Pamelia (Mrs. Peter Miller, Sr.) 102
Kellum, Anna 193
Kelly, Maggie (Ms. Meirotto) 9
Kempker, Ben 209
Kendrick, Rev. William 165
Kennedy, Congressman 97
Kennedy, C.A. 163
Kennedy, George 170
Kennedy, J.P. 43-44
Kennedy, Mrs. J.P. 170
Kennedy, John 170
Kennedy, John G. 96
Kennedy, Mina 170
Kennedy, William 143
Kennedy, William 230
Keokuk (Indian Chief) 12, 29-30, 128, 220
Keokuk (city) 1, 5, 7, 11, 26-27, 29, 45, 75-76, 169
Keokuk Canning Co. 36
Keokuk Public Library 28
Keokuk (storm of 1930) 37-39
Keosauqua 45, 119--132, 213, 223
Kern, Rev. 218
Kerr, Anna 170
Kerr, Belle 170
Kerr, D.A. 224
Kerr, George 193
Kerr, Ike 38
Kerr, William 74
Kester, Max 194
Keuper, Mrs. Frank 99
Key, Barton 96, 98
Key, Francis Scott 28, 96, 98, 138
Kiefer, Rev. O.H. 141-142, 159-160
Kiel, J.B. 135, 143, 144, 163-164
Kieriker, Rev. Otto 87
Kilbourne (town) 223, 228
Kilbourne, David W. 43, 137, 147-148, 165-166, 169
Kile, Sarah E. (Mrs. J. Pease) 9
Kimler, Martin 88
Kinersly, Mr. 127

Iowa Towns Index

King, Carrie 230
King, David 221
King, J.O. 166
King, Mrs. Jess 194
King Daughter's Camp 155
Kingsbury, Dr. E.L. 174
Kingsley, Lt. Alpha 89-93, 99-100, 104-105, 109-110
Kinnersly's Mill 213
Kinnie, Mrs. L.M. 193
Kirkpatrick, James W. 167
Kirkpatrick, Mark 193
Kisling, Ray 66
Kissick, J.B. 45
Kitchun, Mrs. Ed 193
Kite, John 166
Kite, Margaret 170
Kittle, D.W. 220
Klein, Sam'l 224
Knapp, A.C. 170
Knapp, J.C. 215
Knapp, John H. & Nathaniel 31, 95, 98
Knapp, Stout & Co. 26
Knapp, Tainter & Co. 26
Knealand (or Kneeland), Abner 217, 229
Knight Family 168
Knight, Miss Belle 198
Knight, Frank L. 193
Knight, George 7
Knight, J.B. 32, 161
Knight, Laura 194
Knight, Laura 194
Knight, Malanothon 161
Knight, O.N. 194
Knott, Henry 229
Knott, W.H. & Lou E. 230
Knowler, William 109
Knowles, John 193
Kobrin, Michael 109
Koch, Katharina (Mrs. Weigner) 9
Koehler, Mr. 113
Koelling, Rev. A.F. 88
Kraschel, Nels G. 33-34, 47-48
Krebiel, John C. 83-84
Krehbiel, Christian II 84-85
Krehbiel, Daniel 85
Krehbiel, Henry 84
Krehbiel, Jacob 84-85
Kreis, Rev. William 86-87
Kreiss, Alfred 177
Krenmyre, Rev. J.H. 229
Kroenlein, M. K. 86-87
Krouse, Mrs. Christian 210
Kuhl, M. 218
Kurtz, Mrs. Mary Frances 54, 57-58

Labamm, Peter A. 5
Lacey-Keosaqua State Park 128-130
Lacore, Clayton 109
Ladd, Amos 96, 98
LaFevre, Lou 170
LaFevre, Mrs. Marie 165
Lake Keokuk 166
Lalta, Edward 88
Lamb, Abe 2
Lamb, Mrs. Ernest 194
Lamb, Virginia 170
Lambert, George R. 218
Lamont, Rev. William S.D. 143, 182
LaMott, John 153
Landes, Carl J. 85
Landes, John H. 230
Landman, Mrs. Paul 174
Lane, J.T. 121
Lang, Fred 9
Lange, Mr. & Mrs. & Kate & Mary 209
Lansley, Mr. 219
Lapsley, John S. 35
Lard, Sarah C. & Mary Lucy 51-52
LaRont, Mr. 153
Larquin (or Larkin), J.S. 143
Larsen, James 183
Lash, John B. 197
Latham, James W. 123
Laughrey, Mrs. Jane 4
Lauman, G.S. 166
Layton, Miss 22
Lea, Col. Albert M. 6, 14, 21-22, 31, 34, 168
Leach, S.M. 123
Leager, Mr. 4
Leake, Elbert/Bert 174, 177
Leake, Loren, Clyde M. & Lloyd C. 174
Leake, Louis 177
Lear, Col. John 35
Leary, Judge J.R. 20
Leazer, Z. 191
Leck, Bert M. 132
LeClaire, Antoine 12
Lee, Orville 132
Lee, Robert E. 12, 21-22, 31, 168

Iowa Towns Index

Lee, William E. 6
Lee County 1, 3, 6, 10, 13-14, 23-26, 31-32, 44, 81, 95, 139-140, 148, 159, 205-207
Lee County Defunct Villages 23
Lee Co. Gazeteer 11
Lee County Home 24
Leeper Family 160
Leffler, Mrs. Addie Reeves 146
Leindecker, Justice 161
Leinen, Rev. L.J. 141-142
Leisy & Miller 209
Lemanaus, Mr. 153
LeMoine Factory 90, 104
Lemoliese 1, 31, 41
Lester Birdie 198
Lewelling, Henderson 195-197
Lewis, Mrs. Allen 193
Lewis, George & Sophia 215, 230
Lewis, I.N. 46
Lewis, Rodman 229
Lewis & Clark 104
Lexington (town) 226
Lilton, Mrs. Ida 194
Lincoln, Abraham 12, 28, 67, 163, 187
Lincoln, General James Rush 138
Link, Rev. Michael 146
Linn, Senator 22
Linsenmeyer, C.C. 99
Lisle, Henry 217
Little, Samuel 170
Livix, John 193
Loker, Richard & Mary Jane 187
Lombard, Rev. C.M. 165
Longwell, Edward L. 228-229
Loomis, Marie E. 193
Lost Creek Cemetery 14
Loughridge, William 121
Louisana Territory (or Purchase) 138, 147-148
Lowenberg, Roy 86, 88
Lowenberg, Mrs. Roy 88
Lowery, Mr. 217
Lowrey, Dr. J. 205-206
Lucas, Gov. Robert 34-35, 81
Ludwick, Bart 229
Lydolph, Ernest 123
Lyon, Mrs. David 146
Maas, Harry V.D. 174
McBride, William 7, 11, 75, 229
McCabe, J.D. 194
McCardle, James 210
McCarthy Family 160
McCarthy, Ezekiel 217
McCarty, Dr. Isaac 213
McCauley, William 132
McComb, Aldrew 228
McConn, Mr. 113, 116
McConn, Danield 13, 44
McCormack, Mr. 209
McCoy, Mrs. Mary L. 193
McCoy, Rev. R. 165
McCracken, Isaac 66
McCrary, C.B. 54, 57
McCrary, Elizabeth F. & William F. 215
McCrary, George W. 121, 123
McCrary, George or H. C. 54, 57, 69, 127, 223
McCulloch, Joel 192
McCullough, E.S. & David 187, 192
McCullough, J.D. 170
McCullough & Evans 123
McCutchen, James & Robert 215
McCutcheon, R.V. 156
McDaniel, Jesse 35
McDaniel, William 35
McDermot, Michael 4
McDill, Charles 31
McDonald, I.L. 210
McDowell, Sarah 193
McFarland, Mr. 163
McGowan, William 66
McGunagle, Mrs. 42
McIntosh, Reese & Alice 215
McKee, Henry 4
McKeeby, B.H. 120
McKibben, James 215
McKiernan, James 218
McKinney, Eli & William 65
Mackley, James 27, 161
McLain, Mrs. Harold 221
Macklin, Rev. 141-142
McKusick, Dr. Marshall 93, 99-104, 106-110
McLean, Mrs. Donnell 85
McLelland, Benjamin 123
McManus, E.W. 47
McMillan, Elder 201
McMullen, Mr. 11
McPherson, Mrs. 1 (see also Galland, Eleanor)
McPherson, M.L. 187

Iowa Towns Index

McQuillen, Mary 230
McVity, J. & T. 53
Macy, Prof. V.W. 198-199
Madden, Beesucker & McGuire 127
Madison, J. 96, 98
Madison, President James 30, 90, 98, 100, 110
Magerkurth, Catherine (Mrs. Doerr) 9
Mahin, John 123
Malina, Michael 109
Manning, James & Edwin 127, 132, 219
Manning, John A. 132
Manning, Warren & Mildred 120
Markham, Rev. J.A. 165
Marley, G.W. 54, 57
Marquette & Joliet 30, 32, 43, 137, 159, 166
Marsh, Lee & Delevan 165
Marshall, Agnes Bell (Mrs. Kirk Meek) 77
Marshall, Emma Maddox 194
Marshall, J.S. 146
Martin, C.C. 88
Martin, Charley 209
Martin, Fuge 210
Martin, J.M. 193
Martin, Rev. P. 218
Martin & Tenant 8
Mason, Lt. 168
Mason, Judge Charles 6, 21-22, 96, 98, 227
Mason, George (Mr. & Mrs.) 53-54, 57, 65
Mason, Harry C. 66
Mason, J.L. (or L.J.) 57, 69
Mason, W.E. 96, 98
Mason, William E. 54, 57, 223
Mason House (Bentonsport) 54-55, 57-63, 65, 67-70
Massey, H.B. 193
Master, Robert 163
Mathias, Jas. 123
Matthews, Jane (Mrs. Thomas Moore) 9
Matthews, W. S. 53
Maxwell, E.J. (Mr. & Mrs.) 193
Maxwell, John 217
Maxwell, John & Eliza 4, 226
Maxwell, Samuel 217, 226
Maxwell, T.C. 193
May, Capt. James 12
May, Michael Jr. 215
Maycock, Rev. B.T.H. 135
Mayne, Joel 123
Mead, Mrs. Lilly Rigby 193
Medes, W.J. 42
Meek, Dean 71, 77
Meek, Harold 71
Meek, Isaiah, Johnsonn, Benjamin, Robert & Joseph 71-74, 76, 219, 225
Meek, Joseph 64
Meek, Mrs. Joseph 75
Meek, Kirk 72, 74, 76-77
Meek, Robert 71-74, 76, 219, 225
Meek, William 71-74, 77, 80, 225
Meek & Bros. 64, 79, 225
Meeker, Aaron Clark 7-8
Meeker, Ephraim 7
Meeker, W.F. & Z.P. 7-8
Megchelsen, John 165
Mehl, Henry 86-87
Meirotto, Henry J. 9
Menke, Carolyn 15, 83
Mennonite Church in Lee Co. 83
Merbitz, Rev. O. 218
Meredith, Andrew 119
Meredith, Mrs. Anna 54, 58
Merrill, Samuel 123
Merritt, D. 229
Merschamn, A.C. 118
Metzger, William 170
Metzinger, William Jr. 142
Meyer, John 121
Meyers, G.W. 166
Michigan Territory 197
Mickelwait, Anna 198
Middaugh, John W. 9
Miessner, Agnes (Mrs. Weigner) 9
Military Road 167-168
Miller, A. 193
Miller, A.B. 187
Miller, A.W. 193
Miller, Albert 177
Miller, Alex 171
Miller, Mrs. Carolina 193
Miller, Daniel F. Sr. 12, 45, 96, 98, 102, 223
Miller, Emanuel & Hattie Bauder 10
Miller, Emma Harvey 193
Miller, Gladys 88
Miller, Rev. Harry 182
Miller, Mrs. Laura E. 193
Miller, Joe & Mrs. Lela 52
Miller, John 83
Miller, John V. 182
Miller, Napoleon B., Peter M. and Martin A. 102
Miller, Peter 102, 161

Miller, Samuel 6, 21
Miller, Thomas & Jennie 215
Mills, Mrs. Arthur 195
Millsap, Dr. 54
Milner, Maud 198
Milton (town) 223
Mississippi Valley & Western R.R. 46
The Missouri House 27
Mitchell, Jesse & J.L. 127
Mitchell, John 194
Mitchell, Merta 198
Mitchell, "Old Split Log" 8
Mitchell, Robert P. 35
Moeller, William 38
Moffatt, John 225
Moffitt (or Moffatt), Robert 71, 225
Mollers, Emma 174
Monson, Frank & Mrs. A.D. 194
Montgomery, C. 64
Montgomery, Jos. 53
Montrose (or Camp/Fort Des Moines) 3, 13, 21-22, 30-31, 45, 96, 133-170, 211
Montrose Vindiator 164
Mooar, Judge Daniel D. 177, 181
Mooar (Powdertown) 171-185
Moon Family 143
Moore, Byron 193
Moore, Charlie 161
Moore, Charlie 8
Moore, Daniel 4
Moore, George L. 64
Moore, Henry 163
Moore, Mrs. Margaret 2
Moore, Mrs. P.L. 4
Moore, Thomas 9-10, 25
Moore, W.S. 123
Moore, George L. & Brown 53
Moores, Mrs. C.E. 230
Moores, L.W. 230
Moorhead, Dr. S.W. 10
Moreland, Sally 51-52
Morgan, Forsyth 31
Morgan, Gordon 38-39
Morgan, James M. 45
Moriarity, Rev. Michael 159
Mormon Trail 168
Mormons 5, 61, 80, 128, 165-166, 205-206, 211
Morris, Herbert 31
Morris, L.D. & H. 123
Morris, Melvin 66
Morrison, W.H. 133
Morrison, W.I. 12
Morrison Bros. 114
Morse, G.B. 45
Morse, Mary W.S. 229
Morton, Samuel 127
Mosher, J.J. 193
Mt. Clara (Lee County) 38
Mt. Pleasant/Ft. Madison Trail 19-20
Mt. Sterling (town) 223
Moutrey, Riley S. 51-52
Moxley, John 195
Moxley, Mary 193
Muhlenberg, Peter 221
Muir, Dr. Samuel C. 1, 31, 75
Mulkins, Mrs. Nora 193
Mull, Mr. 119
Munger, Mrs. Irwin D. 195
Munger, Norton G. 27
Murdock, E.B. 229
Murphy, Cornelius 215
Murry, Ed 192
Musgrove, Jack 109
Musson, Dr. 220
Myers, Adam 135
Myers, L.C. 176-177, 185
Myers, M.M. 119
Nagle, Capt. 219
Naschert, Theodore 86, 88
Nashville (Galland) 1, 4, 7, 12, 22, 32, 146
Nau, B. 193
Nauvoo (also Commerce) 1, 45, 205
Neff, Minnie 217
Nelson, Jonathan W. & Christina 215
Nelson, Morton 214
Nelson, Rev. W.P. 165
Nelson, William 211, 217
Neufeld, Vernon H. 85
New Boston 24-25, 38
New York Land Co. 1, 5, 28, 31, 165
Newberry, Abraham & James & Fred 42
Newbold, Nancy 58
Newell, Dr. 209
Newhall's Sketches of Iowa 45

Iowa Towns Index

Newlon, C.E. 54, 57
Newman, Mrs. Winnena 214
Newport, Mr. 217
Nicholson, Sarah 193
Nightingale, Luella 10
Nixon, Rachel 54
Noble, Mrs. Cora 193
Noble, Mrs. Samantha 193
Nollen, G.H. 47
Nordbaum, Mr. 218
Norris, Nelson 219
North, Dr. Lemuel 41
Noske, Gus 229
Nourse, C.C. 187
Nowell, Mr. 214-215
Nunemaker, H.E. 85
Nye, Mr. 21

Oberman, Wilma 196
O'Brien Family 160
O'Conner Family 160
O'Connor, Eddie 103-106
O'Connor, Henry 121
Ogden, R.B. 27
Oleson, Mrs. Virgie 175
Orcutt, Rev. Charles 2
Orf, Rev. C.H. 128
Orr, George W. 60-63, 70
Osage Indians 105
Ostrender, Mrs. 229
Overhall, Ezra 212
Ovrom, Fred 221
Owens, R.S. 133, 166
Owens, Robert 154
Owsley, H.C. 229
Ozbun,E.E. 193
Ozburn, Mrs. Elvira 194

Packer, Miss Anna 199
Packer, Annie E. & W.A. 230
Packer, Dean Paul 197
Packer, M.L. 193
Paine, Albert Biglow 69
Paine, Andrew 96, 98
Paisley, Dr. C.L. 230
Paisley, William 192
Paisley, William & Minerva 187
Palimpsest 109, 165
Palmer, Frank 123
Palmer, Frank W. 121
Park, Govenor 33
Parker, Bessie 157
Parker, Sidney 80
Parkins, Levi 193
Parks, Gertrude 169
Parks, J.E. 193
Parrott, General James C. 31, 167-168
Parson, B.F. 119
Parsons College 4
Parvin, Bell 193
Pashepaho (Stabbing Chief) 90-91, 104-105
Patchett, Mr. 228
Patten, Charles H. 135, 163
Patten (or Patton), H.M. 153, 166
Patten & Baum 163
Patterson, Chester 55, 58
Patterson, Eleanor (Mrs. William) 207
Patterson, Robert 119
Patterson, Col. William 12, 32, 42, 207, 210
Patton, R.L. 170
Patton, W.B. 133, 144
Payton, Mrs. Amelia 215
Peaee, James 2
Pearirs, Rev. H.R. 165
Pease, James F. 9
Pease, Jo 113-114
Pease, Boyle & Frank 192
Peck, Mrs. Morris 143
Peck, O.H. 96, 98
Peebler, J.D. 209-210
Penny, Capt. 52
Penrod, David 210
Perkins, George 99
Perkins, Joseph 226
Perkins, O.R. 65-66
Perkins, William 228
Perkins Bros. 123
Perry, Mrs. Kate & Lotta 224
Peters, Archie 177-178
Peters, Rev. James 159-160
Peterson, Drexel 109
Petri (or Petrie), John 211, 217
Phelps, William 11-12, 217
Phil Sheridan Steamboat 11
Philip, Mrs. Bertha 174
Philis, Albert 106
Phillips, C.E. 4
Phillips, Charles 38-39
Phillips, Rev. P.M. 165
Phillips, Father Vincent 159
Phillips, Walter 149, 156
Phillips Bros. 64
Pickard, Alice Webster 194
Pickard, Edward 194
Pickard, Mrs. Jennie 193
Pickard, Larry 49

Iowa Towns Index

Pickett, Dorothy 23-26, 71-74, 117-118, 177-179
Pidgeon , Harvey 193
Pidgeon (or Pigeon), Isaac 194, 197
Pidgeon, Kate 198
Pidgeon, Mrs. Mary 193
Pidgeon, Phoebe Kester (Mrs. Isaac) 197
Pidgeon, Ruth 197
Pierce, Dr. I.H. 69
Pierce, Ira 194
Pierce, J.W. 191
Pierce & Kumleh 187, 191
Pike, Zebulon M. 30, 104, 106, 146, 148
Pilot Grove 118
Pinckney, Capt. 89
Pinkerton, Mrs. Belle 193
Pioneer Trails 139, 167-168
Pitman, Mrs. Rose 193
Pittman, Howard 195
Pittman, R.W. 210
Pittman, W.G. 209
Pittsburg (formerly Rising Sun) 128, 132, 223
Plummer, Henry 213-214
Poage, Cyrus & Mary 42, 207
Pollard, James 230
Pomeroy, Charles 187
Pomroy, Ebenezer 7
Pool, Rev. John 2
Post Offices (early Lee Co.) 10
Potowonok (Ft. Madison fire) 106
Potter, C.E. 123
Powel, James 213
Powell, Mr. & Mrs. Dora 25
Powell, Rev. Thomas 209
Powell & Reed 219
Poweshiek, Jonas M. & Richard 147
Prairie Home Seminary 82
Prass, Mr. 203
Pratt, Mr. 229
Pratt, Donna 54, 58
Pratt, Seth 213
Preston, Tony 109
Preston, Col. william 140
Price, Mr. 198
Price, Bill 5, 11
Price, Frank 194
Price, Howard 170
Price, J. 42
Price, Mrs. Maude 193
Primrose 4, 187-192
Provost, Mr. 153
Prucell, George 166
Pryor, Nathaniel 91
Purdom, E. & Joseph 119, 213
Pyesa (Indian chief) 103

Quakers in Iowa 195-197
Quasquawma (Indian chief) 29
Quincy, Illinois (1829) 28
Quinn, Rev. 218

Ragsdale, Samuel 228
Railroads (Keokuk) 26
Raker, Mrs. R.R. 174
Ralston, Lida Keck 66
Randolph, Ben 193
Randolph, Frank 193
Randolph, Thomas B. 194
Rankin, Sam'l E. 121
Rapids (Mississippi Rover) 29, 43, 45, 148
Rapids Hotel (Keokuk) 27
Raplee, Uriah 8
Rasch, William 191
Rasche, Rev. Fred 86-87
Rat Row (early Keokuk) 5, 75
Ratcliff, Mary 194
Ratliff, John 5-6
Ratliff, Z.S. 193
Raush, Paul 192
Reckmyer, Nellie 230
Reckmyer & Mueller 218
Reckmyer & Whitlock 218
Red Bird (Indian) 43, 147, 170 (see also Abbot, Thomas)
Reddick (or Ruddick), Thomas F. 30, 45
Reddy, W.J. 159-160
Redhead, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert K. 55-56, 59-63, 67-70
Redhead, Kell Ann 55, 59, 68-69
Reed, Charles 109
Reed, Rev. H.B. 165
Reed, Joseph 170
Reed, Myra 170
Reed, R.L. 170
Reed, Robert 146, 165
Reed (or Reid), Samuel C. 214, 217
Reeder, Levi 2
Reeves, A.S. & Elizabeth 215
Reeves, Addie, Frank & Lena 135
Reeves, Mrs. Cora 194
Reeves, Fannie 198
Reeves, George M. 157

Iowa Towns Index

Reeves, Lewis R. 45, 96, 98
Reeves, Manasseh 146, 163
Reeves, Oliver, Manassah, Phil & James 163
Reeves, Sarah Ann 146
Reeves, Winona E. 193
Reflor, G.W. 193
Rehkoff, H.A./O.C. 53-54, 58, 64
Reid, Hugh T. 28, 45
Reid, Isaac 226
Reid, Col. J.M. 27-28
Reid (or Reed), Samuel C. 32, 117, 213
Reide, Pete 153
Reily, John P. 4
Reinig, Dep. Sheriff 38
Reininghaus, J.R. 64
Reneker, Joshua 126
Reneker, Paul 126
Renner, Mrs. H.E. 198
Renwald, Jacob 9
Revolutionary War Soldier 14
Rex, Mrs. Leonard 80
Rhineinghaus ((Reininghaus), John F. 219
Rhodes, Thomas 221
Rich, Alfred 96, 98
Richards, Seth 54, 57
Richardson, Louisa Dow 194
Richardson, Mathew 143
Richardson Bros. 123
Rickey, Jim 25
Riddick, D.c. 138, 166
Riddick, Thomas 146-148
Riddick, Walter I. 141, 160
Rigdon, Sidney 12
Rings, Christian & Daniel 84
Risser, Adam 229
River House 32
Riverside Institute 133-134, 144, 166, 203
Rober's Harness Shop 113
Roberts, A.C. 113
Roberts, Benjamin 168
Roberts, E.H. & Robert 218
Roberts, Rev. Gordon 183-184
Roberts, Joe 7
Roberts, Kendall 221
Roberts, Nelson C. 10
Robertson, Aquilla 215
Robidoux, Joseph 147-148
Robinson, James 216
Robinson,. John 164
Rock River, Illinois 104-105

Reeves, Lewis R. 45, 96, 98
Reeves, Manasseh 146, 163
Reeves, Oliver, Manassah, Phil & James 163
Reeves, Sarah Ann 146
Reeves, Winona E. 193
Reflor, G.W. 193
Rehkoff, H.A./O.C. 53-54, 58, 64
Reid, Hugh T. 28, 45
Reid, Isaac 226
Reid, Col. J.M. 27-28
Reid (or Reed), Samuel C. 32, 117, 213
Reide, Pete 153
Reily, John P. 4
Reinig, Dep. Sheriff 38
Reininghaus, J.R. 64
Reneker, Joshua 126
Reneker, Paul 126
Renner, Mrs. H.E. 198
Renwald, Jacob 9
Revolutionary War Soldier 14
Rex, Mrs. Leonard 80
Rhineinghaus (or Reininghaus), John F. 219
Rhodes, Thomas 221
Rich, Alfred 96, 98
Richards, Seth 54, 57
Richardson, Louisa Dow 194
Richardson, Mathew 143
Richardson Bros. 123
Rickey, Jim 25
Riddick, D.C. 138, 166
Riddick, Thomas 146-148
Riddick, Walter I. 141, 160
Rigdon, Sidney 12
Rings, Christian & Daniel 84
Risser, Adam 229
River House 32
Riverside Institute 133-134, 144, 166, 203
Rober's Harness Shop 113
Roberts, A.C. 113
Roberts, Benjamin 168
Roberts, E.H. & Robert 218
Roberts, Rev. Gordon 183-184
Roberts, Joe 7
Roberts, Kendall 221
Roberts, Nelson C. 10
Robertson, Aquilla 215
Robidoux, Joseph 147-148
Robinson, James 216
Robinson, John 164
Rock River, Illinois 104-105

Rockwood & Co. Wagon Shop 113
Roeglin, Mr. & Mrs. P. 42
Rogers, J.W. 121

Iowa Towns Index

Rohlman, Henry 15
Rohrbach, Prof. 209
Rollins, Lloyd 217
Rook, Frank 193
Root, Dick 9
Rorabaugh, Mrs. Joseph 174
Rose, Mack 58
Ross, Ch. 192
Ross, Elizabeth (Betsy) 95-96, 115-116 (see also Claypoole, Mrs. Elizabeth)
Ross, Col. George 95, 115
Ross, Mr..& Mrs. Guy 55
Ross, John 115
Ross, Capt. Sir John 52
Ross, Michael 55
Ross, Samuel 31
Ross, Shapley 214
Ross & Sullivan 5-6
Rosser, G.N. 123
Roth,,Elmert 86, 88
Roush, Mrs. John A. 215
Rowley, John W. 230
Ruddick, Thomas F. 169 (see also Riddick)
Ruen, Ronald 109
Rugarber, William 193
Ruley, Doc 153
Rumbaugh, Mrs. Lulu 175
Rump, John 31
Runner Family 143
Russel, C.L. 193
Russell, Mrs. C.L. 193
Russell, John 216
Russell, John F. 9
Ruth, David 84-85
Rutledge, Ann 67
Rutledge, James & Mary 67
Ryan, Father Dennis 159
Ryan Family 160
Rye, Louis 191

Saar, Martin 86-87
Sadler, Logan 66
Sailor, Dr. A.W. 192
Sailor, Bill 137, 143, 154
St. Andrews Episcopal Church (in Mooar, IA) 178-179, 181-184
St. Barnabus Episcopal Church (in Montrose) 143-146
St. Francesville, Mo. 43
St. James Catholic Church 118
St. Joseph Catholic Church (Montrose) 141-142, 159-160
St. Louis, Mo. (1763) 43
St. Paul (Lee Co.) 118
St. Paul Evangelical Church (Donnellson) 85-87
Salem 20, 193-199
Salmon, Mr. Ed. 209
Salubria 217, 229
Sample, Mr. 209
Sample, David 215
Sample, Hugh W. 54, 57, 65
Sample, Armitage & Co. 189, 191
Sand Prairie 225 (see also Vincennes)
Sander, Milton 86
Sanders, James 213-214, 225
Sanders, Father Raymond 15
Sandford, John D. 54
Sandusky 22, 41, 201-203
Sanford, Charles O. 57, 65-66, 69, 213
Sanford, Dr. John 3
Santa Fe R.R. 112
Sargent, H.C. Jr. & Sr. 25, 42
Sater, T.D. 194
Savage, John Sr. 194
Sawyer, Flora M. (Mrs. H. Dewey) 9
Sawyer, Mrs. Frank (Anna) 157, 170
Sawyer, Jno. 113
Scarff, F.G. 193
Schaefer, Augusta 230
Schaeffer, Father Henry 159
Schafer, George H. 113
Scheffler, Alica 86
Schillerstrom, Rev. G.J. 165
Schirm, Rev. Harold 55
Schlicher, Ben 86, 88
Schlicher, Florence 88
Schlotter, R.G. 37
Schmidhauser, John R. 110
Schmitt, Mrs. Elizabeth 86
Schmitt, R.L. 86, 88
Schmitt, V.M. 86, 88
Schnebele, Jacob 84-85
Schneider, Rev. E.K. 88
Schneider, Frank 177
Schneider, Louis 15
Schock, Mrs. O.J. 88
Schofield, Hiram 121
Schouten, Hubert 185
Schowalter, Christian 83, 85
Schreiner, Louis 53
Schrimscher, Nancy (Mrs. J.T. Hedden) 175
Schriner, John 111
Schurk, George 147, 170
Schuyler, Stanley 193

Iowa Towns Index

Schwartz, J.H. 209
Schwerman, Martin 191
Scott, James Lee 32, 117
Scott, W.S. 215
Scott, General Winfield 12, 31, 165, 168
Scroggs, Rev. L.M. 4
Searight, Ellis 220
Seeley, George Lincoln 49-50
Seibert, Elizabeth (Mrs. J. Renwald) 9
Sells, Elijah 187
Sels, Mr. 51
Seyb, Armin 88
Seyb, Letha Mae 88
Seyb, Oscar D. 88
Seybold, Rev. E. 88
Shaffer, Dr. J.M. 224
Shambaugh, B.F. 168
Shane, George 70, 195-196
Shane, Sol A. 164
Shannon, Hugh 177
Sharon, Rev. James C. 49-50
Sharon Presbyterian Church & Cemetery 49-50, 118
Sharp, John 120
Shay Family 160
Sheaffer Pen Co. 93, 95, 98-99, 100-101, 103-110
Shedd, Curtis 42
Shelton, Mrs. Richard 26
Shepherd, J. Sherman 123
Shepherd, J.S. 123
Shepherd,,James 123, 127
Shepherd, James 215
Shepherd, Mrs. Stanley 221
Shepherd, William 8
Shepherd, Willis 198
Shepley, Henry 119
Shepp, W. 194
Sherman, J.W. 123
Sherrill, Mrs. John 174
Shriner, Dr. Theodore 195-196
Shriner, Walter 193
Sickles, General 96, 98
Sigler, Measha & John 228-229
Similas Creek (Sandusky) 203
Simmonds, O.C. 49
Simmons, Elias 119
Simmons, Forrest 229
Simmons, George L. 58
Simon, Menno 83
Singer, Henry 133, 153
Singer, Mary 169
Singer, Maude 170
Singley, George 165
Sivil, John 2
Sizemore, Mrs. Ruth & Georgie 194
Skinner, Charles 35
Skinner, Joseph 31
Skipton, S.S. 193
Slack, T.A. 113
Slattery Family 160
Slaughter, Abba 229
Slaughter, John 213
Sloan, Joshua 123
Sloan, Robert 123
Sloanaker, Bessie 157, 170
Sloat, John Drake 52
Slonaker, Cora 169
Smith, Alelaid Rappleyah 194
Smith, Bill 228
Smith, Christ. 191
Smith, David H. 133, 144
Smith, Delazon 123
Smith, Dora H. 134
Smith, E.T. 170
Smith, George 219
Smith, George F. 123
Smith, J.A. 153
Smith, James & Elizabeth 215, 217
Smith, Joseph 12, 133, 153
Smith, Mrs. Myra 120
Smith, Nathan 5, 11
Smith, R.N. 170
Smith, Rebecca Harrington 230
Smith, Silas 217
Smith, Leighton & Co. 26
Smutz, Ralph 194
Smutz, Waldo 221
Smyth, William 121
Snith, Russell 229
Snook, Mrs. Alice 193
Snyder, James 197
Sollamer, Mr. 192
Somers, Rev. Henry 220
Sommerville, G.W. 123
Southerland & Larne 25
Spain, John 22
Sparks, E.L. 47
Sparks, George 219
Spaulding, Rev. L.L. 165
Spaulding, V. (or D.J.) 45, 153
Spaulding, Felt & White 138
Spencer, John & Alice 215
Spencer, John, Thomas & Elbert 216
Sporr, John L. 2
Spray, Miss Jeanne 55
Spray, Levi 193

Iowa Towns Index

Spray, Lida J. 193
Spray, Theodore 193
Sprigg (or Spriggs), Jenifer T. 2, 95, 98
Spring, Martin 163
Sprott, T.L. 133
Spurgeon, E.B. 230
Spurgeon, H.W. 221
Stafford, Mrs. H.H. 221
Stark, Mrs. Hannah & Mary & Rozanna 91, 109-110
Stark, Capt. Horatio 91-92, 105, 109-110
Steadman, James & Asa 79
Steamboats 153
Stebbins, C.S. 79
Steel (or Steele), William 42, 119, 127
Sterling, John 123
Stern Bros. 219
Stevens, A.N. & S. 215
Stevens, C.A. 20
Stewart, George B. 106
Stewart, Rev. George D. 207
Stewart, H.G. 229
Stewart, J.S. 113
Stidger, W.C. & John 123
Stillwell, Moses 1, 31, 75
Stillwell, Mrs. & Lizzie 8, 31
Stoerker, Rev. 86, 88
Stone, Ambrose 207
Stong, Joe 131
Stoops, J.T. & E. 215
Storch, Rev. Theodore 86-87
Stotts, William 4
Stotts & Bros. Ice House 203
Stout, James 192
Strait, Mrs. Clarence 126
Street, Aaron, John, J.P. & D.C. 193-194, 197
Street, Cicely 197
String Prairie 25, 42, 159, 187
Stringer, F.F. 193
Strock, Hattie Pickard 193
Strong, Elizabeth 169
Struthers, Elder Alexander 218
Stuart, J.S. 42
Stuekerjugen, Henry 193
Stump, David J. 215
Stump, N. 123
Sturgis, Albert A. 42
Stutsman, S.H. 229
Sullivan, Giles 40, 69, 212-213, 225-226
Sullivan, Col. John C. 97
Sullivan Line (IA/MO border) 97
Summerlin, R. 123
Summitville 24, 31, 37-38
Sumner, General Edwin V. 31, 167
Sutters Fort (Calif.) 51-52
Swan, Phoebe Z. 230
Swanson, Jon 102, 109
Swearingen Family 128
Sweasey, Mr. 212
Swift, Rev. W.W. 143
Swiss Anabaptist Brethren 83

Tablaux, P.A. 148
Tade, H.D. 193
Taft, S.H. 121
Tallon's Store 203
Talman, John 31
Taner, Father James 159
Tannan, Rev. 198
Tanner, H.S. 21
Tate, M.E. 47-48
Tawkesberry, J.R. 53
Taylor, Mrs. Bert 193
Taylor, Frank 2
Taylor, Harrison 22
Taylor, Hartwell J. 42
Taylor, Hawkins 6, 23, 42, 210
Taylor, Jno. 192
Taylor, Judge John 35
Taylor, Joseph 22
Taylor, L.D. 193
Taylor, Malinda 207
Taylor, Oliver 123, 230
Taylor, Robert 127
Taylor, General Zachary 12, 95, 98
Tearm, Rev. W. 135
Tebiman, Mr. 211
Teeters, Mrs. Corliss 194
Temple, Dr. John 80
Tenant, C.Z. 218
Territorial/Military road 119
Tesson, Louis Honore 30, 43-44, 138, 146-148, 159, 166, 170 (see also Honori, Louis)
Tesson Orchard 1, 43, 138, 144, 147-148, 166-167, 170
Teter, A.J. 220
Teter, Rev. I.P. 121-122
Thayer, Judge 123

Iowa Towns Index

Thomas, Anna A. 193
Thomas, Charles & George 193
Thomas, Mrs. Donnie 55
Thomas, Ella Hampton 193
Thomas, Francis Gurney 176, 181
Thomas, James & Hannah 216
Thomas, O.P. 213
Thompson, Rev. A. 165
Thompson, Angeline (Mrs. Roger Cresap) 80
Thompson, Mrs. Lida 193
Thompson, Mrs. Martha 193
Thompson, Col. william 27
Thompson, W.F. 26
Thornburg, L.W. & Martha L. 215
Thornton, William 19
Thrasher, Prof. & Mrs. 133-134
Throw, Rev. Frank W. 165
Thurman, "Old Chips" 7
Tiebe, William 191
Tillamn, William 117
Tilvers, John 213
Tippecanoe Battle 105
Todd, Dr. 7-8
Tolman, Silas 119
Tomilson, Mrs. Alfred 194
Tomilson, Thomas 194
Tomlinson, Alfred & Mrs. Rhoda 193, 197
Tomlinson, George L. 193, 197
Tomlinson, Isaac 193
Tomlinson, R.L. 66, 197
Toops, Leona (Mrs. E.C. Leake) 174
Touse, Major (see Wright, Sam)
Town, O. 229
Townsend, A.E. 230
Townsend, Fred 193, 197
Townsend, Mrs. Judge 220
Tremlin, R.B. 230
Trevis, Father 159
Trevitt, Dr. Al 209
Troy, Father James 159
Trudeau, Gov. Zenon 147-148
Trueblood, Alvin 193
Trueblood, Mrs. Julia 193
Trueblood, N. 193
Trump, Earl 88
Trump, Mrs. Earl 88
Turner, Rev. Asa 16-17, 42, 81
Turton, C.W. 230
Turton, Rev. W.H. 217
Tuttle, S.B. 229
Twain, Mark 69
Tyler, John 22
Tyner, O.H. 193
Udall, Stewart 110
Undergroud R.R. (Civil War) 16, 195-197
Upton (town) 219-220
Upton, John 219
Upton, Rev. W.H. 194
Utica (town) 223
Utley, Mrs. Irwin 169
Utterback, Mrs. John 193

Vaklev, George 101
Vale, Jacob G. 123
Valkinberg, John 165
Vallejo, General 51
VanAusdol, Valencourt 1, 7-8, 31
Van Buren County 45, 54, 57-62, 66, 69, 124-126, 128, 167-168, 211-230
Vanderpool, Mr. 205-206
Van Der Zee, Jacob 168
Van Dorin, W.T. 193
Van Dorn, Mr. & Mrs. 4
Van Dyke, William 11
Van Heemskort, Percilla 111
Van Nostrand, George 66
Vannoy Family 213
Van Stavern, Rev. A. 165
Van Trump, L.S. 193
Van Vleet, W.B. 42
Vermazen, Mr. 38
Vermillion, J.T. 38-39
Vernon (town) 54, 57, 64, 66, 123, 223, 226
Viele, Philip 31, 96, 98
Vinall, William 102, 109
Vincennes 23-25, 42 (see also Sand Prairi
Vincent, John 103, 109
Vinson, E.L. 177
Vinson, Malachi 220
Vis, Bob 102, 109
Vogt, George Sr. 209

Wabasha (Indian) 168
Wagenor, Emma Barber 169
Waggoner, Mr. 217
Waggoner, Newton 22
Wagner, Jacob 229
Wagner, Theodore 194
Wagner, William 63, 93
Wahrer, Ben C. 86
Wahrer, Mrs. Cora 157
Wahrer, Mrs. L. 170

Iowa Towns Index

Wahrer, Louis 157, 163, 165, 170
Wahrer, Ruthanna 88
Waldenmire, Rev. W. 165
Waldo, Frank 198
Walker, A.H. 42
Walker, Alexander H. & Isabella 207, 210
Walker,Cyrus 127
Walker, David & Nancy 42, 207
Walker, Joel 216, 219
Walker, Lizzie & Anna 229-230
Walker, "Mill" 209
Walker, T.A. 45
Walker, T.O. 123
Wallace, Col. 27
Wallace, Mr. 229
Wallace, William 230
Walsworth, Mr. 161
Walters, Prof. Gus W. 193, 197
Walters, James 109
Walthers, Will 163
Ward, Hannah 135
Ward, Thomas 9, 135, 143, 163
Wardlow, Charles 153
Wardlow, John C. 165
Warner, Henry & Laura J. 215
Warnock, Robert 229
Warren, Fitzhenry 187
Warren (town) 8
Washburn, Harry, Clara & Maria 25
Washburn, Hoarce 42
Washburn & Carswell 88
Washburne, Hoarce 25
Washington, President George 95, 115-116
Watkins, Marshal 9
Watson, Anna 193
Watts, Sam 66
Wayland, Abraham 35
Webb, John 217
Webb, Orin 7
Webber, John 191
Weber, Al 160, 164, 209
Weber, Mrs. Eddie 86
Weber, Peter 84
Webster, Daniel 111
Webster, Joseph 111
Wedell, Dr. 39
Weekly, Stephen 217
Weeks, Mrs. L.A. 193
Weeks, Nathan Farlow 194
Weenick, H.L. 193
Weigner (Wiegner), Adam 9, 86-87
Weigner, J.B. 10, 47
Weishaar, F.H. 192
Weishaar, William 191
Wells, C.S. 38
Wells, Guy 153-154
Wells, Guy B. 4, 27, 96, 98
Wells, Felt (or Fett), & Spaulding 138, 144, 153-154
Welpton, Eva 198
Welpton, H.G. 193
Welshymer, Mrs. George 143
Welty, Delbert E. 85
Wendling, Mrs. Victor 174
Wescoatt, Louisa & Joseph 119
West Point (town) 3, 13, 15, 32, 44-45, 83, 188, 192, 205-210
West Point Academy (Lee Co.) 42, 45, 49, 81
Westcott, Carrie O. 230
Westcott, Sarah 119
Western Adventurer (Montrose) 138
Western Antiquities (book) 28
Weyer, Oscar 230
Whetstone, K.C. 37
Wheeler, Dr. 134
Whipple, Mrs. Velma 196
Whistler, Capt. John & Catharine 91
Whitall, George 189, 191
White, C.F. 138-139
White, Judge H.L. 22
White, Henry 5
White, Capt. James 12, 21, 165-166, 211-212
White, Joseph 31
White, Mrs. Rebecca 193
White, Roy 195
Whiteaker, Mr. 210
Whiting, Etta 203
Whitney, Eli 65
Whitney, Florence 170
Whittaker, John 31
Whittaker, John 156
Whittier College (Salem) 196-198
Whitton (or Whitten), Clara Fisher 157
Wickersham, I.G. 27
Wickersham, Mrs. Paul M. 88
Wiemer, George 2
Wilkinson, General James 103-104
Wilkinson, John T. 26
Wilkinson Drug Store 169

Iowa Towns Index

Williams, Mr. 203
Williams, Rev. 42
Williams, Frank 193
Williams, Mrs. Mary 193
Williams, Peter 31, 93, 95, 98
Williams, Sam 166
Williamson, Earl 194
Williamson, Rev. Elijah 201
Willis, Thomas & Winnena 213
Willock, David 35, 214
Wilmeth, W.T. 194
Wilson, Ada Cowell 194
Wilson, Carroll & Doris 51-52
Wilson, Charles 52
Wilson, D.P. 64
Wilson, Daniel & Elizabeth J. 215
Wilson, George A. 129-131
Wilson, Harvey 201
Wilson, James 96, 98
Wilson, Mrs. James 88
Wilson, Jas. F. 187
Wilson, Mrs. Lizzie 193, 230
Wilson, Rev. Samuel 207
Wilson, Thomas S. 28
Winkless, Meta Ralston 66
Winnebago Indians 91-93, 106
Winona, Minn. 168
Winslow, Mrs. Anna 193
Winslow, E.E. 193
Winters, C.E. 230
Winther, Henry 163
Wisconsin Territory 3, 6, 13, 21, 28, 34, 44, 81, 130, 168, 197
Withers, Henry C. 4
Withrow, Miss 198
Withrow, Hugh R. 22
Witkowski, Stan 102
Wolcott, Mrs. Clara B. 4
Wolf, Carl 58, 66
Wolf, J. Wesley 229
Wolf, Dr. White 4
Wolfe, J.F. 193
Wollenweber, William 191
Wood, Clement 64
Wood, Grant 120
Wood, Nan 120
Woodland Period 102
Woodrow, Anthony 129-130
Woods, Josiah 219
Work, W.A. 215
Workman, Kathleen (Mrs. Clarence) 54, 58, 80
Worrall, Rev. John G. 198-199
Worster, Anna 169
Worthern, Rev. 58
Worthington, T.H. 166
Woster, Robert 163
Wright, Ed 121
Wright, George 119, 221
Wright, George 38
Wright, George G. 215
Wright, Glenn, Leone, Henry & William 174
Wright, Jesse 217
Wright, John Porter & Catherine Jacobs 174
Wright, Miss Lulu 193
Wright, Perry A. 174, 177
Wright, Sam & Touse (Major) 7
Wright, W.T. 193
Wyatt, Howard 112
Wyman, Robert 31

Yarnell, Eli 65
Yeager, George 219
Yeske, Charles 209
Yjuro, Marquis de Casa 103
Young, C.P. 123
Young (or Yung), John Christian 86-87
Young, J.B. 121
Young, Mary 193
Younkin, Curtis 165
Younkin, Sam 169
Younkin, Stuart 170
Younkin, Thomas 170
Younkin, William 165

Zion United Church of Christ 190
Zollers, Cecil 221
Zuppan, Mr. 218